Suresh Neethirajan, P.E., is the 2019 recipient of the New Holland Young Researcher award for his innovative technical contributions to the development of bionanotechnology influenced animal health, food safety and biosecurity tools.

Neethirajan is an associate professor in environmental health engineering at the University of Florida in Gainesville. Neethirajan is a globally recognized researcher in the bio-instrumentation and bioengineering research sector and he has made substantial contributions in bionanotechnology for agri-food, environmental and veterinary health applications. His pioneering research on the investigation of biofilms using micro-nanotechnology has led to the development of precise antibiotic susceptibility profiles for veterinary medicine applications, rapid drug screening platforms, and innovative smart surfaces for prevention of contamination by organisms in the food industry. These outstanding and innovative technical contributions in bionanotechnology have dramatically influenced animal health and biosecurity tools and have made a lasting impact by enhancing food safety and controlling infectious diseases. Neethirajan’s career achievements reflect a passion for excellence, evidenced by research results from his lab that continue to boost and provide solutions in the sectors of agri-food, animal health disease diagnostics, poultry animal production, post-harvest management, development and application of nanosensors and biosensors for identification of residues of agro-chemicals, crop diseases and pests, state-of-the-art tools and techniques for detection, characterization and treatment of materials, pathogens and pollutants of health concern in various media. Suresh Neethirajan has pioneered important developments on a world-scale in the field of bionanotechnology, in particular in the areas of veterinary animal health and food safety diagnostics. His research has resulted in the innovative developments of handheld, portable technology that identifies cattle diseases at an early onset, and a device that detects minuscule amounts of allergens in food.

Neethirajan is a 17 year member of ASABE. He serves as an associate editor of Canadian Biosystems Engineering, Materials Today, and Food Quality and Safety. He was the vice president of the Canadian Society for Bioengineering from 2014 to 2016.

Neethirajan is author or coauthor of more than 100 peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, and other publications. Throughout his career, Neethirajan has received numerous awards. Most recently, he received the 2018 Grand Challenges Canada award. In 2015, he received the Young Engineer of the Year award from Engineers Canada and the Canadian Society for Bioengineering.