

Rakesh K. Bajpai is a professor of Chemical Engineering and holder of an endowed chair in bioprocessing at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. He has been with the University of Louisiana at Lafayette since January 2007 where he arrived from the University of Missouri – Columbia after spending 25 years there as a professor of Chemical Engineering and Biological Engineering. His field of specialization is biochemical engineering and he has been focusing his research in the areas of kinetics of growth and product formation in biological systems, separation and purification of products from fermentation broths, bioreactor design and scale-up. His current research focus is in development of processes for production of biofuels from renewable resources available in Louisiana and on utilization of byproduct streams for production of chemicals. Professor Bajpai is the associate director of Bioprocessing Research Laboratory at UL Lafayette. Currently ongoing research projects in the Bioprocessing Research Laboratory include production of lipids from autotrophic algae and heterotrophic yeast, production of biodiesel from lipid resources present in Louisiana including alligator fat and tall oil, production of ethanol from carbohydrates namely rice and sweet potato, production of propanaldehyde and 1,3-propanediol from glycerin (a by product of biodiesel formation).