Society for Alternatives to Animal Experiments, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli, India

Dr. Dipti M. Kapoor Endowment Award, 2026

NOTIFICATION INVITING PROPOSALS

The Society for Alternatives to Animal Experiments-India (SAAE-I) annually grants on a young researcher working in the field of/practicing Non-animal Methods/Alternatives to Animal Experiments/New Approach Methodologies (NAMs), the **Dr. Dipti M. Kapoor Endowment Award** at the Society's Annual Conference.

Applications are invited for this year's conference (9th Annual Conference of SAAE-I) scheduled for November 26-28, 2026, at the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, CT University, Ludhiana, Punjab.

Who was Dr Dipti M. Kapoor?

Dr. Dipti M. Kapoor was the Science Policy Advisor of PETA-India. She passed away at a young age, creating a big void in the field of non-animal methods in India, which will be challenging to fill. To recognize her contribution 'to Alternatives', SAAE-I has instituted this award.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Applicants must be early-career researchers active in the field of alternatives/animal-free research and testing methods (preferably using non-animal derived components) or working for policy/regulatory/social reforms to replace/reduce animal testing with non-animal methods. Preference will be given to research using non-animal derived components (e.g., animal-free antibodies and alternatives to fetal bovine serum in cell culture) over animal-derived components, wherever applicable.
- Applicants should be citizens of India aged 45 years or below (as on December 31, 2026), and the work should have been conducted in India.

Details of the Award:

- The winner, selected by a jury of eminent individuals, shall receive a cash prize of Rs. 10000/- (Rupees ten thousand only) in the form of a cheque, and a citation.
- The award and citation will be presented at the Annual Conference of SAAE-I, this year at Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, CT University, Ludhiana, Punjab, on Nov 26-28, 2026.In addition to the cash prize, the winner will be offered a waiver of the registration fee and reimbursement of travel costs (AC-II class train fare or airfare, whichever is lesser, to be reimbursed at the venue). The winner will also be provided

cost-free accommodation. All expenses, other than the award, will be met by the Organizer of the conference.

- The awardee should deliver a talk covering the abstract.
- The awardee must attend the entire Conference.

Award for the previous year:

The 2022 award was conferred on **Dr. Shilpy Sharma,** Assistant Professor, Department of Biotechnology, University of Pune; 2023 award on Dr. Gopinath Packirisamy, Professor, Department of Biosciences and Bioengineering, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Roorkee, Uttarakhand; 2024 award on Dr. Prajakta Dandekar Jain, UGC Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences & Technology, Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai; and 2025 award on Dr. Viraj Mehta, Organoid Technology Lab, DMPK Department, Sai Life Sciences, Hyderabad.

How to Apply:

- Applications for the award must be submitted as an email attachment to the General Secretary (saae.india@gmail.com), on or before **10.10.2026**.
- The application shall include a motivation letter of about 500 words consisting of the candidate's perspective on alternatives and his/her short- and long-term career goals. Applicants will also be required to send their CVs with affiliation details and contact, including a passport-size photograph and a 250-300 word abstract on their contribution to the Alternatives/3Rs/NAMs.
- The Awardee will be notified by email within one month of the application deadline. Information on the award and the winner will also be posted on the SAAE-I and the conference websites and the WhatsApp Group.
- Third-party nominations will not be accepted.

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