



Thursday, March 7, 2002

Interim provost to discuss his research

By **Jeff Samoray**, OU Web Writer

Virinder Moudgil, Oakland University's interim provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, is the featured speaker at the next President's Colloquium on Wednesday, March 13, in the Oakland Center's Gold Rooms.

Moudgil's discussion – "Hormones in Health and Disease" – will present breakthroughs in his research on breast cancer. He began his research in 1967 and formally launched it in 1969 when completing graduate work at Banaras Hindu University in India. He said his initial focus was on the connection between hormone therapy and brain function.

"When I first started my research, we knew what affect hormones had on the human body, but it was not clear how they did it," Moudgil said. "At that time, hormones were considered to be limited in functions. What was not known was if they influence brain function. Looking at that connection was what attracted me to this research. In my dissertation, I showed that indeed, estrogen has an influence on the brain." Moudgil said his work led him to pursue research opportunities in the United States. In 1973, he began working with David Toft, a pioneering steroid hormone researcher, at Mayo Clinic in Minnesota.

"I spent three years at the Mayo Clinic then elected to come to OU in 1976 to continue my research," Moudgil said. "Even though I had other job offers at that time, I have never regretted that decision to come to Oakland. The environment at OU is very conducive to conducting research – first, because of the outstanding scholarly work of the OU faculty, and second, the dedication and the hunger for knowledge by OU students has been a driving force for me to engage them in a partnership. That has enriched my life and continues to do so."

The hormone research that has come out of OU has been noted nationally and internationally and has as much to do with OU students as it does with its faculty, Moudgil said.

Moudgil takes pride in his association with his students. He continues to maintain his research lab in the Biology Department in Dodge Hall, even as he meets the demands of his administrative role. His lab currently is involved in studying the molecular mechanism of the hormonal regulation of tumor suppressor proteins in breast cancer cells.

"Not only have we involved our students in the research, they also have been partners and co-authors on nearly all my publications," Moudgil said. "I still maintain my research lab and visit with my students and associates each day between 6 and 7 p.m. to review ongoing research and plan future experiments. It's very important that the academic and scholarly endeavors of our faculty are supported by first-hand knowledge by the provost."

A reception for the President's Colloquium event begins at 11:30 a.m. with the presentation following at noon. The event is open to the public, but seating is limited. To make reservations, call (248) 370-4648. The event is being held in conjunction with Women's History Month.

The President's Colloquium Series was established in 1995 to showcase achievements of Oakland University researchers, to promote communication and collaboration among scientists and to recognize the outstanding work of 'Nobel Class' scientists.

SUMMARY

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