

SCRIPPS HEALTH/SCRIPPS CLINIC BIO-REPOSITORY AND BIO-INFORMATICS CORE



Sunil Kurian, PhD
Research Scientist

Primary Focus Areas: Biomarker Development and Validation, Bio-informatics, Systems Biology, Solid Organ Transplantation

Dr. Kurian is an accomplished scientist with more than 22 years of research experience and more than 70 published research and review papers. He started his post-doctoral career at the Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, California, where he was the lead researcher of the biomarker discovery group for organ transplantation under Dr. Daniel Salomon. He is trained in biomarker discovery and genomics of varied disciplines, and in the critical assessment of bio-informatics approaches needed to prioritize and validate biomarkers. His research on biomarkers for acute and chronic kidney rejection was the foundation work for NIH-funded studies. Dr. Kurian has also been actively involved in discovery of biomarkers for bipolar disease and schizophrenia in collaboration with the University of Indiana; liver regeneration biomarkers with the University of Pennsylvania; and biomarkers of islet quality with the City of Hope.

Dr. Kurian has been an active member of the American Society of Transplantation (AST) since 2005 and has given many talks at AST conferences as well as conferences of The Transplantation Society (TTS). He also serves as the topic coordinator for the special interest group “Precision Medicine and Biomarkers in Liver Transplantation” for the International Liver Transplant Society. Dr. Kurian is a reviewer for ~10 journals in the transplantation and genomics space. His expertise in the biomarker and diagnostics field has also helped him secure funding from the NIH for a blood-based biomarker discovery project for fibromyalgia in collaboration with researchers at Oregon Health and Sciences University.

In 2017, Dr. Kurian joined the division of organ transplant at Scripps Green Hospital and is currently a key member of the Scripps Health/Scripps Clinic Bio-Repository and Bioinformatics Core (SCBBC), and plays an active role in the optimization of protocols in the downstream processing of biospecimens. He has been awarded and is also actively working on securing both NIH grants as well as industry- and philanthropy-funded grants at SCBBC. Dr. Kurian serves as a scientific advisor for Transplant Genomics, a company specializing in post-transplant care, and as Chief Scientific Officer for MindX Sciences, which focuses on biomarkers of mental health, and was a founding member for both companies.

Publications: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/myncbi/sunil.kurian.1/bibliography/public/>