

Dr. Sanjay Puri obtained an M.S. in Physics from IIT Delhi in 1982. He then obtained a Ph.D. in Physics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1987. In December 1987, he joined as an Assistant Professor in the School of Physical Sciences (SPS), Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi -- 110067. He has been at JNU since then and is currently a Professor in SPS. In this period, Dr. Puri has made several visits abroad, and has been a Visiting Professor at Johannes Gutenberg Universitat, Mainz (Germany); University of Manchester, Manchester (UK); Cambridge University, Cambridge (UK); Kyoto University, Kyoto (Japan), etc.

**Academic and Research Achievements:** Dr. Puri works in the areas of statistical physics and nonlinear dynamics. He has been particularly interested in problems of *pattern formation in nonequilibrium systems*. He has made many important contributions to our understanding of the kinetics of phase transitions. These include (a) the formulation of *Cell Dynamical System* models to study phase ordering systems; (b) an analytical solution of ordering dynamics driven by the annealing of vector defects, e.g., vortices, monopoles; (c) the modeling and understanding of *surface-directed spinodal decomposition*, i.e., the interplay of wetting and phase separation in a binary mixture in contact with a wetting surface. Dr. Puri has also made important contributions to understanding the *dynamical properties of granular materials*, with special focus on the cooling of freely-evolving granular gases. He has published over 160 papers, and written or edited 3 books. Dr. Puri has also supervised the Ph.D. theses of 11 students.

**Awards and Honors:** Dr. Puri is the recipient of many awards and honors. He received the *INSA Young Scientist Medal* from the Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi (1993); *N. Satyamurthy Award* from the Indian Physics Association, Mumbai (1995); *B.M. Birla Science Award* from the B.M. Birla Science Centre, Hyderabad (2001); *Homi Bhabha Fellowship* from the Homi Bhabha Fellowships Council, Mumbai (2003); and the *S.S. Bhatnagar Prize* from the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Delhi (2006). Dr. Puri has been an Editor and Associate Editor of the journal *Phase Transitions* since 2000. He was elected Fellow of the Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore in 2006; and the Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi in 2012.