

Dr. Puru Jena received his Ph. D. in Physics from the University of California at Riverside in 1970. After postdoctoral appointments at State University of New York, Albany, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Canada, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois and visiting scientist position at Argonne National Laboratory, Dr. Jena joined the Physics faculty at Michigan Technological University in 1978 as Associate Professor. He moved to Virginia Commonwealth University in 1980 where he was promoted to Professor of Physics in 1982 and named Distinguished Professor of Physics in 2005. In addition, he served as Program Director at the Materials Science Division of the National Science Foundation during 1986-87 and as Jefferson Science Fellow and Senior Science Advisor at the US Department of State during 2007-08.

Dr. Jena's research covers a wide range of topics in nano-structured materials, condensed matter Physics, and materials Science. Dr. Jena is the author of nearly 550 papers including 12 edited books. He has given over 430 invited talks including over 200 talks at international conferences in 30 countries around the world. He has organized over 50 international conferences and is the recipient of over \$10 million dollars in external funding.

Dr. Jena's honors include: Outstanding Scientist of Virginia, 2015; Presidential Medallion, Virginia Commonwealth University (2011); Jefferson Science Fellow at the US Department of State (2007); David Hare Professorship lecture at the Indian Association for Cultivation of Science, Kolkata, India (2005); Fellow of the American Physical Society (2000); Outstanding Faculty Award from the State Council of Higher Education of Virginia (2001); Virginia Commonwealth University Award of Excellence (1993) and Outstanding Scholar Award (1987); and Chair of the Gordon Conference on Metal-Hydrogen Interactions (1993). He has served as a member of numerous scientific panels at the National Science Foundation, Department of Energy, Army Research Office, and the National Academy of Sciences. He was a member of the Executive Committee in 2003 that drafted the report on the "Basic Research Needs for the Hydrogen Economy" for the Department of Energy. He has also served on the Virginia Governor's task force on green energy technologies and co-chair of the Presidential Commission on bilateral scientific collaboration between USA and Russia (2011).