

2016



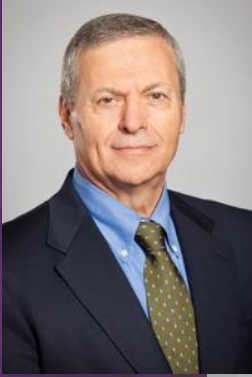
Turkish American Scientists and Scholars Association

## ANNUAL REPORT

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## Message from the President



Dear Friends of TASSA,

TASSA has completed a busy and a successful year in connecting the scientific communities in the US and Turkey.

The highlight of the year was TASSA 2016 Conference held at the University of Chicago. The Co-Chairs Ercan Alp from Argonne National Lab and Burhaneddin Sandıkçı from University of Chicago delivered a memorable conference on April 2-3, 2016 to the 467 Turkish-American scientists and scholars who attended the sessions and many hundreds more that joined online through the live web broadcast.

The conference participants were ecstatic to listen to the 2015 Nobel Laureate Aziz Sancar. The second keynote speaker Kenan Şahin delivered a remarkable lecture on democracy and innovation. Many other speakers shared their research. Nine young scholar awards were given, a poster session was organized, and a job market gave Turkish universities and research organizations an opportunity to recruit Turkish students. Overall, the Chicago TASSA conference made every member of the Turkish Science Diaspora very proud.

We were also busy in 2016 revising our bylaws, holding elections four new board directors, and substantially reorganizing the executive committee. We continued to communicate with our contact base through The Bridge, the TASSA newsletter. The readership of The Bridge, the number of visitors to our website and social media sites continue to increase. We have also made significant gains in both individual and institutional membership. We sincerely thank all those who support TASSA in many ways.

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

## 2. TASSA President and Board of Directors Election



TASSA held elections for four Board members whose terms expired in 2016. Hüseyin Abut, Murat Günel, Aydoğan Özcan and Mehmet Toner completed their terms as the Board of Directors. Hüseyin Abut and Murat Günel did not run for another term. Ercan Alp, Aydoğan Özcan, Candan Tamerler and Mehmet Toner were nominated by the nomination committee, chaired by Ayşe İmrohoroğlu. All four were elected as the Board Directors by the Vote Authorized Representatives (VAR) members through online voting for a four-year term.

Aydoğan Özcan and Mehmet Toner were already existing Board members whose terms expired and they agreed to re-run for the recent election. Candan Tamerler has served TASSA as Vice President over the last four years. Ercan Alp was the co-chair of the successful Chicago TASSA conference.

We sincerely thank Hüseyin Abut and Murat Günel for their past services to TASSA. We also warmly welcome the two new additions to the TASSA Board; Ercan Alp and Candan Tamerler.

## 3. Executive Committee Restructure

TASSA Executive Committee, which is responsible for managing the day-to-day activities of TASSA has been reorganized. Per TASSA Bylaws, The Executive Committee includes the President, one or more Vice Presidents, the Managing Director, the Treasurer, and the Editor of the Bridge.

The new Executive Committee members are:

VP	Hasan Ayaz
VP	Kerem Coşar
VP	Canan Dağdeviren
VP	Batuhan Osmanoğlu
Editor	Ergun Akleman
Treasurer	Şenay Ağca
Managing Director	Tuba Fehr

The outgoing members of the Executive Committee have served the TASSA community in great capacity TASSA is thankful to Sebahattin Demirkan (Treasurer), Nilay Papila (VP), and Candan Tamerler (VP) for their dedicated service. Candan will be serving as a member of the TASSA Board of Directors and Nilay will continue serving TASSA in Turkey together with Levent Güntay (also our former VP) in organizing TASSA's contact base in Turkey.

With the new structures, both at the Board and Executive Committee levels, the TASSA Board hopes to provide stronger bridges between American and Turkish scientists and scholars.

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

### Joint Board of Directors and Executive Committee Meetings:

November 2	Discussion on University Presidents Election Process in Turkey
October 10	Discussion on a request from Physics Today
July 25	Discussion on the request from YÖK
May 3	Discussion on nominations for President
March 23	Approval of 2015 Annual Report and Financials
March 20	TASSA Statement on Academic Freedom
February 28	Bylaws revision approved by the Board
January 15	Discussion on Aziz Sancar Award
January 13	Discussion on funding from YTB

### Executive Committee Meeting:

Executive Committee met on April 12 and appointed new members to the Executive Committee, Aylin Sagay as communications director and Ergun Akleman as Editor. On October 17 Tuba Fehr was appointed as Managing Director and Canan Dağdeviren as Vice President. On December 12 meeting 2017 plans were discussed.

Executive Committee had numerous email exchanges on the Conference organization.

### Conference Committee Meetings:

Conference organizers Ercan Alp and Burhaneddin Sandıkçı had countless meetings for the organization of the conference and putting together the program.

### Nomination Committee Meetings:

Nomination Committee discussed and held the elections in January 2016 which ended with the election announcement in April 2016 for the President and four Board Members whose terms have ended.

### Web Committee

Spent significant time in updating the TASSA web page as well as organizing the Conference videos.

## 5. TASSA Conference

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TASSA'16 took place on April 2-3, 2016 at the Charles M. Harper Center at the University of Chicago, and was a great success thanks to the 467 attendees who braved the cold, snowy Chicago weather and hundreds more online. The hospitality of the Booth School of Business gave the conference a much warmer atmosphere indoors. We were also lucky to have esteemed speakers such as the 2015 Nobel Prize Winner Dr. Aziz Sancar, and two newly named members of the National Academy of Medicine; Murat Günel and Serdar E. Bulun, which also emphasize the rightful recognition of TASSA members for their world-class research.

The attendees represented 264 institutions from seven countries: Azerbaijan, Canada, Germany, Scotland, Sweden, Turkey and USA. The conference generated an amazing opportunity to showcase the cutting-edge research undertaken by Turkish scientists and engineers. Nine brilliant young scientists received the TASSA Young Scholar Award and presented their research in TEDx style short presentations.

We are grateful to everyone that took part in the conference especially our sponsors, speakers and of course the attendees. We also thank the University of Chicago for their kind support and hospitality. This conference was made possible by the hard work of Ercan Alp and Burhaneddin Sandıkçı (Conference Co-chairs) and many volunteers who put in countless of hours organizing the event. We would like to thank them for their tireless commitment and perseverance to make TASSA'16 an event to remember.

Photos and videos from the conference were prepared and uploaded to TASSA's website.

It was an honor to have Aziz Sancar, 2015 Nobel Prize winner in Chemistry, and Kenan Şahin, President of TIAX, as keynote speakers. Other speakers for the conference included, among many other powerhouses: John Birge, professor at the University of Chicago and former Dean of Engineering at Northwestern University; Eric Isaacs, Provost of the University of Chicago; Sunil Kumar, Dean of the University of Chicago Booth School of Business; and Peter Littlewood, Director of Argonne National Laboratory. The conference was also addressed and attended by the Minister

of Science, Industry and Technology of Turkey, Hon. Fikri Işık, and Turkish Council General of Chicago, Hon. Umut Acar.

Also during this conference, two new awards were announced, namely the Aziz Sancar and Kenan Şahin Awards, to strengthen TASSA's commitment to the exciting Young Scholar Awards Program. Both Aziz Sancar and Kenan Şahin are inspirational leaders and long time supporters of TASSA, and through these new awards their prestigious legacy will continue to inspire, motivate and honor the very best of the next generation of scientists, scholars, engineers and entrepreneurs.



## AFFILIATION OF THE ATTENDEES

3M  
AbbVie  
Acibadem University  
Advocate Lutheran General Hospital  
Alberta Health Services  
Anadolu University  
Ankara University  
Aptalogic Inc.  
Arent Fox LLP  
Argonne National Laboratory  
Argosy University - Chicago  
ASELSAN  
AT&T  
ATAA  
ATA-IN  
Başkent University  
Baylor College of Medicine  
Bezmialem Vakıf University  
Bilim Kahramanları Derneği  
Boehringer Ingelheim Pharma. Inc.  
Boğaziçi University  
Boston College  
Boston University  
Bradley University  
Bryant University  
CAMC Ophthalmology  
Case Western Reserve University  
Chicago ORT Technical Institute  
Cleveland Clinic  
Colorado State University  
DB Sterlin Consultants, Inc.  
Deloitte  
Department of Homeland Security  
DePaul University  
Drexel University  
Early Inter. and School District 34  
Erzincan University  
Everest Production  
Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland  
Florida International University  
Ford Motor Company  
Gazi University  
GBMS  
Georgetown University  
Georgia Inst. of Technology  
Ghafari  
Grzybowski Scientific Inventions  
Harriet Fulbright Institute  
Harvard Medical School  
Harvard School of Public Health  
Harvard University  
HAVELSAN  
Hayat Kimya Sanayi A.Ş.  
Health Institutes of Turkey  
IBM  
Illinois Institute of Technology  
Independent Contractor  
Indiana University  
Indiana University -  
Purdue University  
Indianapolis  
Iowa State University  
ISPAT – Investment Support and  
Promotion Agency of Turkey  
İnönü University  
İstanbul Medipol University  
İstanbul Sabahattin Zaim University  
IYTE  
Jump Trading  
Kadir Has University

Kirkwood Community College  
Koç University  
KPMG  
Lake Forest Graduate School of  
Management  
Loyola University - Chicago  
MacNeal Hospital  
Maltepe University  
Marquette University  
Massachusetts General Hospital  
Massachusetts Institute of  
Technology  
Max Planck Institute for Intelligent  
Systems  
Medical College of Wisconsin  
Medical Decision Modeling Inc  
MEF University  
Middle East Technical University  
Michigan State University  
Michigan Technological University  
Ministry of Science, Industry and  
Technology of the Republic of Turkey  
Missouri University of Science and  
Technology  
Montclair State University  
Mt. Sinai Medical School  
NASA GSFC  
Navigant  
National Cancer Institute  
Northeastern Illinois University  
Northeastern University  
Northern Illinois University  
Northwestern University  
Northwestern Univ. Feinberg School  
of Medicine  
O3B Networks  
Ohio University  
Ohio State University  
Ohio State University -  
Nationwide Children's Hospital  
Onko USA  
OPRFHS  
Medical College of Wisconsin  
Özyeğin University  
Pennsylvania State University  
Pennsylvania State University  
Prime Ministry of Turkey  
Protiviti  
Purdue University  
Qafqaz University  
Radiology Partners  
Rice University  
Ridgewater College  
Roketsan Inc.  
RRD  
Rush University  
Russell Reynolds  
SANKO University  
Seton Hall University  
Seza Orcun Consulting Services  
Southern Illinois University -  
Edwardsville  
Stanford University  
Stanford University / Nielsen  
Stockholm School of Economics  
SUNY Stony Brook University  
T.C. Başbakanlık, Yurtdışı Türkler ve  
Akraba Topluluklar Başkanlığı  
The Ames Laboratory  
TIAX LLC

TRCNA  
T-Tech Technology Solutions  
TUBITAK  
Turkish Resource Center  
of North America  
Türkiye Sağlık End. İşveren Sendikası  
TÜSEB -  
Türkiye Sağlık Enstitüleri Başkanlığı  
University of Alberta  
University of Alberta Hospital  
University of Arkansas – Little Rock  
University of Arkansas  
for Medical Sciences  
University of California  
University of California - Berkeley  
University of California - Los Angeles  
University of Central Florida  
University of Chicago  
University of Chicago  
University of Chicago -  
Booth School of Business  
University of Chicago Medicine  
University of Cincinnati  
University of Delaware  
University of Georgia  
University of Glasgow  
University of Illinois  
University of Illinois - Chicago  
University of Illinois -  
Urbana- Champaign  
University of Iowa  
University of Maryland  
University of Massachusetts -  
Amherst  
University of Massachusetts  
Medical School  
University of Miami  
University of Michigan  
University of Michigan - Ann Arbor  
University of Minnesota  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
University of North Carolina  
University of North Carolina -  
Chapel Hill  
University of Oklahoma  
University of Pennsylvania  
University of Pittsburgh  
University of South Carolina  
University of South Florida  
University of Southern California  
University of Tennessee  
University of Texas - Austin  
University of Toledo  
University of Washington  
University of Windsor  
University of Wisconsin  
University of Wisconsin - Madison  
University of Wisconsin – Whitewater  
US Department of Energy  
USDA - Forest Service  
Üsküdar University  
Valparaíso University  
Virtual EM Inc.  
Wayne State University  
WCMC  
Western Kentucky University  
Yale University School of Medicine  
Yardimci Labs, LLC.  
Yıldız Technical University  
Yolk Byte Design

## 6. Membership Activities

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- TASSA had 117 paid members, and 18 institutional members during 2016.
- TASSA became active in its official Facebook page as of 2015, currently the number of followers are 668.
- “Two Turkish-American Scientists are the recipients of the Presidential Early-Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE)” post was viewed by 1,865 people
- “Young Scholar Awards given to 9 brilliant scientists at the TASSA 2016 Conference. Congratulations to all!” post was viewed by 1,337 people
- “TASSA Held Elections for the Four Board Directors” post reached 943 people

## 7. Communication with the TASSA Community

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In line with TASSA’s mission of connecting the scientific community in Turkey and the United States, a newsletter The Bridge has been published throughout 2016.

January Newsletter  
March Newsletter  
June Newsletter  
September Newsletter  
December Newsletter

The Bridge aims to serve the community in multiple ways, serving its function as the main channel to reach out to almost 6,500 members within Turkish-American scientists and scholars.

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. 2016 was a great year for the Turkish-American scientific community.

TASSA held its 7<sup>th</sup> biennial conference in Chicago, IL where the Turkish American Academic community came together.

The Young Scholar profiles were highlighted in each issue of the Bridge, celebrating the dynamism and youth of the Turkish American scientific community.

Some highlights from the email communications are below:

- The current number of people being reached by the newsletter and announcements is 5,102. The email opening rate has increased to 40% from an average of 29% since 2012 when TASSA started using Constant Contact.
- The lists in Constant Contact are now organized to include Paid Members, DC area members, Young Scholar members, Institutional Members, 2017 Paid Members, Rectors and General members.

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.

TASSA’s mission to inform the community has also continued offline.

## 8. Other TASSA Activities

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### TASSA Participates at the Science Diaspora Event, AAAS Annual Meeting by NODES



As part of the AAAS Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, NODES (Networks of Diasporas in Engineering and Science) held a half day discussion and networking event that engaged scientists and engineers, students, innovators, and government and embassy officials on model practices for catalyzing the growth and engagement of science and engineering diasporas in policy processes both in their country of origin and in the United States.

TASSA President Prof. Haluk Ünal delivered a presentation describing the significance of science diasporas in the United States higher education. Prof. Ünal also described the activities of TASSA.

Specific questions discussed during the sessions focused on:

- How do diaspora communities organize themselves and build partnerships with the public and private sectors and civil society for effective, scalable, and sustainable policy engagements with their countries of origin?
- How are diasporas building their capacity to develop and help inform governmental policies?
- What lessons and practices can be drawn from successful cases of diasporas engaging with policy?

(NODES) is a partnership between the U.S. Department of State, the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Engineering, to develop science diaspora networks across the United States. It strives to support science and engineering diaspora networks by sharing best practices and knowledge, convening diaspora groups, and catalyzing their growth by linking them with useful tools and institutions so that these knowledge networks can have greater impact in their country of origin and in the United States. NODES seeks to leverage existing collaborations while fostering a variety of new ones through forums, workshops, and online resources that promote connectivity and the sharing of best practices among members of diaspora communities. A yearly gathering at the AAAS annual meeting serves as an anchor for mobilizing new constituencies, catalyzing new capacity building activities and sharing resources.

The full video can be found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AD6Aj0857iA>

## **TASSA 2016 Job Fair**

During TASSA's 2016 Conference on April 2nd and 3rd, a job fair was held with the participation of 13 institutions. A detailed Job Fair report was published on TASSA's website (<http://www.tassausa.org/Job-Openings>). A large number of graduate students, researchers, post-docs had an opportunity to be interviewed by the participating institutions on site. Even though we do not have an exact number, we believe that about 100 interviews were conducted during the two days of the conference. Each institution was assigned a room to conduct private interviews with the students who applied. In addition, several universities had informational meetings addressing to groups of students who were interested.

## **New TASSA Awards**

At the last TASSA meeting in Chicago, two new awards were announced, namely the Aziz Sancar and Kenan Şahin Awards, to strengthen TASSA's commitment to this exciting Young Scholar Awards Program. Both Aziz Sancar and Kenan Şahin are inspirational leaders and long term supporters of TASSA, and through these new awards their prestigious legacy will continue to inspire, motivate and honor the very best of the next generation of scientists, scholars, engineers and entrepreneurs.

## TASSA Participates at the Euraxess Joint Mentoring Initiative Meeting



On 5-6 December 2016 TASSA participated in the 2nd Annual Meeting of the European Scientific Diasporas in North America. The opening reception took place at the Embassy of Austria, Washington D.C. on December 5<sup>th</sup> followed by the full event at the Embassy of Slovakia, Washington, D.C. on December 6<sup>th</sup>. The focus and topic of the meeting was “Joint Mentoring Initiative for European Researchers” where participants discussed successful mentoring strategies, formats of existing formal mentoring programs within the North American scientific diaspora communities, and the possibilities and challenges lying ahead for setting up a Europe wide mentoring initiative.

TASSA’s managing director Dr. Tuba Fehr represented TASSA at the meeting and participated on a discussion panel titled “Dialog: Vision for a Joint European Mentoring Program”. Dr. Fehr talked about a mentoring initiative TASSA is planning to launch in 2017 focused on career development of young Turkish researchers, and about her vision for how a Joint Mentoring Initiative for European Researchers could look like under the Euraxess umbrella. Dr. Fehr has worked on several mentoring initiatives over the course of her postdoctoral training, including setting up the foundation for an informal postdoc mentoring program at her institution and co-authoring a postdoctoral Individual Development Plan for career development for early career researchers. She has also worked on nationwide surveys on the assessment of formal mentoring programs in U.S. and Canadian medical schools as a steering committee member of the Graduate Research, Education and Training Group at the American Association for Medical Colleges (AAMC).

Along with Dr. Fehr, representatives from various North American Diaspora communities including Austrian, German, Greek, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish scientists were present and talked about their successful mentoring programs for young researchers following keynote speeches on “Formal mentoring programs: Promoting best practices for mentors and mentees” by Dr. Joanne Kamens, Executive Director, and “Preparing Young Scientists: More than just Science” by Dr. Erik Lee Snapp, Director of Graduate and Postdoctoral Programs, Janelia Research Campus. All the presentations from the 2nd Annual Meeting of the European Scientific Diasporas in North America are available through the Euraxess Website.

## 9. Accomplishments of the Turkish Science Diaspora

- TASSA's Aydoğan Özcan is awarded the International Commission for Optics Prize
- Candan Tamerler, Vice President of TASSA, is elected for the AIMBE College of Fellows
- Sadık Esener, professor of Nanoengineering and Electrical and Computer Engineering at Jacobs Center of Engineering at University of California, San Diego was chosen to lead Oregon Health & Science University's large-scale early cancer detection initiative.
- Cenk Çavuşoğlu, principal investigator, receives grant to create a robotic heart catheter. In order to treat atrial fibrillation, researchers from Case Western Reserve University have undertaken a research project. Cenk Cavuşoğlu will be guiding the research, which has a funding of \$1.3 million. The research will be funded by the NIH to develop a prototype.
- TASSA editor brings popular science to thousands in Turkey through his podcast. Every other Saturday, Bahri Karaçay, the former editor of TASSA and a research associate professor of Pediatrics at the Carver College of Medicine of the University of Iowa, puts on his headphones and records the upcoming episode of his popular podcast "Bahri Karaçay ile Bilim". Since October of 2015, iTunes-Turkey has featured "Bahri Karaçay ile Bilim" as one of the top podcasts in Turkey.
- Erkin Şeker Assistant Professor in the UC Davis Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, was named a 2016 Cellular and Molecular Bioengineering (CMBE) Young Innovator by The Biomedical Engineering Society (BMES).
- Mustafa Ünal, a doctoral candidate in mechanical and aerospace engineering, was selected to receive the prestigious Federation of Analytical Chemistry and Spectroscopy Societies (FACSS) Student Award and the Osteoarthritis Young Investigator Award at the 46th International Sun Valley Workshop on Musculoskeletal Biology.
- TÜBİTAK 2016 Science, Special and Promotional Awardees List is Announced
- Natureindex.com published Turkey's research output during the period July 1 2015 - June 30 2016. According to the report Physical Sciences papers hold the majority with 26.4%, followed by Chemistry 22.6%.
- Turkey's output of Earth and environment science papers are growing - according to NatureIndex.com. To geologists and environmental scientists, Turkey has particular appeal. "Turkey has everything in terms of geological structures," says geologist, Bora Uzel, whose work analyzing ancient movements in the Anatolian landscape has helped increase the country's contribution to Earth and environmental journals in the index. Between 2012 and 2015, this contribution rose from a weighted fractional count of 4.13 to 6.8.
- Aydoğan Özcan, a member of the TASSA Board of Directors, receives the inaugural Rahmi Koç Science Award. Prof. Özcan received this award for a blood test device that can be mounted to a cell phone.
- Canan Dağdeviren wins The Science & SciLifeLab Prize for Young Scientists in the Translational Medicine Category and the 2016 Fatos Büyükkuşoğlu Strong Women Award.
- Feryal Özel receives Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship. Feryal Özel is a Professor of Astronomy and Astrophysics at the Department of Astronomy at The University of Arizona. She has made pioneering contributions to the physics of neutron stars and black holes, as well as to the co-evolution of black holes and galaxies in the early Universe.

## 10. Expert Opinion

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**March 2016**

**Hasan Ayaz** on the emerging field of Neuroergonomics

**September 2016**

**Ergun Akleman** on Construction of Large Shapes with Laser Cutting

**December 2016**

**Bülent Başol** on Photovoltaic Solar Energy

## 11. Young Scholar Awards

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**June 2016 TASSA'16 Conference Young Scholar Award Winners**  
**Junior Faculty Level**

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**Erol Akçay**  
Assistant Professor of Biology  
University of Pennsylvania



**Ayşe Asatekin**  
Assistant Professor  
Chemical and Biological Engineering Department  
Tufts University



**Alper Ertürk**  
Assistant Professor  
Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering  
Georgia Tech

## Postdoctoral Scholar / Scientist Level



**Eda Işıl Altıok**  
Associate Scientist  
Exponent, Inc.  
San Francisco, California

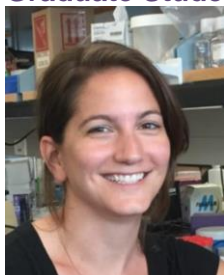


**Gökhan Barın**  
Miller Research Fellow  
Department of Chemistry and  
Miller Institute for Basic Research in Science,  
University of California, Berkeley

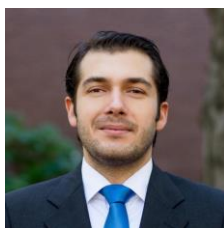


**Tuncay Özel**  
Post-doctoral Fellow  
The Chemistry and Chemical Biology Department  
Harvard University

## Graduate Student Level



**Tara Zeynep Barış**  
Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science  
University of Miami



**Selman Erol**  
Penn Economics  
University of Pennsylvania



**Başak Güler**  
Wireless Communications and Networking Laboratory  
Department of Electrical Engineering  
Pennsylvania State University

## 12. Young Scholar of the Month Selections

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### January 2016 Young Scholar Profile:



**Nevzat Kazgan**  
Post-doctoral Fellow  
The Center for Gastrointestinal Biology and Disease  
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

### March 2016 Young Scholar Profile:



**Bumin Yenmez**  
Assistant Professor of Economics  
Tepper School of Business, Carnegie Mellon University

### September 2016 Young Scholars



**Emrah Turgut**  
Postdoctoral Research Associate  
Cornell University



**Zeynep Madak Erdoğan**  
Assistant Professor  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

### December 2016 Young Scholars



**Serdar Abacı**  
Educational Research and Evaluation Specialist  
Learning Technologies Division  
University Information Technology Services Indiana University

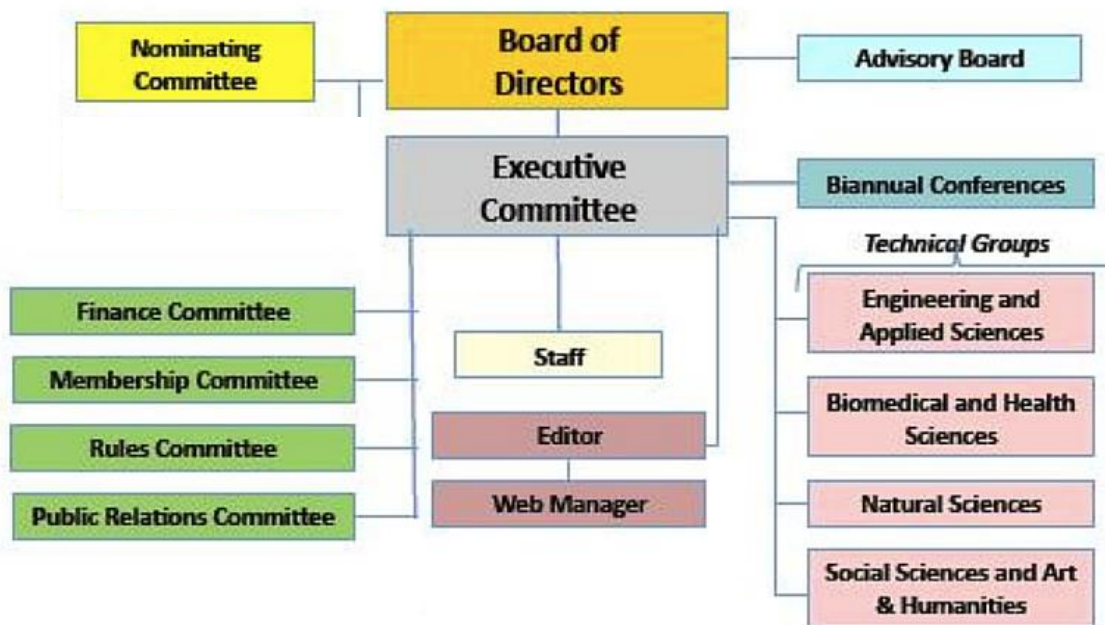


**Onur Mudanyalı**  
Director of Engineering  
Cellmic LLC.

### 13. TASSA Organizational Chart, Members of the Board and Committees

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#### 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

Ercan Alp                      Staff Member, Argonne National Laboratory

Bülent Başol                      Founder and Chief Technology Officer, EncoreSolar

Ayşe İmrohoroglu                      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,  
Ohio State University

Candan Tamerler                      Wesley Cramer Professor,  
Mechanical Engineering Department, University of Kansas

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

### Nominating Committee

Ayşe İmrohoroglu                      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

Kerem Coşar                      Associate Professor of Economics, University of Virginia

Canan Dağdeviren              Assistant Professor at MIT Media Lab

Batuhan Osmanoğlu              Physical Research Scientist, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

### **Managing Director**

Tuba Fehr                      AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow

### **Former Managing Director**

Handan Uslu                      Trust and Safety Analyst at Google

### **Treasurer**

Şenay Ağca                      George Washington University

### **Editor**

Ergun Akleman                      Professor at the Department of Visualization, Texas A&M

### **Communications Director**

Aylin Sagay                      Drexel University

## 14. TASSA 2016 Conference Sponsors

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### *Diamond Sponsors*

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**INVEST IN  
TURKEY**



**T.C. BAŞBAKANLIK  
YURTDIŞI TÜRKLER  
VE AKRABA TOPLULUKLAR BAŞKANLIĞI**

### *Gold Sponsors*

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### *Silver Sponsors*

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# Turkish American Scientists & Scholars Association

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## 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:

2016 – Booth School of Business, University of Chicago  
2014 - Smith School of Business, University of Maryland  
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>

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