Service to the Profession Awards

Lalit and Aruna Verma Award for Excellence in Global Engagement

The Lalit and Aruna Verma Award for Excellence in Global Engagement recognizes outstanding contributions made towards global advancement and recognition of the profession of agricultural and biological engineering, and excellence in global engagement and international education, outreach, and/or research.

The award was endowed by Past-President Lalit Verma and his wife Aruna.

The award consists of an engraved recognition item.

Previous Lalit and Aruna Verma Award Winners

2017 ............................................... Bill A. Stout
2018 ............................................... William S. Kisaalita
2019 ................................................... Guy Fipps

Hongwei Xin

Hongwei Xin, ASABE Fellow, is the recipient of the 2020 Lalit and Aruna Verma Award for Excellence in Global Engagement for leadership in global initiatives concerning animal production environment, welfare, and sustainability with tangible impacts.

Xin is dean and director of UT AgResearch at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. He is responsible for the research programs of approximately 140 agricultural and natural faculty across eight academic departments. He also oversees the management of ten research and education centers in strategic locations across Tennessee, where field research, demonstration and education programs are conducted. He represents UT AgResearch in the Institute of Agriculture, and coordinates with partner entities, Herbert College of Agriculture, UT Extension, and the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Xin has earned an international reputation for research and academic leadership. His work has had major impacts on US and global animal agriculture and has produced significant contributions to scientific literature and engineering practices related to animal production systems. Xin is also known for his collaborative work in facilitating linkages between academics, research, and economic development, and building global academic partnerships. In addition, Xin regularly serves on scientific advisory committees for academia, industry organizations, and government agencies at state, national, and international levels.

A 36-year member, Xin has long involvement in the Environment of Animal Structure technical committee. He has also been a leader in the Poultry Housing technical committee. Xin provided leadership in planning the seventh, eighth, and ninth International Livestock Environment Symposia. Xin is also a leader in the Association of Overseas Chinese Agricultural, Biological, and Food Engineers. He is a founding member of the Global Expert Group on Avian Influenza and the Global Roundtable on Sustainable Egg of the International Egg Commission.

Xin’s extremely prolific career has resulted in the publication of more than 600 refereed journal articles, book chapters, conference proceeding papers, and technical papers. He has been selected for many honors and awards including the Dean’s Citation for Extraordinary Contributions award from Iowa State University, the ISU award for Outstanding Achievements in Research, and the ISU David R. Boylan Eminent Faculty Research award.

Xin also received the ASABE Cyrus Hall McCormick-Jerome Increase Case Gold Medal and the Henry Giese Structures and Environment award. In 2008, Xin was inducted as an ASABE Fellow and was inducted into the University of Nebraska Biological Systems Engineering Hall of Fame in 2018.