

Biosketch

Ashok Venkitaraman holds the Ursula Zoellner Professorship of Cancer Research at the University of Cambridge, and is the Director of the Medical Research Council (MRC) Cancer Cell Unit there. He learnt and practiced medicine at the Christian Medical College, Vellore, before completing his Ph.D. at University College London,



and his postdoctoral work at the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Cambridge. Ashok's first faculty position was also at the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, where he remained before election to the Zoellner Professorship.

Ashok is distinguished for his contributions to understanding the genetics and biology of cancer, particularly in elucidating the impact of genome instability in carcinogenesis and cancer therapy. His research has not only illuminated some of the fundamental mechanisms governing genome repair, replication and segregation during cell division, but has also provided insight into their connections with the pathogenesis and treatment of cancer.

Translation of these insights to clinical practice is a major focus in Ashok's current work. He leads a multidisciplinary initiative in Cambridge that aims to pioneer innovative new approaches for the discovery and early clinical development of next-generation medicines for cancer. Ashok has also served on the advisory boards of several biotech companies and academic institutions in Europe and the USA.

Ashok was elected to the Fellowship of the Academy of Medical Sciences, London in 2001, and to membership of the EMBO European academy in 2004.