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ANNUAL REPORT

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This report has been prepared for evaluating overall performance and development of TASSA in 2015.

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Message from the President



Dear Friends of TASSA,

TASSA has successfully completed another year of connecting scientific communities in the US and Turkey.

The highlights of the year were the exceptional accomplishments of the members of the Turkish Science Diaspora. First, Aziz Sancar was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry. This award made Turks and friends of Turks exceptionally proud here in the US and in Turkey as well. Next, many members of the Turkish science community also received significant recognitions from their professional organizations. These accomplishments are evidence of the contributions of Turkish scientists and scholars to the economic growth of the US as well as the improvement of human life around the world.

We were also busy in 2015 with preparation of our flagship activity, the biennial conference, which will be held at the University of Chicago's Booth School of Business. Committees formed by TASSA's friends in Chicago and elsewhere worked very hard to put together another exceptional conference.

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 continue to increase. Unfortunately, our membership has not increased to the desired level. In 2016 our number one goal is a significant increase in membership. We are hoping TASSA members will support us in great numbers!

Of course, there is more to improve 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, reading "Haluk Ünal".

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

1. Board of Directors, Executive Committee, Conference Committee, Technical Committee, and Bylaws Committee Meetings

Joint Board of Directors and Executive Committee meetings:

- **December 26th, 2015:** Information exchange on Candan Tamerler's election to the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering College of Fellows.
- **December 24th, 2015:** Voting was held in regarding the budget of the 2016 Conference. The budget was approved by the Board Members and the Executive Committee.
- **December 9th, 2015:** Information exchange on the International Commission for Optics prize given to Aydoğan Özcan
- **November 20th, 2015:** Board members and the Executive Committee were informed on Aziz Sancar and Kenan Şahin's involvement to the TASSA meeting
- **October 20th, 2015:** Information exchange on election of Murat Günel to the National Academy of Medicine
- **October 10th, 2015:** A declaration was signed regarding the attacks that took place in Ankara.
- **June 26th, 2015:** 2014 Annual Report has been collectively approved.

Executive Committee Meeting:

- Executive Committee Meeting is held on November 28th, 2015 to approve changes in bylaws, and appoint new members to the Executive Committee. Dr. Sebahattin Demirkan replaced Dr. Refik Soyer as the treasurer of TASSA, and Handan Uslu replaced Dr. Batuhan Osmanoglu as the Managing Director. Dr. Osmanoglu continues his involvement with the organization as one of the four Vice Presidents of TASSA.

Conference Committee Meetings:

- **October 22th, 2015:** Meeting between Ercan Alp, conference co-chair, and President Professor Haluk Ünal took place in Washington DC., in order to determine the upcoming action items.
- **October 14th, 2015:** E-mail communication with the President, conference co-chairs and the Executive Director regarding outreach to the keynote speakers.

1. Board of Directors, Executive Committee, Conference Committee, Technical Committee, and Bylaws Committee Meetings

- **October 11th, 2015:** E-mail communication with the President, conference co-chairs and the Executive Director regarding the organization of the conference, and job delegation for the volunteers.
- **January 10th, 2015:** TASSA 2016 organizing committee gathered in Chicago to decide on possible topics for the conference.

Technical Committee Meetings:

- **November 6th, 2015:** E-mail communication regarding a new membership system took place.
- **July 7th, 2015:** Proposal for improvements in the online system were discussed through e-mail communication

Bylaws Committee Meeting:

- Worked on editing the bylaws articles accepted in 2012.

2. Membership Activities

- TASSA had additional 20 individual members, 11 student members, and 4 institutional members during 2015. Özyeğin University, George Washington University, Boğaziçi University, Hayat Kimya, and İzmir Ekonomi University established relationships with our organization.
- TASSA became active in its official Facebook page as of 2015, and increased its reach from 48 followers to 403.

Major accomplishments of the Turkish Science Diaspora Members

The first Turkish-American scientist to receive Nobel Prize in
Chemistry, 2015



Serdar Bulun, MD (Northwestern) and Murat Günel, MD (Yale) were first Turkish Americans to be elected to National Academy of Medicine, 2015



Aydogan Ozcan wins International
Commission for Optics Prize



The American Institute for Medical and
Biological Engineering (AIMBE) elected
Candan Tamerler as a fellow



Vamık Volkan won the 2015 Sigourney Award
for his work on applying a psychoanalytic
approach to conflicts.



Alper Bozkurt named to Popular Science's
'Brilliant 10' for his work on Internet of
Bionic Things



Canan Dağdelen, developed a tattoo-like wearable device that detects skin cancer



Zakir Durumeriç invents a way to improve online security and listed one of '35 Innovators under 35'



Duygu Karaman develops an app for the blind and the visually impaired



Gözde Durmuş developed a method to understand if cells are dying, or basically cancerous



3. Communication with the TASSA community

In line with TASSA's mission of connecting the scientific community in Turkey and the United States, the bi-monthly newsletter, the Bridge has been published throughout 2015. The Bridge aimed to serve the community in multiple ways, serving its function as the main channel to reach out to more than 5000 members of our community.

Primarily, the Bridge highlighted the success stories from the Turkish-American community, functioning both as a news platform as well as a source of motivation for aspiring members of the scientific community. 2015 was a great year for the Turkish-American scientific community as Professor Aziz Sancar won a Nobel prize, and 3 Turkish female scientists were chosen as MIT 35 under 35. Murat Günel, TASSA Board member, and Serdar Bulun were chosen to the National Academy of Medicine. TASSA's own Aydoğan Özcan won the International Commission for Optics prize, and Candan Tamerler, VP of TASSA, has been elected to the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering College of Fellows.

Our newsletter is also the best outlet for us to increase transparency and tell more about our organization. The Board Members Hüseyin Abut, Ayşe İmrohoroglu, Mehmet Toner, Füsun Özgüner, and Selim Ünlü were interviewed by our Editorial team led by Bahri Karaçay. The conversations involved issues regarding TASSA's services to the scientific community, and their experiences as they were involved with our organization.

The Young Scholar profiles were highlighted in each issue of the Bridge, celebrating the dynamism and youth of the Turkish American scientific community. Batuhan Osmanoğlu from NASA, Neyran Turan from Rice University, Nevzat Kazgan from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Burhaneddin Sandıkçı from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, Mustafa Karabaş from Harvard University, and Handan Acar from the University of Chicago were featured.

TASSA also facilitated the dissemination of scientific insights to the broader community by inviting experts to talk about their respective fields in each issue for the 'Expert's Opinion' column. Resmiye Oral, MD, highlighted issues surrounding domestic

violence. Tamay Özgökmen focused on environmental issues, explaining the oil spills and their possible impact.

TASSA's mission to inform the community has also continued offline. On February 4th, TASSA President Haluk Ünal presented to the community with the invite of His Excellency Serdar Kılıç, US Ambassador to Turkey. Volkan Bozkır, Turkish Minister for European Union Affairs was also present in the meeting, along with the students, academics and researchers in the area.

4. TASSA Meetings and Presentations

Başak Çubukçu, producer for the Al Jazeera has interviewed TASSA President, Professor Haluk Ünal regarding Turkey's efforts on reversing brain drain.

Since 2007, the Turkish Government has developed incentive programs for Turkish scientist and scholars working outside of Turkey to reverse the brain drain that has been eroding Turkey's intellectual capacity for years. As a result of these programs, the R&D budget was increased, new sponsored programs were created, and several regulatory changes put in place to encourage reverse brain-migration. However, these efforts created only limited success. So far only 541 scientists/scholars have moved back to Turkey.

TASSA President Haluk Unal answered the questions of Başak Çubukçu, a producer for Al Jazeera Turk Digital Magazine in a related piece published on the website of Al Jazeera Turk. "To serve Turkey, one does not have to be necessarily living in Turkey," said Unal. "Turkey would benefit from scientists or scholars even if they are living abroad in countries such as the United States. "

Prof Unal used a relay race analogy to describe the reason scientists have for not returning to Turkey. "By being in the United States, you are in an international race. It is not a 1500 meter race or a marathon, it is a relay race. In other words, it is a team work. You work as a team, and you win as a team. It is very difficult to establish teams like that in Turkey" he said. "Doing scientific work and creating new knowledge is a matter of culture. Unfortunately, we have not been able to establish that culture in Turkey yet. "

TASSA represented Turkey at the 1st European Scientific Diasporas Meeting

TASSA became a founding member of the European Scientific Diasporas network, organized by EURAXESS. TASSA joined a panel in the meeting, as well as involving the Turkish scholar Dr. Canan Dağdeviren to the conference. The conference took place on November 19th, at the Spain Arts & Culture Center in Washington DC.

Canan Dağdeviren joined the panel as "The Exceptional Female Scientist" and talked about entrepreneurship. Dr. Dağdeviren was previously named to MIT's 35 under 35, and was listed as one of the 30 remarkable inventors in science under 30 by Forbes magazine for her inventions on bionic devices. She is the recipient of numerous awards for her inventions. Dr. Dağdeviren talked about her experiences and discussed how her vision contributed to her success.

TASSA's Managing Director Handan Uslu talked about TASSA's structure and how TASSA strategizes its outreach programs and efforts at a panel focusing on community outreach programs. Along with Uslu, representatives from Germany, Italy, and Greece were also part of the panel and talked about their own community outreach programs. Dr. James Gavigan, Minister-Counselor Research & Innovation from the Delegation of the European Union to the United States was also present at the conference.

5. TASSA 2016 Conference Preparations

TASSA has been successful in mobilizing the Turkish-American scholarly community in the Chicago area for the 2016 Conference. Burhaneddin Sandıkçı from the University of Chicago, and Esen Ercan Alp from Argonne National Laboratory are the co-Chairs of the conference, and formed the structure and speaker list for the Conference. Aziz Sancar and Kenan Şahin have accepted invitations to be keynote speakers during the conference.

Along with the conference co-chairs, members from the TASSA team have undertaken significant roles to make the conference a true success. Professor Aydoğan Özcan gathered a diverse and exceptional committee group for the Young Scholar Awards. Dr. Handan Acar from the University of Chicago has coordinated with the co-Chairs and Executive Director to assist institutions and individuals who would like to present at the Poster Session.

6. Other TASSA Activities



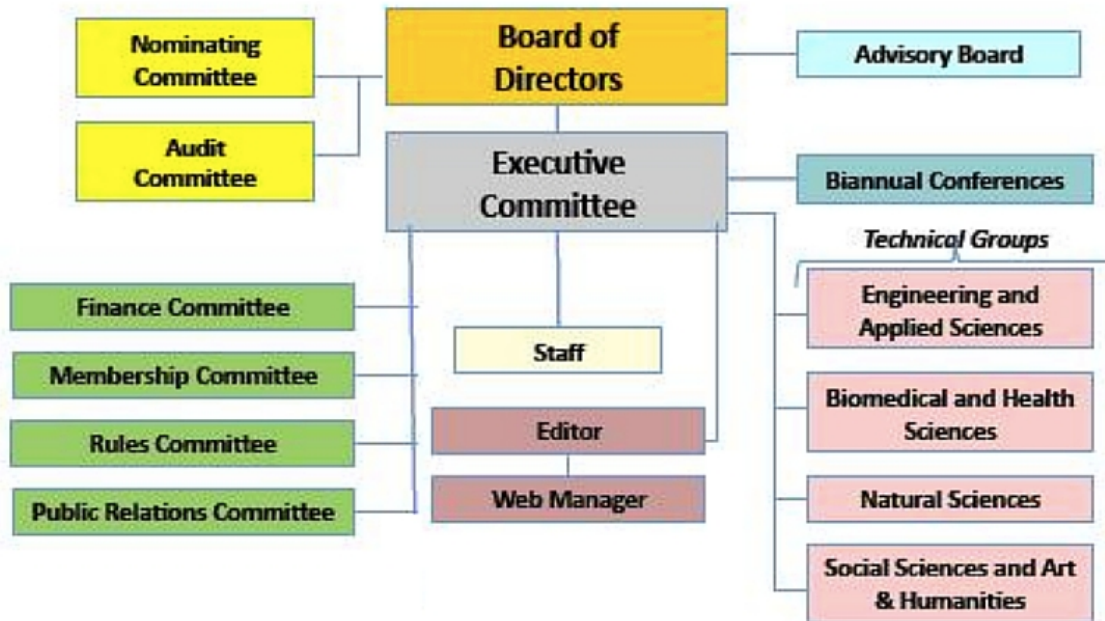
ANNUAL REPORT

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

TASSA 2014 Annual Report was prepared. Annual report summarizes the activities the members of the TASSA Executive Committee and Board have undertaken, together with our volunteers.

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

President and Chairman of the Board

[Haluk Ünal](#), Professor, Finance, Robert H. Smith School of Business, University of Maryland

Board Members

[Hüseyin Abut](#), Professor Emeritus, Electrical and Computer Engineering, San Diego State University

[Bülent Başol](#), Founder and Chief Technology Officer, EncoreSolar

[Murat Günel](#), Nixdorff-German Professor of Neurosurgery and Professor of Genetics and of Neuroscience, Yale University

[Ayşe Imrohoroglu](#), Professor of Finance and Business Economics, Marshall School of Business, University of Southern California

[Aydoğan Özcan](#), Chancellor's Professor and HHMI Professor, Electrical Engineering, UCLA

[Fusun Özgüner](#), Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering, The Ohio State University

[Mehmet Toner](#), Helen Andrus Benedict Professor, Biomedical Engineering, Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School, and Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology.

[Selim Ünlü](#), Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Boston University

Board Committees

Audit Committee

[Hürriyet Ok](#), World Bank

[Fusun Özgüner](#), The Ohio State University

[Şenay Ağca](#), George Washington University

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

President and Chairman of the Board

[Haluk Ünal](#), Professor, Department of Finance, University of Maryland

Vice Presidents

[Hasan Ayaz](#), Associate Research Professor, School of Biomedical Engineering, Science and Health Systems, Drexel University; Adjunct Professor, University of Pennsylvania

[Batuhan Osmanoğlu](#), Research Scientist, NASA GSFC

[Nilay Papila](#), Director, Technology Transfer Office, Özyeğin University

[Candan Tamerler](#), Wesley G. Cramer Associate Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Kansas

Managing Director

[Handan Uslu](#), Data Analyst, adMarketplace

Treasurer

[Sebahattin Demirkan](#), Faculty, University of Maryland

Editor

[Bahri Karacay](#), Research Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics and Neurology, University of Iowa

Bylaws Committee

Bülent Başol

Orhan Gürbüz

Hüseyin Abut

8. TASSA 2015 Institutional Members

Sustaining Members



Promoting Members





Sponsor Members





APPENDIX 1 – TASSA 2015 ACTIVITIES

TASSA 2015 Activities

Turkish
American
Scientists &
Scholars
Association

tassa THE BRIDGE

NEWSLETTER VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1

ABOUT



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

[READ MORE](#)

TASSA INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS

Championing Member



Sustaining Members



Promoting Members



Co-chairs discuss the 2016 TASSA Conference



(University of Chicago) to bring you an update on the conference preparation. [Full Story...](#)

As the 2016 TASSA conference approaching fast, we reached out to co-chairs of the meeting organizing committee, Esen Ercan Alp (Argonne National Laboratory) and Burhaneddin Sandıkçı

Call for Nominations for the Young Scholar Awards 2016



Conference. The nomination deadline is February 1st, 2016. [Full Story...](#)

We are now announcing the **2nd TASSA Young Scholars Award program** to recognize the achievements of young Turkish American scholars, as part of the upcoming 2016 TASSA Annual



[BECOME a MEMBER](#)

or

[RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP](#)

Introduction of the Board Members: Aydogan Ozcan



On behalf of the editorial team of TASSA we are pleased to introduce the members of our Board of Directors, who have agreed to graciously share their thoughts on TASSA and its activities, as well as information about themselves with our readership. In this issue we feature Aydogan Ozcan, the Chancellor's Professor at UCLA, leading the Bio- and Nano-Photonics Laboratory at the Electrical Engineering and Bioengineering Departments.

[Full Story...](#)

The Bridge,
Bi-monthly Newsletter

FIRST ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
**EUROPEAN
SCIENTIFIC
DIASPORAS**
IN
NORTH AMERICA

19 NOVEMBER 2015 | 8:30AM – 4:00PM (EDT)

**SPAIN ARTS & CULTURE CENTER,
2801 16TH ST NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20009**



***TASSA's Presentation at the 1st Annual Conference of the European Scientific
Diasporas by EURAXESS***

TASSA 2015 Activities, continued

2015 Featured Young Scientists in TASSA Newsletter



Neyran Turan Ph.D.



Handan Acar, Ph. D.



Batuhan Osmanoglu Ph.D.



Mustafa Karabas



Burhaneddin Sandıkçı

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



Moshe Arditi, Ph.D.



Ali Hortaçsu, Ph.D.



Serap Aksoy, Ph.D.



Resmiye Oral, MD



Fatih Güvenen, Ph.D



Tamay Özgökmen, Ph.D.

TASSA CONFERENCE POSTER

TASSA
CONFERENCE
2016

APRIL 2-3

CHARLES M. HARPER CENTER,
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
BOOTH SCHOOL OF BUSINESS,
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

SCIENCE
& SOCIETY



TURKISH
AMERICAN
SCIENTISTS
AND
SCHOLARS
ASSOCIATION

TASSA Conferences bring together prominent scientists and scholars as well as policy makers, administrators and potential partners from leading American and Turkish institutions.

CONFERENCE THEME

This year's conference theme will be centered on "Science and Society". We aim to address the impact of current scientific research on society, and discuss the role of higher education and frontier research in bringing technological prowess and economic development. Distinct panels on physical sciences, medicine, economics, engineering, and education will bring together top-notch researchers and administrators from the leading American and Turkish universities and research laboratories, and will provide the participants a unique perspective on the impact of science on society.

SPEAKERS

The confirmed keynote speakers are: Aziz Sancar (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), 2015 Nobel Prize winner in Chemistry, and Kenan Şahin (President of TIAX). In addition, the conference will be unique by featuring many other distinguished speakers. Nomination Deadline: February 1, 2016

YOUNG SCHOLAR AWARDS

Graduate students, postdoctoral scholars, 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 TASSA Young Scholar Awards. Nomination Deadline: February 1, 2016

POSTER SESSION PRESENTATION

Poster session will serve as a platform for principal investigators, students, postdoctoral fellows and researchers as well as for institutions who would like to present their scholarly efforts. Deadline: February 28th, 2016

JOB FAIR

The Conference will also feature a job fair to provide opportunities for visiting Turkish universities and companies to recruit young scientists completing their education in the US, as well as look for experienced scientists to attract to their home institutions.

Ercan Alp
Conference Co-Chair

Burhaneddin Sandıkçı
Conference Co-Chair





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/>