

## **Sohail Rao, MD, MA, DPhil**



Dr. Rao currently serves as President and Chief Executive Office, INNOVACORE Center for Research & Biotechnology and Chief Academic Officer and Designated Institutional Official, Village and Heights Health and Founding President & Chief Executive Office, Texas Institute for Graduate Medical Education. Prior to joining Village Health, Dr. Rao was Executive Vice President, DHR Health System and Founding President and Chief Executive Officer, DHR Health Institute for Research & Development.

Dr. Rao is an experienced immunologist with interest in transplantation and infectious diseases and holds the position of Professor, Texas A&M University, and the University of Houston. He has over 180 publications and until recently, he was an NIH-funded investigator and has over four (4) decades of experience in leading research at various Tier I academic and nonacademic institutions in the United States. He is a Fulbright Specialist, US Department of State and provides strategic guidance to international academic institutions in the areas of research, undergraduate and graduate medical education, development and execution of strategy, and leadership development. He serves as a US Department of State - appointed consultant to many universities in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, and Pakistan.

Dr. Rao obtained his MD from Dow Medical College; his MA in Physiology from Boston University, School of Medicine, Doctorate in Philosophy (DPhil) from the Wolfson College, University of Oxford, UK, and completed his fellowship from Harvard University.

Prior to joining DHR Health, Dr. Rao served as the System Vice President for Research and Academics and Chief Academic Officer, CHRISTUS Health; System Vice President for Research, Ochsner Health System, New Orleans, Louisiana. He also served as the Professor and Deputy Head of Schools Research, Ochsner Clinical School, University of Queensland. Prior to coming to Ochsner, Dr. Rao served University of South Florida Health (USF Health) as Professor of Surgery and Molecular Medicine. He was also the Senior Associate Vice President at USF Health and served as the Chief Research Officer for this academic entity.

After completing his doctoral education at Oxford, Dr. Rao joined the University of Pittsburgh in 1993 where he served as an Associate Professor, Department of Surgery, School of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh and the Director and Chief of the Section of Cellular Transplantation and the Section of Medical Informatics, Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. In 2000, he joined Drexel University, College of Medicine as the Senior Associate Dean for Research and Biomedical Graduate Studies and Professor in the Departments of Surgery, and Microbiology and Immunology. He subsequently became the Vice Dean for Research and Graduate Studies at Drexel University College of Medicine and in 2003, was promoted to the position of the Senior Associate Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Studies at Drexel University. In 2004, he joined the Middle Tennessee State University; the largest comprehensive institution of higher education in the Tennessee Board of Regents System (the Nation's sixth largest higher education system) where he served as Vice Provost for Research and Dean, College of Graduate Studies.