

Tuesday, October 15, 2024 at 10:36:46 Eastern Daylight Time

Subject: Appointment of the Acting Chair of Biology (RV)
Date: Wednesday, October 2, 2024 at 3:52:57 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Academic Affairs
To: All Employees Dynamic Grp
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Memorandum

To: Montgomery College Employees
From: Dr. James Sniezek, Dean, Chemical and Biological Sciences
Subject: **Appointment of the Acting Chair of Biology (RV)**
Date: October 2, 2024

It is my pleasure to announce that Dr. Vedham Karpakakunjaram has accepted the appointment of acting chair of biology on the Rockville Campus. Dr. Karpakakunjaram's appointment began August 17, 2024.

Dr. Karpakakunjaram joined the Montgomery College community as an adjunct instructor in the biology department in 2008 and was appointed as a full-time associate professor in 2011 becoming full professor in 2015. He served as the part-time faculty coordinator for the biology department from 2015 to 2022, became the course coordinator for General Biology (BIOL 101) in 2019 and continued in this role until Summer 2024. In terms of collegewide engagement, Dr. Karpakakunjaram serves as a co-leader of the e-Faculty Summer Fellowship; served as the faculty liaison for the Early College Program as well as co-chair of the Collegewide Curriculum Committee. In addition, Dr. Karpakakunjaram served as co-principal investigator on the Quantitative Biology at Community Colleges project through the National Science Foundation's Research Coordination Network in Undergraduate Biology Education grant, and chaired the Two-Year College Section of National Association of Biology Teachers.

Previous to his work at Montgomery College, Dr. Karpakakunjaram held the role of adjunct faculty at the University of Maryland, College Park (Department of Entomology and Department of Biology), and a research assistant professor (Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology) and adjunct professor (Department of Botany) at Oklahoma State University. Prior to moving to the United States, he worked as a research entomologist in Nagarjuna Agricultural Research and Development Institute, Hyderabad, India.

Dr. Karpakakunjaram was the plenary speaker at the 2024 Society for the Advancement of Biology Education Research (SABER), East Regional Conference; served as a panelist and an ad-hoc grant proposal reviewer for the National Science Foundation, Directorate of Undergraduate Education for 2023 and 2024; received Quality Matters certification for Principles of Biology in 2016, and received an Outstanding Faculty Award at Montgomery College in 2020.

Dr. Karpakakunjaram earned a bachelor and a master of science in zoology from Loyola College, Chennai, India and a doctor of philosophy from the University of Madras, Chennai, India.

Please welcome Dr. Karpakakunjaram to his role as acting chair of biology for the Rockville Campus.