

## Asian American Engineer of the Year Award

### Dr. Somuri V. Prasad



#### **Principal Scientist & Engineer** *Sandia National Laboratories*

Dr. Somuri Prasad is currently a Principal Scientist & Engineer at Sandia National Laboratories, Albuquerque, NM. He was born in a small village in southern India, and completed high school in his native village. He received his Master's degree in Metallurgical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore and a PhD in Materials Science at the University of Sussex, England in 1977. Dr. Prasad returned to his native country and began his professional career as a Staff Scientist at the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research.

He also spent a two-year sabbatical leave of absence teaching and conducting postdoctoral research at the University of Notre Dame. In 1990, Dr. Prasad came to the Air Force Research Laboratory at the Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio, on a National Research Council (National Academy of Sciences) Senior Fellowship award and worked there for the next 10 years until he moved to Sandia National Laboratories in the Fall of 1999.

Dr. Prasad is an internationally recognized Materials Scientist & Engineer, both as a pioneer and a long-time contributor, with research contributions spanning more than three decades.

His research and leadership in the tribology (friction and wear) community have resulted in significant advances to the fundamental science and practical applications of tribology and tribological materials. In his more than 35 years of experience in the United States and in his native country, Dr. Prasad has demonstrated his technical leadership in solving complex, mission-critical engineering issues based on his knowledge of fundamental materials science.

At Sandia National Laboratories, Dr. Prasad has successfully integrated lab core capabilities with Sandia's mission needs in nuclear weapons surety, space mechanisms, and energy.

Dr. Prasad has authored over 80 technical publications in peer-reviewed journals. He is the co-inventor of 5 US patents. Dr. Prasad was elected as a Fellow of the Society of Tribologists and Lubrication Engineers (STLE) in 2004 and a Fellow of ASM-International in 2008. He was the recipient of the Al Sonntag Award from STLE, Diatome Award from Microscopy Society of America, and Star Team Award from the Air Force Office of Scientific Research. In his dual-role as an Adjunct Professor at three Universities (University of Colorado at Boulder, University of North Texas and New Mexico Institute of Technology) and as Staff Scientist at Sandia, Dr. Prasad has mentored several graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, and young staff members.

Dr. Prasad is married to Suma and they have one daughter, Swati.

