



SURACHAI SUPATTAPONE NAMED FELLOW OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

SURACHAI SUPATTAPONE, MD, PHD, a professor of biochemistry and cell biology at the Geisel School of Medicine, is among four Dartmouth professors named fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the world’s largest general scientific society and the publisher of the journal *Science*. In its announcement, AAAS writes, “These individuals have been elevated to this rank because of their efforts toward advancing science applications that are deemed scientifically or socially distinguished.”

Supattapone, who chairs the Molecular and Cellular Biology Graduate Program and also directs the Advanced Certificate in Clinical and Translational Research Program, is cited “for distinguished contributions to the field of protein misfolding, particularly defining the chemical composition and structure of infectious mammalian prions.”

Folding is a process in which long chain protein molecules reconfigure themselves into shapes in order to carry out specific functions. Prions are specific disease-causing forms of proteins and are responsible for disorders such as Mad Cow disease and Creutzfeldt-Jakob

disease, the human form of Mad Cow disease. Supattapone and his group are working toward determining the atomic structure of infectious prions to understand how they function at the molecular level.

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JOSEPH BLUMBERG

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