

Asia

Immunopaedia Ambassadors - Asia

Our Ambassadors from across the Asian continent.



What is your name?

Babita Balakrishnan

What is your current position?

Reviewer

Which institute and country do you work in?

Previous Affiliation: Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, India

What is your home country?

India

What are your research interests?

Osteoimmunology, Transplantation Immunology

Tell us about yourself and your research interests:

My primary research area of interest is Immunology. Both my doctoral and post doctoral experiences have helped me widen my understanding of the immune system. As a researcher, I strongly believe in taking research from bench-to bedside. My post doctoral work from IISc, Bengaluru involved the investigation of role of Glycodelin, a natural immunosuppressor, in averting graft versus host reaction. We developed an allograft nude mouse model for this study and the Cytotoxic T Lymphocytes (CTLs) mediated killing of donor graft was clearly evident in this model. The transplanted graft survived successfully as glycodelin was able to downregulate the factors which regulate the cytotoxicity of CTLs and thus helped in the management of graft rejection.

My doctoral work from D. G. Ruparel College and ACTREC, Mumbai highlighted the potential of marine mollusc as an anti-osteoporotic agent and also identified its role in regulating lymphocyte-bone interaction. The extract was also able to control the increased T cell expression and secretion of pro-inflammatory cytokines followed by ovariectomy. This work was awarded with Young Scientist Award at the 9th International Marine Biotechnology Conference, China and also bagged best poster award at Immunocon, NIMHANS, Bengaluru.

As a lecturer, I have conducted lectures and practicals in immunology for undergraduates and postgraduates. As a researcher, I would like to be actively involved in studying and unravelling the intricacies of the immune system and make myself adept in Immunology.

What are your online profiles?

LinkedIn - [Babita Balakrishnan](#)

Researchgate - [Babita Balakrishnan](#)

Immunology Keywords:

Transplantation Immunology, Osteoimmunology, immunosuppression



What is your name?

Dr. Vijay Kumar Prajapati

What is your current position?

Assistant Professor

Which institute and country do you work in?

Central University of Rajasthan, India

What is your home country?

India

What are your research interests?

Vaccines, infectious diseases, Leishmaniasis

Tell us about yourself and your research interests:

I am currently working as Assistant Professor in Department of Biochemistry, School of Life Sciences, Central University of Rajasthan, Ajmer, India. I did masters in Biochemistry and PhD in Parasitology from Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India. I have published >50 research articles in the journal of international repute. I am recipient of Young Scientist Award from several Indian academies such as Biotechnology Research Society of India (BRSI), Indian Society for Chemists & Biologists (ISCB), National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS), INSA medal for Young Scientist from Indian National Science Academy etc. I have been recognized as Associate by the Indian Academy of Sciences, Bengaluru. I was awarded ASM-IUSSTF Indo-US Research Professorship from The American Society for Microbiology (ASM) and IndoUS Science and Technology Forum (IUSSTF).

My research work made significant contribution in drug discovery and vaccine development against human infectious diseases. My group is using computational and in vitro approach to design immunogenic and potential vaccine candidate against number of pathogens responsible for human infectious diseases.

What are your online profiles?

ResearchGate: [Vijay Kumar Prajapati](#)

Immunology Keywords:

Vaccine, T cell response, immunoinformatics



What is your name?

Rushikesh Sudam Patil

What is your current position?

Post-Doctoral Fellow “INSPIRE Faculty” supported by Department of Science and Technology, Govt of India

Which institute and country do you work in?

Department of Immunology, Advanced Centre for Treatment Research and Education in Cancer (ACTREC)- Tata Memorial Centre, Kharghar, Navi Mumbai, India

What is your home country?

India

What are your research interests?

Gamma delta T cells, T cell metabolism and Cancer

Tell us about yourself and your research interests:

I completed my PhD in 2016 under the mentorship of Prof S.V. Chiplunkar from ACTREC-Tata Memorial Centre, Navi Mumbai. The research work focused on understanding the immune dysfunctions in pathogenesis of gallbladder cancer patients in India. Highlight of the study was to show that the IL17 secreting $\gamma\delta$ -T lymphocytes (T $\gamma\delta$ 17) induce angiogenesis and are associated with poor survival of Gallbladder cancer patients. This work received “Dr. G P Talwar young scientist award” from Indian Immunology Society. I then commenced a post-doctoral fellowship to investigate the role of exhaustion of T lymphocytes infiltrating the tumor environment of colon cancer patients, a project headed by Dr. S.V. Chiplunkar, in collaboration with ‘Bristol Meyer Squibb’, Bangalore. Recently I received an “INSPIRE Faculty award” to work at ACTREC-Tata Memorial Centre, Navi Mumbai. This is a competitive research grant given by Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India to young investigators to pursue independent research. This grant was awarded for a project ‘Understanding the metabolic pathways regulating the functions of $\gamma\delta$ -T cells in cancer’ which was selected after a stringent review process.

I am keen to investigate the metabolic regulation of T cells in inflammatory environment. ‘How antigenic stimulation rewires the metabolic need of gamma delta T cells and vice versa in tumor environment’ and ‘does the alterations in the metabolic preferences contribute to T cell exhaustion in tumor environment’ are the questions I am presently perusing. I am actively involved in teaching basic immunology to undergraduate students and I participate in the Immunology hands-on training workshops organised by ‘Mumbai Immunology Group’.

What are your online profiles?

Researchgate: [Rushikesh Patil](#)

Immunology Keywords:

Inflammation, T cells, Metabolism, immune exhaustion