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The Patron, Pakistan Society of Nematologists, Appointed Distinguished Professor

The Pakistan Society of Nematologists extends its warmest congratulations to Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro on his well-deserved appointment as Distinguished Professor at the National Center for International Research of Bioenergy Science and Technology (IBEST), China Agricultural University, Beijing.



The appointment is a prestigious recognition of his outstanding academic contributions and international impact. The announcement describes the appointment as reflecting his significant contributions to research and his global academic influence.

PSN wishes Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro continued success in his academic and research endeavours and looks forward to his further contributions to science, research and innovation.

Heartiest Congratulations!

Retirement of Prof. Dr. Tariq Mukhtar



The Pakistan Society of Nematologists extends its heartiest congratulations and warmest wishes to Prof. Dr. Tariq Mukhtar on the occasion of his retirement. Throughout his distinguished career, Prof. Dr. Tariq Mukhtar has made remarkable contributions to teaching, research and the advancement of Plant Pathology, particularly in the field of nematology.

His professional association with the Pakistan Phytopathological Society (PPS) and the Pakistan Society of Nematologists (PSN) has provided numerous opportunities for colleagues and students to benefit from his knowledge, wisdom and experience.

His professional excellence, humble personality and willingness to support fellow scientists have earned him immense respect within the academic and scientific community. His research contributions, mentorship and service to the scientific community will continue to influence future generations of researchers and students.

The PSN sincerely appreciates his valuable services to nematology and wishes him and his family good health, happiness, peace and a rewarding retirement.

Wishing Prof. Dr. Tariq Mukhtar a happy, healthy and fulfilling retirement!

HEC Committee Visits NNRC under Graduate Programme Review

The National Nematological Research Centre (NNRC), University of Karachi, recently hosted the Review Committee as part of the Graduate Program Review (GPR) process.

During the visit, the Review Committee reviewed the Centre's submitted GPR data and assessed the information relating to its graduate programme. Particular attention was given to the accuracy and completeness of academic programme data, consistency of the

submitted information, and its alignment with the required academic and quality standards.

The committee also reviewed the available departmental records and information submitted at different times, including the data relevant to the fiscal years 2024–25 and 2025–26. The review provided an opportunity to identify areas requiring updating, correction or further improvement in accordance with the requirements of the Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC), University of Karachi.

The visit reflects the University's continued efforts to strengthen the quality and standard of its graduate programmes through systematic review and evaluation. NRC appreciates the visit of the Review Committee and remains committed to maintaining accurate academic records and continuously improving its graduate programme.

Global Nematology News

Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddique Appointed Howard Ferris Endowed Chair

A significant achievement for the international nematology community—and a particularly proud moment for Pakistan—is the recent appointment of Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddique as the inaugural Howard Ferris Endowed Chair in Plant and Soil Nematology at the University of California, Davis (UC Davis).

Prof. Siddique, who was born and raised in Multan, Pakistan, joined UC Davis in 2019 after serving as a research group leader at the University of Bonn, Germany. The endowed chair recognizes and supports teaching, research and service in plant and soil nematology. (UC Agriculture and Natural Resources)

He also received the 2026 Excellence-in-Teaching Award from the Society of Nematologists (SON) and was honoured at the Society's 65th Annual Meeting in Baltimore. (UC Agriculture and Natural Resources)

PSN congratulates Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddique on this prestigious international recognition and wishes him continued success.

Society of Nematologists Holds 65th Annual Meeting

The 65th Annual Meeting of the Society of Nematologists (SON) was held from 6–10 July 2026 in Baltimore, Maryland, USA, under the theme:

"Legacies and Futures: Nematodes in a Changing World"

The meeting brought together researchers and professionals to discuss contemporary challenges and future directions in nematology. (Society of Nematologists)

One of the notable scientific themes was the growing application of Artificial Intelligence in Nematology. The symposium explored applications of AI in nematode identification and diagnostics, education, extension, decision-support systems, molecular research and genomic analyses, while emphasizing expert oversight, data quality, reproducibility and biological validation. (Society of Nematologists)

This emerging area is particularly relevant to the future development of nematode diagnostics and digital agriculture.

International Nematology Meetings – 2026

Several important international meetings are scheduled during 2026, providing opportunities for collaboration, scientific exchange and professional networking.

Brazilian Society of Nematology

31 August – 3 September 2026 | Recife, Brazil

Organization of Nematologists of Tropical America (ONTA)

9–13 November 2026 | Puno, Peru

Other related international scientific meetings during 2026 include events focusing on soil ecology, plant pathology, parasitology and microbial control—fields closely connected with contemporary nematological research. (Society of Nematologists)

Emerging Directions in Nematology

- *Artificial Intelligence & Digital Diagnostics*

AI-assisted identification, image analysis, molecular diagnostics and decision-support systems are becoming increasingly important areas of research. The 2026 SON meeting specifically highlighted AI applications across several areas of nematology.

- *Sustainable Nematode Management*

The global emphasis continues to move toward integrated and environmentally sustainable approaches, including biological control, botanical products, resistant cultivars, soil health management and precision application technologies.

- *Nematode–Microbiome Interactions*

Increasing attention is being given to interactions among nematodes, plants and soil microbial communities, providing opportunities for new approaches to nematode suppression and soil-health management.

- *Molecular and Genomic Approaches*

Molecular identification, genomics and molecular discovery are becoming increasingly integrated into nematode taxonomy, diagnostics, host–parasite studies and management research.

NNRC Internship & Student Training Programme — January–July 2026

- **NNRC Internship Programme: Developing the Next Generation of Nematologists**

The National Nematological Research Centre (NNRC), University of Karachi, continued its commitment to student training and capacity building by conducting internship programmes from January to July 2026 for students from various departments of the University of Karachi as well as students from other universities.

The internship programme provides students with an opportunity to gain hands-on experience in nematology and to connect their academic knowledge with practical laboratory and research activities. NNRC's established internship programme is designed to introduce students to nematodes, their agricultural importance, associated disease symptoms, identification and basic research techniques. (University of Karachi)

During the January–July period, students from diverse biological and agricultural disciplines participated in training activities at NNRC. The programme exposed students to fundamental aspects of nematode morphology, extraction, identification, diagnosis and laboratory techniques, under the guidance of NNRC faculty and researchers.

The programme also provides an opportunity for students to interact with researchers and postgraduate scholars and to develop an appreciation of the importance of nematology in agriculture, plant health and sustainable crop production.

NNRC also offers thesis-based internship opportunities for postgraduate students, further strengthening research capacity and providing young researchers with practical exposure to contemporary nematological research. (University of Karachi)

The Pakistan Society of Nematologists appreciates the efforts of NNRC, University of Karachi, in promoting nematology among students from different academic backgrounds and universities. Such initiatives are vital for developing skilled human resources and encouraging young scientists to pursue research in nematology.