

2014



ANNUAL REPORT

This report has been prepared for evaluating overall performance and development of TASSA in 2014.

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Message from the President



Dear Friends of TASSA,

TASSA has completed successfully another year of activities that connect scientific communities in the USA and Turkey.

The highlight of the year was our flagship activity, the biennial conference, which was held at Robert H. Smith School of Business, University of Maryland on March 22-23, 2014. Once again, hundreds of scientists and scholars from diverse fields exchanged ideas and strengthened ties during the meetings. Attending these conferences truly demonstrates the potential strength of TASSA and why one needs to be affiliated with TASSA. It is my privilege to announce that our next conference will be held at the University of Chicago, Booth School of Business on April 2-3, 2016. We hope to see everyone in Chicago!

We are also very pleased to see the readership of our newsletter, The Bridge, and the number of visitors to our web site and special media sites to reach record numbers. The numbers show that people are interested in TASSA and the organization is strengthening its ties with the Turkish scientific community both in the USA and Turkey.

Of course, there is more room for improvement. At TASSA we are trying hard to move the organization forward with modest resources. As we solidify our membership base I am sure TASSA will create more value for the Turkish science diaspora and scientists and scholars in Turkey.

I wish everyone many successes in their fields.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Haluk Ünal'.

Haluk Ünal,
Professor of Finance, UMD
TASSA President and Chairman of the Board

1. Board of Directors, Executive Committee, Technical Groups and Standing Committee Meetings

- Board of Directors Meetings:
December 21, 2014
- Joint Board of Directors and Executive Committee Meetings:
July 25, 2014 - Decision on signing a petition for Gaza declaration
August 29, 2014 - Information exchange and action plan about ITU news
September 16, 2014 - Decision and voting on invitation from embassy
June 30, 2014 - Information exchange on Howard Hughes Medical
Institute Award given to Aydoğın Özcan
March 9, 2014 - Annual report meeting and action plan for recent events
March 8, 2014 - Budget and conference plan updates
- Executive Committee Meetings:
November 9, 2014
February 23, 2014: Annual report preparation and approvals
November 19, 2004: Meeting for bylaws change
- Technical Committee Meetings:
May 10, 2014: Web committee meeting
June 4, 2014: Web committee meeting

2. Membership Activities

- TASSA had 62 regular members, 7 institutional members, and 20 student members registered during 2014.
- The Bridge newsletter provided messages and links to invite TASSA members for membership renewal and TASSA contacts for new membership application.
- The TASSA website membership login, membership application, and membership renewal processes were streamlined.
- Communication with institutional members and Turkish universities intensified during 2014.
- TASSA started to be more active with more than 1300 followers in its social media channels including Facebook and LinkedIn.
- TASSA Website was visited 105,697 times, with 273,836 page views and 762,043 clicks between April 1, 2014 and December 31, 2014.

3. Communication with TASSA Community



- Throughout 2014, TASSA bi-monthly newsletter, The Bridge, was published and sent to all contacts in the TASSA database in January, March, May-June, September and November.
- Dr. Ertugrul Cubukcu, Dr. Alp Simsek, Dr. Ahmet Yıldız, Dr. Kıvanc Birsoy, Dr. Duygu Kuzum, Dr. Burak Okumus, Dr. Canan Dagdeviren and Dr. Omer Durak were selected as “Young Scholars Award” Winners of the year.
- Dr. Anıl Ağırall, Dr. Gül Dölen, Dr. Ahmet Coskun, and Dr. Ayça Yalçın Özkumur were selected as the “Young Scientist of the Month” in 2014.
- “Conversations with distinguished scientists and scholars” corner included Dr. Ali Ercan from the University of California, Davis, and Dr. Umit Ozkan from the Ohio State University.
- “Expert Opinion” corner featured Dr. Kadir Aslan on “Nanotechnology and Medical Biotechnology”
- Announced the success stories, news and awards of Turkish scientists and scholars in the Bridge issues.
- Announced the “Upcoming Events and Conferences” on the TASSA website and in the Bridge issues.
- Announced “Job Openings” on the TASSA website, TASSA Connect and in the Bridge issues.
- TASSA Vice-President, Dr. Nilay Papila continued to write her column for “The Bridge” newsletter on grant opportunities, which are available in Turkey and the European Community.
- TASSA Institutional Members and TASSA Conference Sponsors were listed in the Bridge issues.
- The January, March and May-June 2014 issues of the Bridge are dedicated to TASSA 2014 Conference

4. TASSA Meetings and Presentations

- **TASSA Meeting with Officials from Turkey on Space Technologies:** TASSA met with Prof. Dr. Yusuf Hascicek, consultant to the Turkish Minister of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Communications; Dr. Hamza Gercekcioglu, Air and Space Technologies Assistant to the Director; Selcuk Camurcu, the head of Space Systems Directorate; and Prof. Dr. Abdullah Cavusoglu, the Vice President of Tubitak.

When: June 11, 2014

Where: Washington, DC

Attendees: TASSA President, Prof. Dr. Haluk Unal, Dr. Levent Guntay, Dr. Mehmet Can Ertem, Dr. Ali Tokay, Dr. Batuhan Osmanoglu, and Dilek Arisan.

- **TASSA represented at Fletcher School Conference on Turkey:** TASSA President and Fletcher School Associate Dean Bhaskar Chakravorti had a Fireside Chat on "The State of Human Capital: Turkey's Intellectual Contributions" at the Fletcher School Conference, Turkey's Turn: Perennial Linchpin or emerging hub?

When: April 11, 2014

Where: Washington, DC

Attendees: TASSA President Prof. Dr. Haluk Unal

- TASSA 2016 Conference Program Committee Chair Dr. Ercan Alp and Organizing Committee Chair Dr. Rita Koryan met with TASSA President Haluk Unal to complete a site survey and examine possible conference sites on Northwestern Campus. His Excellency Consul General Fatih Yilmaz graciously hosted the group and expressed great interest to have the TASSA conference in Chicago in 2016.

When: May 2, 2014

Where: Washington, DC

Attendees: TASSA President Prof. Dr. Haluk Unal, TASSA 2016 Conference Program Committee Chair Dr. Ercan Alp and Organizing Committee Chair Dr. Rita Koryan

- TASSA attended the first working meeting of representatives of various US-based European national Scientific Communities held at the Embassy of Italy in Washington DC. Arif Hakan Yeter from the Embassy of Turkey also attended the meeting.

When: November 14, 2014

Where: Washington, DC

Attendees: TASSA President, Prof. Dr. Haluk Unal, Dr. Levent Guntay

5. TASSA 2014 Conference



TASSA has completed another chapter with remarkable success by its 2014 Conference at University of Maryland on March 22-23, 2014. More than 300 eminent scientists and scholars from both the United States and Turkey attended the meeting in growing numbers and created once again a spectacular showcase towards building a sustainable science bridge between the two countries. We share our pride with you and express our most sincere gratitude to all sponsors, speakers, and attendees. We also thank Robert H. Smith School of Business, University of Maryland for their gracious support and hospitality.

This conference has been possible by the contributions of countless volunteers who worked diligently to bring you an informative and forward thinking program. We wish to go on record with our heartfelt appreciation for their tireless commitment to make TASSA'14 a highlight event.

We are continuing to post some snapshots of memorable moments from the conference as well as video streams as they become available. The [photo album](#) and the [video recordings](#) of the speakers are posted on the website.

6. Other TASSA Activities

TASSA 2013 Annual Report

Issued “2013 Annual Report” which summarizes the activities the members of the TASSA Executive Committee and Board have undertaken together with our volunteers from technical groups and standing committees, and TASSA community.



TASSA Commentary on SOMA Mining Accident

TASSA Board of Directors and the Executive Board issued a joint statement on the mining tragedy in SOMA on May 14, 2014.

TASSA Web Committee Activities

TASSA announced a new platform for connecting TASSA members and institutes on January 6, 2014. The new web portal TASSA-Connect provides job search, interview scheduling, research news and many more exciting features to connect its members.

TASSA-Connect serves as a bridge for researchers, scientists, scholars and students in the United States to associate with Turkish institutions, universities and research oriented companies. Members can create a profile where they can post their resumes and brief information about themselves. They can search and apply for current open positions, posted by registered Institutions.

TASSA-Connect further provides an appointment scheduling service. Institutions post their available positions and can also explore through the member resume database to identify possible candidates.

TASSA Connect also serves as a platform for research collaboration opportunities in the fields of Engineering and Applied Sciences, Health and Biomedical Sciences, Natural Sciences and Social Sciences and Art & Humanities for Turkish and American researchers.



7. TASSA Organizational Chart, Members of the Board and Committees

TASSA ORGANIZATION CHART



Board of Directors: Eight Directors and the President, who is also the Chairman of the Board.

Executive Committee: President (CEO), Vice President, Treasurer (CFO and Chairman of the Finance Committee), Managing Director (COO), Editor, Standing Committee Chairs (4)

Board of Directors

Hüseyin Abut, San Diego State University

Aydoğan Özcan, University of California Los Angeles

Fusun Özgüner, Ohio State University

Mehmet Toner, Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology

Haluk Ünal, University of Maryland (Chairman of the Board)

Selim Ünlü, Boston University

Ayşe Imrohoroglu, University of Southern California

Bülent Başol, encoreSolar

Board Committees:

Nominating Committee

Hüseyin Abut, San Diego State University (Chair)

Ayşe Imrohoroglu, University of Southern California

Candan Tamerler, University of Washington

Mehmet Toner, Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology

Executive Committee

Haluk Ünal, President

Hasan Ayaz, Vice President

Levent Güntay, Vice President

Nilay Papila, Vice President

Candan Tamerler, Vice President

Batuhan Osmanoğlu, Managing Director

Refik Soyer, Treasurer

Bahri Karacay, Editor

Standing Committees

Finance

Turan G. Bali, Georgetown University
Işıl Erel, Ohio State University
Ferhat Esen, The World Bank
Pinar Güvenir, Cagal and Associates, LLC
Levent Güntay, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
Refik Soyer, George Washington University
Murat Tarımcılar, George Washington University

Membership

Hasan Ayaz, Drexel University
Sümer Can, Diodes, Inc.
Levent Güntay, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
Nilay Papila, Science Connect Inc.
Candan Tamerler, University of Washington

Public Relations

Gizem Dönmez, Tufts University
Şeyda Ertekin, MIT
Nilay Papila, Science Connect Inc.
Burhaneddin Sandıkçı, University of Chicago

Relationship with Turkey

Hasan Ayaz, Drexel University
Turgut Gür, Stanford University
Daver Kahvecioğlu, American Institutes for Research
Ümit Özgüner, The Ohio State University
Nilay Papila, Science Connect Inc.
Candan Tamerler, University of Washington
Bülent Yavuz, Nanostellar, Inc.

Rules

Timur Edib, Timur Edib Law Office
Ferhat Esen, The World Bank
Daver Kahvecioğlu, American Institutes for Research

Web

Murat Aksoy, Stanford University
Hasan Ayaz, Drexel University
Fatih Culha, Department of Defense
Yalçın Sert, Customs and Border Protection
Senay Solak, University of Massachusetts

Technical Groups

Engineering and Applied Sciences

Ertuğrul Çubukcu, University of Pennsylvania
Şeyda Ertekin, MIT Sloan School of Management
Metin Sitti, Carnegie Mellon University
Selim Ünlü, Boston University

Health and Biomedical Sciences

Hatice Altuğ, Boston University
Gizem Dönmez, Tufts University
Bahri Karaçay, University of Iowa
Nilgün Tümer, Rutgers University

Natural Sciences

Bülent Akgün, National Institute of Standards and Technology
Ertuğrul Taciroglu, UCLA
Serap Erdal, University of Illinois at Chicago
Batuhan Osmanoğlu, University of Alaska, Fairbanks

Social Sciences and Art & Humanities

Ayşe Imrohoroglu, University of Southern California
Hülya Eraslan, Johns Hopkins University
Çağlar Özden, The World Bank
Ahmet Yükleven, University of Mississippi

8. TASSA 2014 Institutional Members

Championing Members



Sustaining Members



Promoting Members



Sponsor Members



APPENDIX 1 – TASSA 2014 ACTIVITIES

[illegible]

TASSA 2014 Activities, continued



*TASSA represented at Fletcher School Conference on Turkey,
April 11, 2014*



*Preparations for TASSA 2016 Conference
May 2, 2014*

2014 TASSA “Young Scholars Award”



Ertugrul Cubukcu, Ph.D.



Alp Şimşek, Ph.D.



Ahmet Yıldız, Ph.D



Kivanc Birsoy, Ph.D



Burak Okumus, Ph.D



Duygu Kuzum, Ph.D.

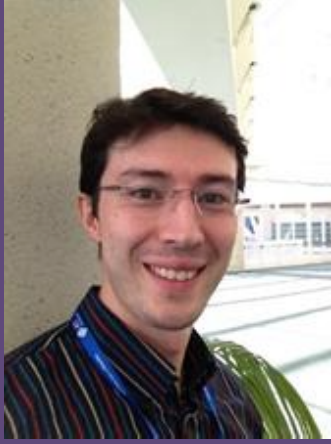


Canan Dagdeviren, Ph. D.



Omer Durak, Ph.D.

2013 Featured Young Scientists in TASSA Newsletter



Anil Agiral, Ph.D.



Gül Dölen, Ph. D.



Ahmet Coşkun, Ph.D.



Ayça Yalçın Ozkumur, Ph.D.

**“Conversation with a Scientist and Scholar” and “Expert Opinion”
Corners in TASSA Newsletter**



Ali Ercan Ph.D



Kadir Aslan, Ph.D.



Umit Ozkan, Ph.D.

TASSA CONFERENCE POSTER



TURKISH AMERICAN SCIENTISTS AND SCHOLARS ASSOCIATION tassa CONFERENCE

March 22-23, 2014

Van Munching Hall, Robert H. Smith School of Business
University of Maryland at College Park, Maryland

TASSA conferences will bring together prominent scientists and scholars from leading American and Turkish institutions as well as decision makers and potential partners. The theme of the 2014 conference is **Global Opportunities**.

Register at: www.tassausa.org/Annual-Conferences/2014/Registration

Conference Theme

This year's conference theme will be centered on "**Global Opportunities**", which will broadly cover the emerging technical and social challenges as well as related opportunities that are likely to transform our world in the coming decades. Our conference will also focus on another very important and timely theme, that is: "**Women in Science, Engineering, and Social Sciences**".

One of the goals of the 2014 TASSA Conference is to recognize the success of Turkish-American women in basic and applied as well as social sciences and learn from their experiences. The WISESS Symposium will bring together Turkish women scientists who work in America and Turkey together with women leaders of academia.

WISESS

Young Scholar Awards

Graduate students, postdoctoral scholars and researchers (from academia and industry), and junior faculty who have excelled in their respective fields are invited to submit a nomination (including self-nominations) for the inaugural **TASSA Young Scholar Awards**.

Nomination Submission Deadline: **January 6, 2014, 5PM EST.**

For more information: www.tassausa.org/Annual-Conferences/2014/Young-Scholar-Award

Poster session will serve as a platform for principal investigators, students, postdoctoral fellows and researchers as well as institutions who would like to present their scholarly efforts.

Poster Presentation Session

Submission Deadline: **January 5, 2014, 5PM EST.**

For more information: www.tassausa.org/Annual-Conferences/2014/Poster

Talent & Innovation Showcase

Great opportunity for Turkish University representatives to meet and interview graduating Turkish students. Formal interviews are conducted in professional interview rooms.

The new **TASSA CONNECT** platform will facilitate applicants to set up appointments with University and other research institutions from Turkey and the United States.

For Questions:

Email to: ed@tassausa.org

1526 18th Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20036, USA

Phone: 1-855-827-7204 * E-mail: ed@tassausa.org * Web: www.tassausa.org

TASSA POSTER PRESENTATION POSTER



2014

call for
poster
abstracts

TURKISH AMERICAN SCIENTISTS AND SCHOLARS ASSOCIATION

tassa CONFERENCE

March 22-23, 2014 • Van Munching Hall, Robert H. Smith School of Business
University of Maryland at College Park, Maryland

**Scientific
Poster
Presentations**

Scientific poster session will serve as a platform for principal investigators, students, postdoctoral fellows and researchers who would like to present their scholarly efforts in:

- Engineering & Applied Sciences
- Health & Biomedical Sciences
- Natural Sciences
- Social Sciences, Arts & Humanities

These posters will introduce institutes, research labs, universities, and other large and small initiatives to TASSA members and conference attendees. The poster sessions are intended to provide a convenient and informal forum to stimulate exchange of ideas and knowledge.

Submission Deadline: **January 5, 2014, 6PM EST.**

HOW TO SUBMIT:
Submit your abstract at www.tassausa.org/Annual-Conferences/2014/Poster
Please register for the conference at www.tassausa.org/Annual-Conferences/2014/Registration

**Institutional
Poster
Presentations**

FOR QUESTIONS:
Email to poster@tassausa.org

1526 18th Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20036, USA
Phone: 1-855-827-7204 • E-mail: ed@tassausa.org • Web: www.tassausa.org

TASSA YOUNG SCHOLAR AWARD POSTER

TURKISH AMERICAN SCIENTISTS AND SCHOLARS ASSOCIATION

tassa CONFERENCE

March 22-23, 2014 • Van Munching Hall, Robert H. Smith School of Business
University of Maryland at College Park, Maryland

**Young
Scholar
Award**

You are invited to submit a nomination (including self-nominations) for the inaugural **TASSA Young Scholar Awards**.

Each winner will receive an **Award Certificate** and is expected to deliver a short, "elevator-pitch" style, oral presentation during the conference.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Graduate students, postdoctoral scholars and researchers (from both academia and industry), and **junior faculty** (e.g. instructors, assistant professors) who have excelled in their respective fields are eligible for this award and the nominees will be considered in three separate categories.

Nomination Deadline: **January 8, 2014, 6PM EST.**

HOW TO APPLY:
Submit your nomination at www.tassausa.org/Annual-Conferences/2014/Young-Scholar-Award
Please register for the conference at www.tassausa.org/Annual-Conferences/2014/Registration

FOR QUESTIONS:
Email to awards@tassausa.org

**call for nominations
young
scholar
awards**

1526 18th Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20036, USA
Phone: 1-855-827-7204 • E-mail: ed@tassausa.org • Web: www.tassausa.org



2014

call for nominations
young
scholar
awards

2014
global opportunities

- Printed as a sponsor in the conference booklet
- Complimentary admission for two to the conference, breakfasts, luncheons and dinner reception.
- Company name and information listed on TASSA Conference Web site during the conference.
- Verbal acknowledgment of sponsorship during opening remarks.
- Subscription to TASSA publications and bulletins.

2014

— global opportunities

SPONSOR MEMBER



Turkish American Scientists & Scholars Association

1526 18th Street, NW Washington, DC 20036 USA, ed@tassausa.org, 1-855-827-7204

About TASSA

Turkish American Scientists and Scholars Association (TASSA) is an independent, non-profit and non-political organization established in June 2004 in Washington, DC.

*TASSA aims to contribute to the social welfare and the industrial development in the U.S.A. and Turkey through the promotion of education and science.

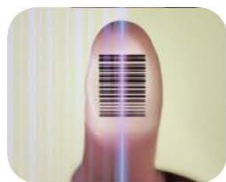
*TASSA promotes friendship and fellowship among Turkish-American professionals engaged in engineering, natural, life and social sciences, and related fields.

*TASSA enhances the professional and social status of Turkish-American professionals engaged in engineering, natural, life and social sciences, and related fields.

*TASSA promotes and cultivates the next generation of Turkish-American scientists and scholars.

*TASSA has a large community and network of nearly 5,000 Turkish scientists and scholars. TASSA members come from

- Engineering and Applied Sciences
- Health and Biomedical Sciences
- Natural Sciences
- Social Sciences, Arts & Humanities



MISSION

TASSA's mission is to promote educational, scientific and technological cooperation between the U.S.A. and Turkey and to facilitate the advancement of science in Turkey and the USA through scientific exchange, educational programs and increased networking.



VISION

TASSA's vision is to build a sustainable science bridge between the U.S.A. and Turkey. This bridge would facilitate the flow of people (scientists and scholars), knowledge, and technology and help link science and technology institutions in the two countries.



TASSA newsletter: The Bridge

The Bridge is a bimonthly newsletter that informs TASSA members about

- TASSA Board and committee activities
- News and job opportunities from Turkey
- Accomplishments of Turkish scientists and scholars.

The Bridge has more than 1,500 active readers.
(<http://www.tassausa.org/News-From-TASSA>)

TASSA Educational Activities

- **TASSA Academy:** A future project aimed at bringing junior faculty from Turkish universities and distinguished faculty from US together in instructive workshops
- **Workshops:** Regional research seminars in various fields bring together TASSA community members and provide great networking opportunities for the attendees.



TASSA Annual Conferences

TASSA Conferences have the objective to establish a forum and create a dynamic platform for many young and experienced American, Turkish, and Turkish-American scientists and scholars to explore and develop new collaborative initiatives. Past conferences were held at:

- 2012 - Smith School of Business, University of Maryland
 - 2008 - Harvard Medical School
 - 2007 - Yale University
 - 2006 - Drexel University
 - 2005 - George Washington University
- (<http://www.tassausa.org/Annual-Conferences/2012>)

For more information about TASSA visit us at <http://www.tassausa.org/>