Brij M. Khorana

(Retired) Chief Operating Officer
Rose-Hulman Ventures
Advisory Board
Michelin Development Company

Dr. Khorana retired in 2005 from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology (Terre Haute, Indiana) as the Chief Operating Officer of Rose-Hulman Ventures, and Professor of Physics & Optical Engineering; and moved to Greenville, South Carolina where he is active in the entrepreneurial eco-system and is currently serving on the Advisory Board of Michelin Development Company which provides funding and business assistance to disadvantaged businesses. He is also a Founding Mentor in the Venture Mentoring Service (based on MIT's VMS program) provided to start-ups of the NEXT Innovation Center. As the Scientific Advisor for Technology Partnerships, he is also assisting CU-ICAR and CECAS in developing strategic alliances.

He is an elected Fellow of SPIE – the premier International Society for Optical Engineering. He has also held Research/Guest Scientist/Teaching appointments at University of Chicago, University of Rochester, University of Notre Dame, Texas Tech University and the U.S. National Bureau of Standards.

He promoted his vision of a *technology-based incubator* co-located with a *new product development center* for several years before the vision was realized in 1999 when he helped raise $55 million to establish Rose-Hulman Ventures – as part of Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. As Chief Operating Officer of Rose-Hulman Ventures from 1999 till his retirement in 2005, he assisted in recruiting 40+ entrepreneurs to incubate start-up companies for which he provided oversight to the technical assistance, business assistance and the financial investment. One of the incubated companies was subsequently acquired by another company for $240 million, providing about 10x return on RHV's portion of the $2.2 million investment.

As the Director of Technical Assistance & Services Center and as Director of Center for Applied Optics Studies, he developed New Product Development Labs for the specific purpose of prototyping new products -- converting an entrepreneur's concept of a new product into a working prototype.

As the Chairman of the Department of Physics, he provided the vision and helped build a nationally recognized academic program in Applied Optics with a focus on involving students to solve problems facing industry partners, using primarily optical technology.

His technical experience includes projects involving machine vision, image processing, fiber-optic sensors, biomedical and agricultural applications of optics, precision measurements, instrumentation and cryogenic technology. He has also managed multidisciplinary teams involving technical and business expertise. Dr. Khorana has also provided his technical expertise to a NASA program, in evaluating innovative new technologies for future space exploration. In 1979, he was recognized for innovative contributions at the Naval Weapons Support Center (Crane, Indiana) and at the Naval Weapons Systems Engineering Station (Port Hueneme, California).

In 1987, Dr. Khorana was recognized by the Governor of Indiana "for outstanding leadership in strengthening the Indiana economy ……."

In 2004, under the sponsorship of Government of India (Department of Science & Technology) and the World Bank, Dr. Khorana was invited to participate in the "Global Forum on Business Incubation" (New Delhi, India) to expound on the Rose-Hulman Ventures model of an incubator. Subsequent discussions led to the Government of India establishing an Innovation Fund through which incubators associated with universities in India are able to invest funds in their incubatees in return for sharing equity in their businesses. In 2006, Dr. Khorana was invited to participate in the inauguration of the Innovation Fund and present a Keynote Address at the TREC–Science and Technology Entrepreneurs Park, Trichy, India, as well as to participate in a workshop on "Promoting Technology Development, Utilization and Transfer". In 2009, he was invited to address ISBA Conference (Chennai, India) on "Academic Challenges in Incubation".

Education & Personal: Ph.D.(Physics), Case-Western Reserve University, 1967.

Married 49 years to Renu. Three sons: (i) JD (Stanford), IP attorney, Partner/Head – Technology Transactions, Wilmer Hale, Palo Alto-CA; (ii) MBA (Michigan), Partner, Fifth Street Finance Corp, Chicago-IL; (iii) MBA (Michigan), Director, Financial Analysis Group, United Airlines, Chicago – IL.

Hobbies: Travel, golf.