

**Virginia State University Outstanding Faculty Award 2020-2021**  
**Rising Star Award in Research/Scholarship**

**Rafat A. Siddiqui, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor, Department of Food and Nutrition  
College of Agriculture

Dr. Siddiqui is an Associate Professor of the Food and Nutrition Science Laboratory in the College of Agriculture at Virginia State University (VSU). He joined the VSU faculty in 2015 after a prolific career as a research scientist. Dr. Siddiqui received his doctoral degree from the Australian National University (Canberra) and both his master's and bachelor's degrees from the University of Karachi (Pakistan). His career in the field of scientific research includes service as a Research Associate in Molecular Physiology and Biophysics in medical schools at Vanderbilt University and Indiana University, as well as Research Scientist in Cellular Biochemistry & Lipid Biology Laboratories at the Methodist Research Institute of Indiana University. Prior to joining VSU, his research had been featured on BBC, FOX TV, and WTHR broadcasts, as well as in the Sun, Telegraph, and Indianapolis Star newspapers.

As a member of the Department of Food and Nutrition Science, Dr. Siddiqui brings scientific and organizational skills mentoring undergraduate and graduate students in his laboratory. His work is interdisciplinary (Biology, Chemistry, Dietetics, Computer Science and Mathematics Departments) and has involved establishing cellular models for various diseases and chronic conditions including diabetes, obesity, muscle weakness, and cancer (brain, liver, lung, colon, breast and prostate). His research has provided a valuable link for agricultural scientists at Randolph Farm to assess the nutritional value of crops for farmers and their health benefits for consumers. Dr. Siddiqui also holds a US Patent for Fatty acids-phenolic conjugates. While serving as a research advisor for undergraduate research projects and graduate theses, Dr. Siddiqui is a staunch advocate of student research, encouraging students to present their work at scientific meetings. Several students have garnered awards at competitions with other 1890 Universities, and many graduates have published their work in peer-reviewed journals.

Dr. Siddiqui's extensive grant activity has been critical to contributions to research in his field. He has secured seven funded grants (4 as PI and 3 as Co-PI), and he has four grants pending (1 as PI and 3 as Co-PI). He has received approximately \$500,000 in research grants and served as a Co-PI on another \$600,000 in grants during this same period. His efforts have contributed over a million dollars in research funding for VSU.

A prolific scholar, Dr. Siddiqui has published 17 manuscripts in peer-reviewed scientific journals in nutrition science, molecular biology, biochemistry, and related areas of his expertise. These include 7 publications directly from research performed at VSU, 3 invited publications from work at VSU, and 7 publications in collaboration with other institutes. He has also published 37 non-referred articles as abstracts for poster or oral presentations at professional meetings. He is editor of Pomegranate: Cultivation, Composition, Antioxidant Properties, and Health Benefits (2018), Nutraceuticals, Nutrition Supplements and Human Health (2020), and author of a book chapter in another scholarly work. Dr. Siddiqui currently serves on the editorial board of 17 academic journals in his field and has been a long-serving member of such professional organizations as the American Nutrition Society and the Nutrition Society (UK).