



**CITATION FOR PROFESSOR
ASHOK VENKITARAMAN
UNIVERSITY RESEARCH RECOGNITION AWARD**

Citation Reader: Professor Liu Bin

It is my privilege to announce the recipient of the 2026 University Research Recognition Award—Professor Ashok Venkitaraman.

A pioneering force in cancer biology, Ashok's research contributes greatly to our understanding of how human cancers arise.

His laboratory's landmark discovery—that the breast cancer gene BRCA2 repairs the human genome—reshaped cancer genetics and clinical oncology tremendously. Ashok continues to devote his career to detecting, treating, and preventing cancer.

Beyond fundamental discovery, Ashok has shown exceptional commitment to translating science into clinical impact. His laboratory has defined key mechanisms of DNA repair, uncovered a role for the RECQL4

helicase in DNA replication, and pioneered "protein interference" technology—leading to Cambridge spinouts PhoreMost and Sentinel Oncology, both now advancing cancer therapeutics through clinical trials.

His work has earned the 2017 Bassett Global Prize and election to the UK Academy of Medical Sciences, EMBO, Academia Europaea, and the American Association for Cancer Research Academy.

Today, Ashok catalyses research in Asia as Director of the Cancer Science Institute of Singapore, Distinguished Professor at the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, and Chief Scientist at A*STAR, while steering Singapore's national RNA research agenda as Executive Director of the National Initiative for RNA Biology & its Applications.

Please join me in congratulating Professor Ashok Venkitaraman on receiving the University Research Recognition Award.