CV- Akankshi Munjal

Address: WAB536, 200 Longwood Av, Harvard Medical School, Boston MA 02115 USA
Email: akankshi_munjal@hms.harvard.edu, akankshimunjal@gmail.com; Phone: +1 919-523-3096

PRESENT POSITION

01/2016-Present: Post-Doc, Prof. Sean Megason Lab (mentor), Prof. Timothy Mitchison (co-mentor), Dept. of Systems Biology, Harvard Medical School, USA

06/2019-Present: Principal Investigator of NIH K99/R00 Award (NICHD K99HD098918)

EDUCATION

2011-2015: PhD (Biology) Prof. Thomas Lecuit lab, IBDM, Aix-Marseille University, France
2008-2011: M.Sc. (Biology), Prof. Satyajit Mayor lab, National Centre for Biological Sciences, India
2005-2008: B.Sc. (Biology), University of Delhi, India

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

1. 06/2019 -Present: **NIH K99/R00** Pathway to Independence Award (NICHD K99HD098918)
2. 06/2016 -05/2019: **HFSP** (Human Frontiers Science Program) Long Term Post-Doc Fellowship
3. 11/2014 -10/2015: **ARC** (Association pour la Recherche le Cancer) PhD Fellowship
4. 11/2011 -10/2014: Ministère de l'Éducation nationale, France, PhD Fellowship
5. 08/2008 -08/2011: DBT (Department of Biotechnology), India, Masters Fellowship

PUBLICATIONS AND PREPRINTS

1. **Munjal, A.***, Hannezo, E., Mitchison, T. & Megason, S*. Extracellular hyaluronate pressure shaped by cellular tethers drives tissue morphogenesis. *bioRxiv,* doi:10.1101/2020.09.28.316042 (2020). **(*corresponding author)**
2. Banerjee, D. S., **Munjal, A**., Lecuit, T. & Rao, M. Actomyosin pulsation and flows in an active elastomer with turnover and network remodeling. *Nature Communications* 8, 1121, doi:10.1038/s41467-017-01130-1 (2017).
3. Kerridge, S.*, **Munjal, A.** *, *et al.* Modular activation of Rho1 by GPCR signalling imparts polarized myosin II activation during morphogenesis. *Nat Cell Biol* 18, 261-270, doi:10.1038/ncb3302 (2016). **(*co-first author**)
4. **Munjal, A**., Philippe, J.-M., Munro, E. & Lecuit, T. A self-organized biomechanical network drives shape changes during tissue morphogenesis. *Nature* 524, 351-355, doi:10.1038/nature14603 (2015).
5. **Munjal, A**. & Lecuit, T. Actomyosin networks and tissue morphogenesis. *Development* 141, 1789-1793, doi:10.1242/dev.091645 (2014).

RESEARCH PATENT

"Inhibitors to Target HIV-1 NEF-CD80/CD86 Interactions for therapeutic Intervention" (**Akankshi Munjal**, Satyajit Mayor, Taslimarif Saiyed, Anandi Karumabti and others), Indian Provisional Patent Application No.201841005491 filed.

MENTORING AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE

1) I taught in the 9th Bangalore Benny Shilo Course on Developmental Biology (1st-11th January 2019), India, with two modules; first, an account of my academic journey to inspire students in India from under-privileged backgrounds for a career in scientific research; second, lectures on the latest research in tissue morphogenesis.
2) I mentored Jacob Schwartz (under-graduate intern, summer 2018) through the Systems Biology Summer Internship Program.
3) I supervised Priyadarshini Subramanain (Masters student) during Master's thesis (2010-2011).

LEADERSHIP AND OUTREACH EXPERIENCE

1) Co-founder of the "The SysBio Postdoc Group" (2018-Present): We create an inclusive environment for postdocs in the department focusing on career development.
2) Member of the Mentorship and Training Task Force (06/2020-Present): We are improving mentorship, diversity, equity and inclusion in the department through- seminar series and journal club series discussing social issues in biology, focusing on race; hiring professional consultants to build training programs at multiple levels; implementing K-12 outreach programs.
3) Organizer of the "Joint Development Group Meetings" (2017-Present)- We bring together students and postdocs interested in developmental biology to share preliminary findings of their research.
4) Participated in the outreach activities at the annual Fete de la in Marseille (2013-2014)

ORAL PRESENTATION AT INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS AND INVITED TALKS

1. Annual ASCB|EMBO Meeting Cell Bio Virtual 2020 (2-16 December, 2020)
2. Invited talk at the Mechanobiology Institute at Singapore (13th November, 2020)
3. Physics of Living Matter 15, Online (October 1-2, 2020)
4. Annual SDB Meeting 2020, Online (July 9-15, 2020)
5. Annual SDB Meeting 2019, Boston, USA (July 26-30, 2019)
6. Annual ASCB|EMBO Meeting 2018, San Diego, USA (8-12 December, 2018)
7. 18th HFSP Awardees Meeting, Toronto, Canada (8-11 July, 2018)
8. EMBO|EMBL Symposium Tissue Self Organization, Heidelberg, Germany (11-14, March 2018)
9. CNRS - Jacques Monod Conference, Roscoff, France (13-17 September, 2015)
10. 1st FSER Laureates Meeting, Paris, France (15-17 December, 2014)
11. ASCB/IFCB Meeting, Philadelphia, USA (6-10 December, 2014)

COURSES

1. EMBO Lecture Course 'Experimental and Theoretical approaches to cell mechanics', Bangalore, India (23 April - 6 May 2017).
2. **Summer Course, Embryology 2016, Marine Biology Lab, Woodshole, USA (4 June -17 July 2016).**
3. Labex INFORM advanced lecture course 'Quantitative Biology Of Signaling', Carry Le Rouet, France (29 September- 3 October 2014).
4. **Summer Course, New Quantitative Approaches to Morphogenesis, Kavli Institute for Theoretical Physics, Santa Barbara, USA (1-31st August 2013).**
5. Joint EMBO-FEBS Lecture Course 'Mesoscopic Origins of Cell Behaviors during Tissue Morphogenesis', Cargése, Corsica, France (29 April- 5 May 2012).
6. EMBO Global Exchange Lecture Course 'Molecular Mechanism of Protein Transport', NCBS, Bangalore, India (1-8 December 2010).
7. **2nd IMSc Complex Systems Summer School, The Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai, India (January 2010).**
8. Summer Research Fellowship Programme, Indian Academy of Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India (May-July 2007).

LANGUAGE (CULTURAL) SKILLS

1. Native English and Hindi speaker.
2. Basic level of Punjabi, French and Italian.
3. Learnt German in middle school for five years.
4. I love cooking and travelling, meeting local people, talking to them in their language (if possible) about the food they eat and the recipe of their favorite meal.