



## AUTM Board of Directors 2020 Candidate Form



### **Vijay K. Vijayaraghavan, RTTP, FSTEM**

Chairman  
Sathguru Inc.

#### **Candidate Biography**

Vijay is the Chair of Sathguru, a global innovation translation organization having presence in USA, Asia and Africa. Over the last two decades Vijay has advanced academic innovation for high impact delivery within USA and in number of emerging countries by facilitating transfer of such technologies to needy regions and needy communities. His strong engagement with the global private sector and international investment organizations has deepened academic – industry – investor interface with innovative models of technology transfer from leading academic research organizations. Vijay has played pioneering role in advancing the technology transfer professional presence in countries such as India by founding and nurturing STEM, the Association of technology transfer professionals. STEM is a member association of ATTP. He is on the Council of ATTP, the Alliance for Technology Transfer Associations bringing to the Council the perspectives of professional body from an emerging economic region. Vijay held important non-executive or advisory positions in the board of global bodies constituted by the World Bank, WIPO and national governments to focus on technology advancement to markets and occupies independent director role in private global corporations. Vijay is a Registered Technology transfer professional (RTTP) and a Fellow of STEM. Academically Vijay has been affiliated to Cornell University since 1996, leading the Cornell's international engagement in technology delivery in life sciences in the emerging regions of Asia and Africa.

#### **Candidate Q&A**

##### **Why do you want to be on the AUTM Board of Directors and what motivates you to join the AUTM Board of Directors?**

For the last 30 years, I have engaged in academic technology transfer by bringing to private sector the needed innovation from public research. My entrepreneurial contribution in building

Sathguru as a 250 professional organization with global footprint is due to what I have witnessed as the power of academic innovation bringing change and deep impact in countries beyond USA. The best of the impact creation from academic innovation is yet to come and this where I see the role of AUTM in deepening the professional profile and the global impact the academic innovation can create due to stronger ability of enterprises to absorb and assimilate such innovation. As a private sector professional with strong academic engagement, I see my role as bringing in a differentiated perspective in advancing the professional profile and enriching the Association with resources that the private sector can contribute to. I have also been involved with global development investors over the last two decades and that is another opportunity I perceive as a critical source for advancing the profession with AUTM at the centre of such advancement.

**Have you served in a volunteer leadership role for other organizations? If so, please explain.**

I am a founding member of the Society for Technology Management (STEM) in India, the Association of Technology Management Professionals since 2005 and contributed to STEM emerging as sustainable organ for development of technology transfer professionals in the region. I am a member of the Council for the Alliance for Technology Transfer Associations (ATTP). The ATTP is an alliance of fourteen knowledge exchange, knowledge transfer and technology transfer associations. Over the last four years I have actively contributed to the professional standards development and recognition of the RTTP as a designation symbolizing TT professionals. Additionally I have played active role through Board and Committee positions in bodies such as WIPO.

**What special experience do you have that you feel will benefit AUTM and its members? What might distinguish you from other candidates?**

As Chairman of Sathguru, a large Professional technology management firm with over 250 full-time professionals, I stand in the connecting point of the academia and industry. I have led global innovation emanating from Academia to reach industry far and wide beyond the national reach of the academic institutions. I come from a for-profit private organization that served Universities reach their potential for translating innovation for economic development. Through my entrepreneurial business I have served University Community in USA and beyond with active reach of the University innovations to needy entities and regions and nurtured professional development through sustained efforts in STEM and other bodies. I have built skills in supporting global organizations to secure global entity financing duly stressing the need for these global organizations to be enlarging their impact pan-globally.

**What do you see as the major strategic issues facing technology transfer today?**

The Technology Transfer Profession is poised to percolate the gains of innovation to global needy and to sustain competitive advantage of nations through the convergence of accelerated innovation, translational partnerships, entrepreneurship and accelerated global delivery. Enlarging the role beyond the technology licensing is a learning experience for TT professionals more so in the context of rapidly enlarging global footprint of enterprises and their ability to rapidly scale to unimaginable size. The agility and global exposure is truly a necessity for TT professionals as the engagement goes beyond their regional interests. As a professional engaged globally in advanced technology generating regions and active technology recipient

regions, I see the hiatus narrowing and the role of TT professionals enlarging pan-globally in this context.

**What challenges does AUTM face that you think could be addressed by strategic discussion at the Board level?**

Professional Associations need to be financially strong, binding its members with exposure to the contemporary dynamics of change in the profession (actively informed members) and be a thought leaders for rest of the Associations in the world to follow. AUTM has shaped the body of knowledge for TT professionals and led over the years the strong converge of the professional power and visibility. Sustaining this leadership and enlarging the vision of the TT professional to new emergence of the competitive nations and competitive converge of innovation among such nations is essential. Broadening the ambit of the engagement of TT professionals in the new age of rapid enterprise growth and the University engagement in such enterprise growth requires new standards and professionals skills to be formulated. As a global premier professional association, AUTM needs to be financially strong to spearhead some of these pioneering initiatives. AUTM is the preferred global mentor to several professional associations in the world and this needs to be further strengthened with strategic alliances and convergence opportunities. The deepening of the connect to the private sector is inevitable for publicly funded research entities and AUTM needs to address the ways to converge the best practices in the public and private sector technology transfer and knowledge management practices.

**How do the terms (both responsibilities and time commitment) of the position fit within your other responsibilities?**

I am the Chairman of my organization with role and responsibilities focused on steering the future growth of its global footprint. To this extent, my 365 days in a year is spent in USA, Asia and beyond. I am not bound by day-to-day responsibilities but at an overarching level to contribute to the profession. The AUTM responsibilities and time commitment is completely synergic to this goal. I perceive this opportunity to enhance my engagement globally in deepening the professional footprint and to contribute collectively with widely renowned fellow professionals as peers in the Board.

**How has AUTM benefitted you in your work and career?**

My career as a technology management professional has been significantly shaped by my continuous participation in AUTM initiatives, the AUTM annual and beyond. It has provided me access to a network of globally renowned practitioners and share with them my experiences and gain from their experiences. It has also provided me the model and framework for creating and nurturing the professional body in another country that is among the most populous in the world with strong potential for triggering economic growth.

**Is there anything else you would like AUTM members to know about you before they vote?**

I would like to reiterate my strong desire to contribute to the professional profile of technology transfer practitioners and get the global investors attraction towards the nurturing of the body of this noble profession. To this end, my strong entrepreneurial strength and the experience of engaging with some of the best known academic institutions of the world in advancing their global agenda are the key abilities I would like to bring to this position. There is a world of

opportunity for AUTM and the private sector to gain mutually in the emerging scenario of the pragmatic convergence of innovation investment by the public and private networks. This is where I see my contribution, bringing new perspectives to the dynamics of academic technology transfer practice.