

TEXAS STATE VITA

I. Academic/Professional Background

A. Name: Nihal Dharmasiri Title: Assistant Professor of Biology

B. Educational Background

Degree	Year	University	Major	Thesis/Dissertation
Ph.D.	1995	Univ. of Hawaii Honolulu, USA	Plant Molecular Biology	Molecular cloning and characterization of a heat-shock induced calmodulin binding protein gene and cDNAs encoding glutamate decarboxylase from tobacco
M.Phil.	1988	Univ. of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka	Plant Pathology	A study on papaya anthracnose caused by <i>Colletotrichum gloeosporioides</i> (Penz.) Sacc. and <i>C. capici</i> (Syd.) with special reference to its latent phase.
B.Sc.	1982	Univ. of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka	Botany (Hons)	n/a

C. University Experience

Position	University	Dates
Assistant Professor	Texas State University- San Marcos	2005 to date
Postdoctoral Research Assoc.	Indiana University, Bloomington & University of Texas, Austin	1999 – 2005
Postdoctoral Research Assoc.	University of Hawaii, Honolulu	1998 – 1998
Junior Researcher	University of Hawaii, Honolulu	1996 – 1997
Graduate Research Assistant	University of Hawaii, Honolulu	1992 - 1995

D. Relevant Professional Experience

Position	Entity	Dates
Graduate Teaching Assistant	University of Hawaii, Honolulu	1990 - 1992
Research Officer	Ceylon Institute of	1983 - 1989

	Scientific & Industrial Research, Colombo, Sri Lanka	
Assistant Lecturer	University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka	1982 - 1983

II. TEACHING

- A. Teaching Honors and Awards: none
 B. Courses Taught:

(I) Lecture courses:

Seminars in Molecular & Cellular Biology (Bio 7102) – 2006 & 2007 (Fall), 2008 Spring/Fall: Texas State University-San Marcos.
 Principles of Developmental Biology (Bio 3490) – 2007, 2008 & 2009 (Spring): Texas State University-San Marcos.
 Plant Physiology (Bio 3465) – 2007 & 2008 (Fall): Texas State University – San Marcos.
 Methods in Plant Molecular Biology (Bio 5350) – 2006 (Fall): Texas State University – San Marcos.
 Developmental Biology (Bio 4350) – 2006 (Spring): Texas State University – San Marcos.
 Plant Cell Physiology (PMP 670) – 1996 (Spring): University of Hawaii, Honolulu.

(II) Laboratory courses:

Undergraduate Research (Bio 4299) – 2006 Spring to present: Texas State University – San Marcos.
 Research Experience (Bio 7214) – 2008 Spring: Texas State University – San Marcos.
 Problems in Aq. Research (Bio 7302) – 2006 Fall to present: Texas State University – San Marcos.
 Research (Bio 7303) – 2008 Spring: Texas State University – San Marcos.
 Research Experience (Bio 5114) - 2006 Spring to present: Texas State University – San Marcos.
 Research Experience (Bio 5214) - 2006 Spring to present: Texas State University – San Marcos.
 Research Experience (Bio 5314) – 2006 Fall to present: Texas State University – San Marcos.
 Thesis (Bio 5399A) – 2007 Fall: Texas State University – San Marcos.
 Thesis (Bio 5399B) - 2008 Spring: Texas State University – San Marcos.

C. Graduate Theses/Dissertations or Exit Committees (if supervisor, please indicate):

Major Advisor:

Nirmala Karunarathna – (PhD) - Role of MAP kinases in auxin signaling in plants
 Anuradha Gunathillake – (MS) - Isolation and characterization of new auxin resistant mutants from *Arabidopsis*
 Chamindika Siriwardana –(MS) - Characterization of two picloram resistant mutants from *Arabidopsis thaliana*
 Nirmala Karunarathna – (MS) - Isolation and characterization of *Arabidopsis*

mutants with altered response to auxin (picloram)
(graduated 2008)

Committee member

- Varsha Radhakrishnan – (MS) - Molecular characterization and expression of G_{q/11} protein in fishes. (graduated 2007).
 Sunni Taylor - (MS) - Reproductive isolation and hybrid speciation in Louisiana Iris. (graduated 2008)
 Katie E. Soul - (MS) - Differential gene expression in *Danio rerio* during optic nerve regeneration (graduated 2008).
 Shobhit Sharma - (MS) - Regulation of pigment granule movement in bluegill RPE.
 Matthew Kay (MS) - Genomic characterization of lysogenic bacteriophage JLφ1
 Elizabeth Capalbo (MS) - Diurnal and circadian rhythms in the retina of Zebrafish.

D. Courses Prepared and Curriculum Development:

- 1) BIO 3465 – Plant Physiology – 2007 Fall: Texas State University, San Marcos.
- 2) BIO 5350 - Topics in Physiology (Methods in Plant Molecular Biology) – 2006 Fall: Texas Sate University – San Marcos.
- 3) BIO 3490 – Principles of Developmental Biology – 2006 Spring: Texas State University, San Marcos
- 4) BIO 4350 - Developmental Biology – 2005 Fall: Texas State University, San Marcos.
- 5) BIO 7360P – Regulation of Plant Growth and Development.- 2005 Fall: Texas State University, San Marcos.
- 6) PMP670 - Plant Cell Physiology – 1996, Spring: University of Hawaii, Honolulu.

- E. Funded External Teaching Grants and Contracts: none
 F. Submitted, but not Funded, External Teaching Grants and Contracts: none
 G. Funded Internal Teaching Grants and Contracts: none
 H. Submitted, but not Funded, Internal Teaching Grants and Contracts: none
 I. Other

III. SCHOLARLY/CREATIVE

A. Works In Print

1. Books (if not refereed, please indicate)
 - a. Scholarly Monographs: none
 - b. Textbooks: none
 - c. Edited Books: none
 - d. Chapters in Books: none
 - e. Creative Books: none

2. Articles

a. Refereed Journal Articles:

Savaldi-Goldstein S, Baiga TJ, Pojer F, Dabi T, Butterfield C, Parry G, Sanner A, **Dharmasiri N**, Tao Y, Estelle M, Noel JP, Chory J. (2008) New auxin analogs with growth-promoting effects in intact plants reveal a chemical strategy to improve hormone delivery. *Proc Natl Acad Sci. USA* 105: 15190-15195.

Dharmasiri N., Dharmasiri S., Weijers D., Karunarathne N*., Jurgen G. and Estelle M. (2007) AXL1 and AXR1 have redundant functions in RUB conjugation and growth and development in Arabidopsis. *Plant J.* 52:114-123.
(* indicates Texas State University Student)

Dharmasiri S, Swarup R, Mockaitis K, **Dharmasiri N**, Singh SK, Kowalchuk M, Marchant A, Sandberg G, Bennett M, Estelle M. (2006) AXR4 is required for asymmetric localization of the auxin influx facilitator AUX1. *Science* 312: 1218-1220. (*Editor's choice. Paper was cited among top 10 papers in biology by Faculty of 1000*)

Navarro L., Dunoyer P., Jay F., Arnold B., **Dharmasiri N.**, Estelle M., Voinnet O., Jones J.D.G (2006) A plant MiRNA contributes to Arabidopsis basal resistance by repressing Auxin signaling. *Science* 312: 436-439. (*Editor's choice*).

Dharmasiri N, Dharmasiri S, Weijers D, Lechner E, Yamada M, Hobbie L, Ehrismann JS, Jurgens G, Estelle M. (2005) Plant Development Is Regulated by a Family of Auxin Receptor F Box Proteins. *Dev. Cell.* 9:109-119. (*This paper was cited among most viewed top ten papers by Faculty of 1000*).

Dharmasiri N., Dharmasiri S. and Estelle M. (2005) The F-box protein TIR1 is an auxin receptor. *Nature* 435: 441-445. (*Editor's choice. This paper was ranked number 1 of the top ten biology papers in June 2005 by Faculty of 1000*)

Dharmasiri N. and Estelle, M. (2004) Auxin signaling and regulated protein degradation. *Trends Plant Sci.* 9:302-308.

Xiaoqing Yang X., Lee S., Soo J-H, Dharmasiri S., **Dharmasiri N.**, Lei G., Jensen C., Hangarter R., Hobbie L. and Estelle M. (2004) The IAA1 protein is encoded by AXR5 and is a substrate of SCF^{TIR1}. *Plant J.* 40:772-782.

Dharmasiri N, Dharmasiri S, Jones AM, Estelle M. (2003) Auxin action in a cell-free system. *Curr Biol.* 13(16): 1418-22. (*This paper was cited among top ten papers in biology by Faculty of 1000*).

Hellmann H, Hobbie L, Chapman A, Dharmasiri S, **Dharmasiri N**, del Pozo C, Reinhardt D, Estelle M. (2003) Arabidopsis AXR6 encodes CUL1 implicating SCF E3 ligases in auxin regulation of embryogenesis. *EMBO J.* 22(13): 3314-25.

Dharmasiri S, **Dharmasiri N**, Hellmann H, Estelle M. (2003) The RUB/Nedd8 conjugation pathway is required for early development in Arabidopsis. *EMBO J.* 22(8): 1762-70.

Liu S, Bugos RC, **Dharmasiri N**, Su WW. (2001) Green fluorescent protein as a secretory reporter and a tool for process optimization in transgenic plant cell cultures. *J Biotechnol.* 87(1): 1-16.

Lu, Y.T., **Dharmasiri, M.A.N.**, and Harrington, H.M. (1995) Characterization of a cDNA encoding a novel heat-shock protein that binds to calmodulin. *Plant Physiol.* 108: 1197-1202.

Harrington, H.M., Dash, S., **Dharmasiri, N.** and Dharmasiri, S (1994) Heat-shock proteins: Search for functions. *Australian J. Plant Physiol.* 21: 843-855.

b. Non-refereed Articles:

Dharmasiri, M.A.N. (1987) Cultivation of edible mushrooms. *Bio News.* News letter of the Institute of Biology of Sri Lanka. 3(1): 18-24.

3. Abstracts:

Dharmasiri N, Dharmasiri S, Gunathilake A, Karunaratne N, Siriwardana C and Collier C. (2008) Characterization of new auxin response mutants in Arabidopsis. *105th Annual meeting of SAAS (Biochemistry & Biotechnology), Dallas, TX.*

Dharmasiri S, Devolld B, Shayegani R, Monks Cory, **Dharmasiri N** (2006) What is an auxin: Structural requirements necessary for auxin activity. *FASEB summer research Conferences, Saxton River, VT.*

Dharmasiri S, Mockaitis K, Swarup R, **Dharmasiri N**, Bennett M, Estelle M (2005) Molecular and genetic characterization of the Arabidopsis AXR4 protein suggest an involvement in auxin influx and AUX1 function. *ASPB Annual Conference, Seattle, Washington.*

Estelle M., Dharmasiri S., **Dharmasiri N**, Lechner L, Mooney S. (2004) Auxin response requires SCF-dependent degradation of the AUX/IAA proteins. *18th International Conference on Plant growth Substances. Canberra, Australia.*

Dharmasiri N., Dharmasiri S, Ge L, Lechner E, Mokaitis K, Moon J, Mooney S, Parry G, Ren H, Yamada M. and Estelle M. (2004) Auxin response is mediated by a family of ubiquitin protein ligases. *FASEB summer Research Conferences. Saxtons River, VT.*

Mockaitis K., Dharmasiri S., **Dharmasiri N.** and Estelle M. (2004) Profiling Primary Auxin Responses and Transcriptional Regulation Mediated by AXR1 and SCF^{TIR1} Functions. *15th International conference on Arabidopsis Research., Berlin. 120.*

Dharmasiri S., **Dharmasiri N.**, Mooney S. and Estelle M (2004) Regulated degradation of AUX/IAA proteins through a family of SCF F-box proteins. *15th International conference on Arabidopsis Research. Berlin. 81.*

Dharmasiri S., **Dharmasiri N.**, and Estelle M. (2004) Characterization of a family of SCF E3 ligases involved in auxin response in *Arabidopsis*. *ASPB conference, Orlando, FL.*

Dharmasiri N., Dharmasiri S. and Estelle M (2003) Auxin promotes AUX/IAA-SCF interaction through a soluble receptor. *14th International conference on Arabidopsis Research. Madison, WI. 64.*

Dharmasiri, S., **Dharmasiri, N.**, Mooney, S., and Estelle, M. (2003) Auxin response in Arabidopsis is mediated by family of SCF complexes. *14th International conference on Arabidopsis Research. Madison, WI. 324.*

Hellmann, H., Hobbie, L., Dharmasiri, S., **Dharmasiri, N.**, and Estelle, M. (2003) The CUL1 protein is required for auxin signaling in Arabidopsis. *14th International conference on Arabidopsis Research. Madison, WI. 337.*

Dharmasiri, M.A.N., and Estelle, M (2001) AXR1 homologue AXL1 is involved in auxin response in Arabidopsis. *12th International conference on Arabidopsis Research. Madison, WI. 267*

Li, X., **Dharmasiri, M.A.N.**, and Harrington, H.M. (2000) Characterization of a Calcium-CaM regulated potassium ion channel in Arabidopsis. *Plant physiol. (Suppl). 123: 151*

Dharmasiri, M.A.N. and Harrington, H.M (1997) Promoter of a calmodulin binding protein gene confers heat inducibility of GUS in transgenic tobacco. *Plant Physiol. (Suppl.) 115: 275.*

Dharmasiri S., **Dharmasiri M.A.N.**, and Harrington HM (1997) Nucleoside diphosphate kinases and calmodulin binding proteins in plants. *Multi-institutional Plant Protein Phosphorylation Group meeting. Jackson Hole, WY.*

Dharmasiri, M.A.N. and Harrington, H.M. (1996) Tobacco glutamate decarboxylase is a calmodulin binding heat shock protein. *Pacific Sci. 50:239.*

Dash S., Dharmasiri S., **Dharmasiri M.A.N.** and Harrington HM (1995) Modulation of calmodulin binding proteins and nucleoside diphosphate kinase by heat shock. *Multi-institutional Plant Protein Phosphorylation Group meeting. Breckenridge, CO.*

Dharmasiri, M.A.N. and Harrington, H.M. (1994) Isolation of a heat-shock induced calmodulin binding protein gene from tobacco cells. *Plant Physiol.(suppl.)105(1):174.*

Dash, S., Dharmasiri, S., **Dharmasiri, N.**, Harrington, H.M. (1994) Protein phosphorylation and signal transduction during heat shock. *Multi-institutional Plant Protein Phosphorylation Group meeting. Portland, OR.*

Kolonna, K.A.S., Abeyrathne, L.N.P. and **Dharmasiri, M.A.N.** (1988) Effect of composted paddy straw on the cultivation of straw mushrooms (*Volvariella* sp.). *Proc. Sri Lanka Assoc. Adv. Sci. 44(1)114.*

Dharmasiri, M.A.N., Kolonna, K.A.S., Tennakoon, K. and Chandralatha, Y.T. (1987) A study on some factors effecting the growth and yield in mushrooms. *Pleurotus ostreatus* and *Volvariella* sp. *Proc. Sri Lanka Assoc. Adv. Sci. 43(1) 43.*

Dharmasiri, M.A.N., Jayatissa, P.M. and Adikaram, N.K.B. (1986) Pectinase and protease enzyme production by two *Colletotrichum* species having differential disease development in papaya fruit. *Proc. Sri Lanka Assoc. Adv. Sci.* **41(1):120**.

Dharmasiri, M.A.N., Jayatissa, P.M. and Adikaram N.K.B. (1985) Some factors underlying the resistance of immature papayas to anthracnose disease (*Colletotrichum gloeosporioides* (Penz.) Sacc.). *Proc. Sri Lanka. Assoc. adv. Sci.* **41(1):56**.

Dharmasiri, M.A.N., Pathirana, R.A., Weerawansa, G.G. and Jayatissa, P.M (1984) Effect of rice bran and composted straw on the yield of straw mushrooms (*Volvariella* sp.). *Proc. Sri Lanka Assoc Adv. Sci.* **40(1):56**.

Dharmasiri, M.A.N., Upasiri, K and Balasubramanium, S (1984) The effect of water stress on free amino acid composition of rice (*Oryza sativa* L.). *Proc. Sri Lanka Adv. Sci.* **40(1):58**

4. Reports:

Dharmasiri, M.A.N. (1987) Straw Mushrooms (*Volvariella esculenta*); Cultivation methods for farmers. CISIR technical reports. Colombo Sri Lanka.

Dharmasiri, M.A.N. (1987) Cultivation of *Pleurotus ostreatus*. CISIR technical reports. Colombo, Sri Lanka.

5. Book Reviews: none

6. Other

B. Works not in Print

1. Papers Presented at Professional Meetings:

Albers S, Karunarathna N, Dharmasiri S and **Dharmasiri N** (2009) Arabidopsis *adal* mutant exhibits severe defects in tropic responses and growth and development. *ASPB (Southern section) annual meeting, Austin, Texas*.

Padgett C, Jaster C, Dharmasiri S and **Dharmasiri N** (2009) Isolation and characterization of enhancers and suppressors of Arabidopsis *afb5*. *ASPB (Southern section) annual meeting, Austin, Texas*.

Siriwardana C, Karunarathna N, Dharmasiri S, Gunathilake A and **Dharmasiri N** (2009) Characterization of *pic59*, a novel Arabidopsis mutant associated with auxin signaling pathway. *ASPB (Southern section) annual meeting, Austin, Texas*.

Karunarathna N, Dharmasiri S, Siriwardana C and **Dharmasiri N** (2009) Auxin resistant mutant *pic11* encodes IAA28 that regulates growth and development of *Arabidopsis thaliana*. *ASPB (Southern section) annual meeting, Austin, Texas*.

Gunathilake A, Karunarathna N, Devold B, Dharmasiri S and **Dharmasiri N** (2009) Arabidopsis *pic64* mutation defines a novel gene involved in Auxin response. ***ASPB (Southern section) annual meeting, Austin, Texas.***

Gunathilake A, Dharmasiri S and **Dharmasiri N** (2008) Characterization of *pic64*, an Arabidopsis mutant that is resistant to auxinic herbice 2,4-D. ***105th Annual meeting of SAAS (Biochemistry & Biotechnology), Dallas, TX.***

Karunarathne N, Dharmasiri S and **Dharmasiri N**. (2008) *pic11*, a mutant that is resistant to the auxinic herbicide picloram, causes growth and development defects in Arabidopsis. ***105th Annual meeting of SAAS (Biochemistry & Biotechnology), Dallas, TX.***

Dharmasiri N, Dharmasiri S, Guanathilake A, Karunarathne N, Siriwardana C and Collier C. (2008) Characterization of new auxin response mutants in Arabidopsis. ***105th Annual meeting of SAAS (Biochemistry & Biotechnology), Dallas, TX.***

Dharmasiri N., Dharmasiri S., and Estelle M. (2005) TIR1 and related F-box proteins function as auxin receptors in plants. ***Gordon Research Conferences (Mechanotransduction & Gravity Signaling In Biological Systems). University of New England, Biddeford, ME.***

Dharmasiri S, Mockaitis K, Swarup R, **Dharmasiri N**, Bennett M, Estelle M (2005) Molecular and genetic characterization of the Arabidopsis AXR4 protein suggest an involvement in auxin influx and AUX1 function. ***ASPB Annual Conference, Seattle, Washington.***

Estelle M., Dharmasiri S., **Dharmasiri N**, Lechner L, Mooney S. (2004) Auxin response requires SCF-dependent degradation of the AUX/IAA proteins. ***18th International Conference on Plant growth Substances. Canberra, Australia.***

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Dharmasiri N., Dharmasiri S. and Estelle M. (2004). Auxin signaling in plants: Where is the auxin receptor? ***Gordon Research Conferences (Plant Molecular Biology), Plymouth, NH.***

Mockaitis K., Dharmasiri S., **Dharmasiri N**. and Estelle M. (2004) Profiling Primary Auxin Responses and Transcriptional Regulation Mediated by AXR1 and SCF^{TIR1} Functions. ***15th International conference on Arabidopsis Research., Berlin. 120.***

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Li, X., **Dharmasiri, M.A.N.**, and Harrington, H.M. (2000) Characterization of a Calcium-CaM regulated potassium ion channel in Arabidopsis. *Plant physiol. (Suppl). 123: 151*

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Dash S., Dharmasiri S., **Dharmasiri M.A.N.** and Harrington HM (1995) Modulation of calmodulin binding proteins and nucleoside diphosphate kinase by heat shock. *Multi-institutional Plant Protein Phosphorylation Group meeting. Breckenridge, CO.*

Dharmasiri, M.A.N. and Harrington, H.M. (1994) Isolation of a heat-shock induced calmodulin binding protein gene from tobacco cells. *Plant Physiol. (suppl.) 105(1):174.*

Dash, S., Dharmasiri, S., **Dharmasiri, N.**, Harrington, H.M. (1994) Protein phosphorylation and signal transduction during heat shock. *Multi-institutional Plant Protein Phosphorylation Group meeting. Portland, OR.*

Kolonna, K.A.S., Abeyrathne, L.N.P. and **Dharmasiri, M.A.N.** (1988) Effect of composted paddy straw on the cultivation of straw mushrooms (*Volvariella* sp.). *Proc. Sri Lanka Assoc. Adv. Sci. 44(1)114.*

Dharmasiri, M.A.N., Kolonna, K.A.S., Tennakoon, K. and Chandralatha, Y.T. (1987) A study on some factors effecting the growth and yield in mushrooms. *Pleurotus ostreatus* and *Volvariella* sp. *Proc. Sri Lanka Assoc. Adv. Sci. 43(1) 43.*

Dharmasiri, M.A.N., Jayatissa, P.M. and Adikaram, N.K.B. (1986) Pectinase and protease enzyme production by two *Colletotrichum* species having differential disease development in papaya fruit. *Proc. Sri Lanka Assoc. Adv. Sci.* **41(1):120.**

Dharmasiri, M.A.N., Jayatissa, P.M. and Adikaram N.K.B. (1985) Some factors underlying the resistance of immature papayas to anthracnose disease (*Colletotrichum gloeosporioides* (Penz.) Sacc.). *Proc. Sri Lanka. Assoc. adv. Sci.* **41(1):56.**

Dharmasiri, M.A.N., Pathirana, R.A., Weerawansa, G.G. and Jayatissa, P.M (1984) Effect of rice bran and composted straw on the yield of straw mushrooms (*Volvariella* sp.). *Proc. Sri Lanka Assoc Adv. Sci.* **40(1):56.**

Dharmasiri, M.A.N., Upasiri, K and Balasubramaniam, S (1984) The effect of water stress on free amino acid composition of rice (*Oryza sativa* L.). *Proc. Sri Lanka Adv. Sci.* **40(1):58**

2. Invited Talks, Lectures, and Presentations:

(2008) Molecular mechanisms of auxin signaling in plants. *College of Life Sciences, Wuhan University, China.*

(2008) Characterization of new auxin response mutants in Arabidopsis. *105th Annual meeting of SAAS (Biochemistry & Biotechnology), Dallas, TX.*

(2008) Dissecting the molecular mechanisms of auxin signaling in plants. *Biology Department, Texas State University, San Marcos, TX.*

(2006) Auxin action in plants: TIRs for the receptor. *Plant Biology Section, University of Texas at Austin, TX.*

(2006) Biochemical search for auxin receptors; An answer to a century old question. *Department of Biology, University of Texas-San Antonio.*

(2005) TIR1 and related F-box proteins function as auxin receptors in plants. *Gordon Research Conferences (Mechanotransduction & Gravity Signaling In Biological Systems). University of New England, Biddeford, ME.*

(2005) Auxin Signaling in Plants: The Quest for the Auxin Receptor. *Dept. of Botany, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.*

(2004) Auxin signaling in plants: Where is the auxin receptor? *Gordon Research Conferences (Plant Molecular Biology). Plymouth, NH.*

(2003) Auxin promotes AUX/IAA-SCF interaction through a soluble receptor. *14th International conference on Arabidopsis Research (NAASC Choices). Madison, WI.*

(1997) Calcium signaling in plants. *Dept. of Botany, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.*

(1987) Cultivation of edible mushrooms. *Institute of Biology. Sponsored by Hiatt Development Company, Sri Lanka*

3. Consultancies:

1986-1989: Served as a member of the post-harvest technology group; CISIR, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

1985-1987: HIAT Development Company, Colombo Sri Lanka. Mushroom and Spawn production facilities of this company was developed and managed under my supervision until the regular commercial production started. CISIR, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

1983-1989: Microbial Quality Control. Services were provided to many industries / institutions to control microbial quality of drinking water, food and beverages. CISIR, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

1983-1984: CIATO Company, Colombo, Sri Lanka. Mushroom production facility of this company was restructured to optimize the production. CISIR, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

4. Workshops:

5. Other:

C. Grants and Contracts

1. Funded External Grants and Contracts: none

2. Submitted, but not Funded, External Grants and Contracts:

2009: Characterization of two new Arabidopsis mutants with altered response to Auxin – NSF (\$ 423,991.00) (Pending)

2008: Characterization of three new Arabidopsis mutants with altered response to Auxin – NSF CAREER (\$ 706,643.00) (selected for high priority category, but did not get funded due to budget limitation).

2008: Identification and characterization of three new auxin resistant mutants from plants – USDA (\$ 390,494.00) (declined).

2007: ARP- Engineering crop plants for herbicide resistance (pre-proposal)- (declined).

2007: Characterization of new Arabidopsis mutants with altered response to Auxin – NSF CAREER (\$ 865,080.00). (declined but encouraged to resubmit).

2006: Molecular characterization of auxin signaling in Arabidopsis. – NSF CAREER (\$ 839,767.00) (declined).

3. Funded Internal Grants and Contracts:

2008: Characterization of two new picloram resistant mutants from plants. Research Enhancement Grant, Texas State University. (\$ 8000.00).

2006: Functions of SAUR genes in auxin response. Research Enhancement Grant, Texas State University. (Co-PI Dr. Sunethra Dharmasiri \$14,500.00)

2005: Structural requirements necessary for auxin activity. Research Enhancement Grant, Texas State University, San Marcos. (\$ 8000.00).

2005: Start-up funds. Texas State University, San Marcos. (\$ 140,000.00).

4. Submitted, but not Funded, Internal Grants and Contracts: none.

5. Fellowships, Awards, Honors:

2008 - Citation – Marquis Who's Who in Science and Engineering. 10th edition.

2006 - Runner-up for the Presidential award for excellence in scholarly/creative activities, Texas State University-San Marcos.

2005 – *Science* citation. Runner-up # 2 Breakthrough Research in Science 2005.

2005 – Dharmasiri et al. (2005) *Nature*. *This paper was cited as number 1 of the top ten papers in Biology by the Faculty of 1000.*

2005 – Dharmasiri et al (2005) *Dev. Cell*. *This paper was cited among the most viewed top ten papers in Biology by the Faculty of 1000.*

2003 - Dharmasiri et al. (2003) *Curr. Biol*. *This paper was cited among top ten papers in biology by Faculty of 1000*

1998 -1998: Postdoctoral fellowship, Dept. of Plant Molecular Physiology / Biosystems Engineering, University of Hawaii, USA.

1987 – 1988: Practical training award, Overseas Development Administration, England.

1972 – 1982: National Scholarship, Ministry of Education, Sri Lanka.

IV. SERVICE**A. University:**

- (1) Adjunct/Affiliated faculty for the MS program in Family and Consumer Science.
- (2) Member Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC), TSU

B. Departmental:

Served in following departmental committees:

- (1) Undergraduate committee, Biology Department, TSU
- (2) Greenhouse committee, Biology Department, TSU
- (3) Target of Opportunity committee, Biology Department, TSU

- (4) Departmental Seminar committee (Chair-from fall 2008), Biology Department, TSU
- (5) Plant Biology Search committee, Biology Department, TSU
- (6) Colene Drace Cell Biology Award Committee (2006 to present)
- (7) Eben-Elledge Award Committee (2006 to present)
- (8) Presidential upper level Scholarship selection committee (2008)
- (9) Biology Department Colloquium Committee (2009)

C. Community:

Mentored following students from San Marcos High School (SMHS) on auxin related research projects.

2007

Jessica Villareal
Benjamin Williamson

2008

Weston Hearne

D. Professional:

Reviewed multiple grants / journal articles for following funding agencies and journals.

Granting Agency

- i) *National Science Foundation, USA*
- ii) *FWF (Austrian Science Fund)*
- iii) *USDA*

Journals

- i. *Nature reviews.*
- ii. *Plant Physiology*
- iii. *Plant Science*
- iv. *Australian Journal of Science*
- v. *Trends in Plant Sciences*
- vi. *Genetics*

D. Organizations

1. Honorary:

2. **Professional:**

Member: American Association for the Advancement of Science

Member: American Society of Plant Biologists

Member: Plant Growth Regulators Society of America