

APS Potomac Distinguished Service Award 2021

The 2021 recipient of the Potomac division of the American Phytopathological Society distinguished service award received a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture from Bangladesh Agricultural University in 1991. Our awardee then earned a M.S. in Plant Pathology from Oregon State University in 2001. Our recipient earned his PhD in Plant Pathology from Simon Fraser University in 2006 studying diseases of ginseng.

Our award recipient then moved to Raleigh, North Carolina to work as a postdoctoral research associate in the Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology where he worked on strawberry anthracnose crown rot for one year.

In 2007, our awardee moved to Morgantown, West Virginia and began work as a Research Associate. Since 2011, our recipient has worked as a tenure-track Professor of Plant Pathology and Extension Specialist serving as director of WVU's Plant Diagnostic Clinic, with promotion to Associate Professor in 2017. In this position, the awardee has focused on managing economically important diseases on fruits and vegetables. This integrated approach encompasses utilization of host resistance and cutting-edge technology for early and accurate plant disease diagnosis, which remains the cornerstone of his research program that helps growers reduce losses both state wide and regionally. Our awardee currently has several actively funded projects focused on Septoria leaf spot resistance, cucurbit downy mildew, Verticillium wilt on eggplant, strawberry fruit and root diseases, and powdery mildew management techniques.

Our award recipient has authored or co-authored more than 20 peer reviewed research publications, 65 extension and outreach articles, 6 book chapters, and numerous research reports and abstracts and proceedings in the past ten years and has mentored many students and technicians in the Plant Diagnostics Clinic and at WVU's farms. Our awardee has been previously recognized for outstanding contributions to WVU Extension earning the Team Program Excellence Award-diagnostic team in 2013 and the Extension Service communication award for Ag and Natural

Resources team in 2020 and was named the USDA ARS Herbert L. Rothbard Outstanding Early Career Scientist in 2016.

The research of our awardee directly impacts and informs growers across West Virginia and the Mid-Atlantic. It's rare to find our awardee not traveling due to their role in extension that necessitates non-stop engagement with West Virginia's various stakeholders.

Our award recipient has also made major contributions to our division. The award recipient served as secretary-treasurer, vice president, president between 2016 and 2018. In addition to presenting contributed talks, the awardee routinely brings Dr. Mannon Gallegly, the longest serving member of our division and meeting resolutions writer, to our meeting every year.

Given the outstanding commitment to research and service to APS and continued commitment to the Potomac Division, it is an honor and pleasure to announce that Mahfuz Rahman has been selected as the 2021 APS Potomac Division Distinguished Service Award recipient.