2013 EARLY CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD—
Recognizing achievement of young scholars working to foster
the discovery, sharing, and application of knowledge concerning
the responsible use of animals to enhance human life and well-being

K. A. Vonnahme*2

*Department of Animal Sciences, North Dakota State University, Fargo 58102

The American Society of Animal Science (ASAS) introduced the Early Career Achievement Award in 2007 to recognize the achievement of outstanding young scholars working toward the mission of ASAS, namely to “foster the discovery, sharing, and application of scientific knowledge concerning the responsible use of animals to enhance human life and well-being” (http://www.asas.org/membership-services/national-awards/general-rules-and-regulations-for-american-society-of-animal-science-awards). Being a member of ASAS is not a requirement, and there are no restrictions on country of residence, but nominees must have completed their most recent degree within 10 yr of the time of nomination. Nominations are comprised of a brief biography, summary of scholarly work, and letters of support from at least 2 ASAS members. Collectively, this material must demonstrate that the achievements of the nominee serve the mission of ASAS.

A successful recipient is required to present at the Joint Annual Meeting, submit an abstract for that presentation, and submit a manuscript highlighting the presented material. In return, they receive a travel allowance, complimentary registration at the meeting, and 2-yr membership to ASAS, sponsored by the ASAS Foundation. Finally, recipients become members of the award committee in the following year and participate in the challenging task of identifying their successors.

This past year, the nominees represented the diversity enjoyed by the ASAS membership in terms of countries of origin, discipline or species interests, public or private sector employment, job responsibilities (in terms of teaching, research, and extension), and gender. There was much less diversity in the level of achievement of these nominees as all the candidates were worthy of recognition for performance beyond the level of their average peers, including but not limited to research grants and peer-reviewed publications, leadership in their disciplines, graduate and undergraduate teaching, or extension activities.

The 2013 Early Career Achievement Award was presented to Dr. Surendranath P. Suman. Dr. Suman presented on the topic of “Proteomics of muscle- and species-specificity in meat color stability” (Suman et al., 2014) at the Joint Annual Meeting in 2013 in Indianapolis, IN. Dr. Suman was born in India, where he received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees. He received his Ph.D. from University of Connecticut (Storrs) in 2006. His doctoral research focused on the molecular basis of species-specificity in lipid oxidation-induced meat discoloration. While doing his Ph.D., he spent a semester at the Proteomics Laboratory, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine (Nashville, TN), learning analytical techniques in proteomics and their applications in meat quality. Immediately following graduation, Dr. Suman was hired as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Animal and Food Sciences at the University of Kentucky (Lexington) with an appointment of 80% research and 20% teaching. In addition, he holds associate faculty appointments at the Center for Muscle Biology and Graduate Center for Nutritional Sciences, College of Medicine. Dr. Suman is a Diplomate of the American College of Animal Sciences.

Dr. Suman’s productive research program focuses on the fundamental and applied aspects of meat color and is continuously supported by the USDA National...