

Biography

Dr. Mehmet BAYINDIR received his Ph.D. degree in physics from Bilkent University in 2002. He worked as postdoctoral researcher and later research scientist at the Research Laboratory of Electronics at MIT. After returning to Turkey, he took part in establishing National Nanotechnology Research Center (UNAM) at Bilkent University. He served as the deputy director of UNAM from 2006-2013, and director until 2016. The synergy of around 400 world-class researchers and staff, made UNAM one of the top research centers in the region during his tenure. Over one hundred students from 13 countries graduated from the nanotechnology programs initiated at UNAM.

He is the author of over 100 articles published in high-impact journals and he holds 8 US and PCT patents on fiber-based sensors, smart surfaces, and piezoelectric nanomaterials. His group is a frontier in the world on multi-material fiber-based nanostructures and sensors. He has been awarded over 15M USD grants through national and international projects. He received the prestigious European Research Council-ERC grant (first ERC grant awarded to Turkey) and ERC Proof of Concept grant. 28 students completed their M.S. or Ph.D. thesis under his supervision, some of whom were accepted to the top schools in the world, including MIT, University of Cambridge.

Prof. Bayindir was dismissed from Bilkent University without any wrongdoing, where he was working as a full professor and the former director of National Nanotechnology Research Center (UNAM), following the coup attempt in Turkey in 2016. His laboratories were closed, his research group was dissolved, and all of his grants (including two ERC grants) were suspended indefinitely. All of his MS and PhD students were transferred to other faculty members.

After leaving academia, he worked in Eryigit group companies as the general coordinator, where he established/restructured several units including international sales, and R&D center between 2018 and 2019. He also developed a low-temperature hydrogen peroxide sterilizer with a brand name S-Max. Later he established a start-up company, 4U Nanotechnologies Inc., in Ankara to develop sterilization devices for infection control including the novel coronavirus. He has been visiting professor at Center for Hybrid Nanostructures at Universität Hamburg since February 2020. He recently received the Alexander von Humboldt Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel research award.