

**TWAS Young Affiliates**  
**2025-2029**

**Dr. Alifa Bintha Haque**

**Current nationality: Bangladesh**

**Current country of residence: Bangladesh**

**Affiliation / Institution: Associate Professor,**

**Department of Zoology, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh.**

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## **Biodata**

Alifa Bintha Haque, an Associate Professor in the Department of Zoology at the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. She leads cross-disciplinary research focussed on marine socio-ecological systems and conservation, particularly for sharks and rays in the Bay of Bengal. Alifa founded the Bengal Elasmobranch Lab, where fishers act as citizen scientists, collecting data and aiding in conservation efforts. She completed her DPhil in Biology from the University of Oxford in 2024 and has published 25 research articles. Alifa has secured several competitive grants from international and national bodies, including the "ADD+" project and National Geographic. Her work aims to create sustainable, community-driven fisheries, with initiatives like the "Fish Safe" technology to monitor bycatch and promote conservation.

**Affiliated From: 2025**

**Affiliated Until: 2029**

## **Section**

**02. Biological Sciences**

**TWAS Regional Office**

**TWAS Central and South Asia Regional Partner (TWAS-CASAREP)**

**Dr. H S S Ramakrishna Matte**

**Current nationality: India**

**Current country of residence: India**

**Affiliation/Institution: Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences**

**Bengaluru, India**

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## **Biodata**

H.S.S. Ramakrishna Matte, a Scientist at the Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences, specializes in nanomaterials, printed electronics, energy storage devices, and organic photovoltaics. He holds a Ph.D. degree in Chemical Sciences. After postdoctoral work at Northwestern University, USA, and Humboldt University, Germany, he now leads a research group. Dr. Matte has published over 65 papers, holds 9 patents, and has an h-index of 30 with 8,980 citations. He is a member of INYAS-INSAs, NASI, and has received awards such as the CRS Silver Medal and DAAD fellowship. He collaborates with prominent Indian companies, including Tata Steels and ITC Pvt. Ltd.

**Affiliated From: 2025**

**Affiliated Until: 2029**

### **Section**

**02. Biological Sciences**

**TWAS Regional Office**

**TWAS Central and South Asia Regional Partner (TWAS-CASAREP)**

**Dr. Samamalee Upekshi Kankanamge**

**Current nationality: Sri Lanka**

**Current country of residence: Sri Lanka**

**Affiliation/Institution: Department of Pharmacy Faculty of Allied Health Sciences**

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## **Biodata**

Samamalee Upekshi Kankanamge is a Senior Lecturer in Pharmacy at Kotelawala Defence University, Sri Lanka, and is currently pursuing a PhD in Pharmaceutical Science at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. Her research focuses on pharmaceutical quality analysis, natural compounds, and drug development. She has published 37 research papers, supervised 14 undergraduate projects, and received several awards for her presentations. Samamalee also serves as a reviewer and editorial board member for international conferences.

**Affiliated From: 2025**

**Affiliated Until: 2029**

### **Section**

**04. Chemical Sciences**

**TWAS Regional Office**

**TWAS Central and South Asia Regional Partner (TWAS-CASAREP)**

**Dr. Najmeh Hoseini Monjezi**

**Current nationality: Iran**

**Current country of residence: Iran**

**Affiliation/Institution: Department of Applied Mathematics  
and Computer Science, Faculty of Mathematics and Statistics,  
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## **Biodata**

Najmeh Hoseini Monjezi works as an Assistant Professor at University of Isfahan, Isfahan, Iran. Her research interests include nonsmooth optimization, nonconvex optimization, numerical algorithms for solving optimization problems, optimization on Riemannian manifolds and machine learning. Recently, her research topic is focused on solving nonsmooth nonconvex optimization problems by numerical methods, as well as solving machine learning and data science problems using optimization techniques.

**Affiliated From: 2025**

**Affiliated Until: 2029**

## **Section**

**07. Mathematical Sciences**

**TWAS Regional Office**

**TWAS Central and South Asia Regional Partner (TWAS-CASAREP)**

**Dr. Dilshod Nematov**

**Current nationality: Tajikistan**

**Current country of residence: Tajikistan**

**Affiliation/Institution: Quantum Electronics Laboratory  
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## **Biodata**

Dilshod Nematov is the Head of the Laboratory of Quantum Electronics at the S.U. Umarov Physical-Technical Institute, National Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan. He holds a PhD in Materials Science and focuses on functional materials for energy, environmental applications, and photovoltaic devices, with expertise in DFT analyses. Nematov has published over 80 scientific papers and has built an international research network through collaborations in countries like Japan and Germany. He received the Dushanbe Mayor's Prize and the Order of the Best Young Scientist of the CIS in 2023.

**Affiliated From: 2025**

**Affiliated Until: 2029**

### **Section**

**08. Physics, Astronomy & Space Sciences**

**TWAS Regional Office**

**TWAS Central and South Asia Regional Partner (TWAS-CASAREP)**