



## SASTRA–Prof. SAROJ CHANDRASEKHAR MEMORIAL AWARD

Applications are invited for Prof. Saroj Chandrasekhar Memorial Award 2021 to recognize and reward women scientists in areas of Biosciences & Biotechnology. This annual award will be presented to three women candidates who are in the third or fourth year of their doctoral programme. Candidates who have submitted their Ph.D. thesis are also eligible to apply. Each award will carry a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh and a certificate.

This award is instituted by the Chandrasekhar Foundation in memory of Prof. Saroj Chandrasekhar, who has made significant contributions in tuberculosis research. Prof. Saroj Chandrasekhar completed Bachelor's degree from St. Xavier's College, University of Bombay, in 1947, and Ph.D. from Imperial College of Science and Technology, UK in Bacteriology (Microbiology) in 1950. She returned to India to do a post-doctoral fellowship at the Indian Agricultural Research ("Pusa") Institute, New Delhi. Prof. Saroj joined the Vallabhbhai Patel Chest Institute at the University of Delhi in 1953, eventually becoming a full professor, head of the Department of Microbiology and Assistant Director of the Institute in 1970. From 1966 to 1969, she was a visiting faculty member at Johns Hopkins University's School of Public Hygiene and Public Health (now Bloomberg School of Public Health) in Baltimore, MD, USA carrying out research in the pathogenesis of tuberculosis. Her major contributions to tuberculosis research were in definitely demonstrating the existence of cell-wall-deficient forms of tubercle bacilli that are totally unaffected by antibiotics and can remain dormant in humans for decades, like sleeper cells; when their host is severely immune-suppressed, they "come alive" causing tuberculosis. Her contributions have impacted how we treat this disease today. Prof. Chandrasekhar passed away in 2017.

The Award will be presented on National Science Day (February 28, 2021). Applications must be submitted online at <https://sas.sastra.edu/formsastrasarojchanaward/> and must be submitted on or before November 30, 2020.