



"What drives me is knowing my research has a real-world impact. We're contributing to one of nuclear energy's biggest challenges—the safe storage and disposal of commercial high-burnup spent nuclear fuel."

**—Yadu Sasikumar**

*R&D Associate Staff Member  
Fusion and Fission Energy and Science Directorate  
Executive Committee Member,  
Knoxville/Oak Ridge ANS Local Section*

# NUCLEAR

TODAY. TOMORROW. ALWAYS.

## Testing Limits. Powering Progress.

When Yadu Sasikumar arrived at ORNL as an intern, he was captivated by the Lab's hot cell facilities and the chance to work with real spent nuclear fuel alongside top experts. What began as curiosity quickly grew into inspiration, fueled by the breadth of research and mentorship around him.

Now a lead researcher, Yadu designs experiments that push spent fuel rods to their limits to ensure safer storage, transport, and disposal. His research is shaping the future of spent fuel management and helping pave the way for advanced reactors.

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