**Sumesh Arora, Ph.D.**

**Biographical Sketch**

Dr. Sumesh Arora is the director of the Energy & Natural Resources Division of the Mississippi Development Authority which is the state energy office. The division’s mission is to strengthen Mississippi’s energy economy by promoting it natural resources, energy efficiency, workforce development and security.

Previously, Sumesh was vice president of the non-profit Innovate Mississippi, where he led programs in energy technology commercialization, STEM education, and innovation-based entrepreneurship. Before that, he worked in the fertilizer industry for 13 years as a researcher and product development engineer.

Sumesh is the co-inventor of a patented technology to convert poultry litter into bioenergy and has testified before the United States Senate agriculture committee in support of advanced biofuels. He has been appointed by the Energy Secretary Honorable Rick Perry to a three-year term on the U.S. Department of Energy’s State Energy Advisory Board.

Sumesh received his PhD in international development from the University of Southern Mississippi and is an adjunct faculty in the College of Business. His BS and MS degrees in engineering are from the University of Central Florida. Sumesh serves on the advisory boards of several civic organizations and resides in Madison, MS with his wife and has two children in college.