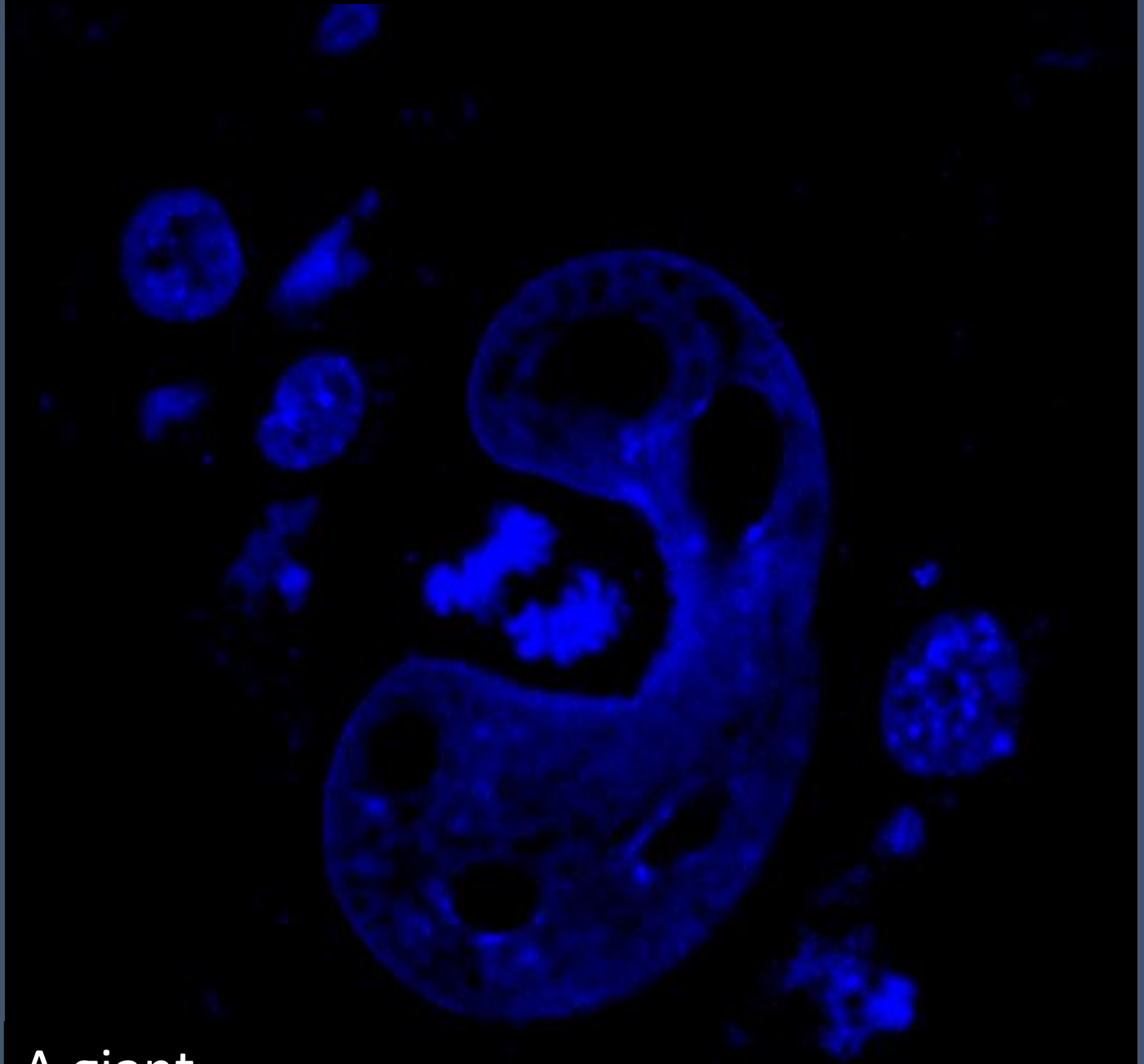


Dutt and Shilpee Lab Newsletter



A giant
Pacman nucleus
chasing mitotic nuclei

Happy birthday



Creative corner



Bring out the magic in you
By :- Supriya Hait

In conversation with...

General Facts

1. By birth, my name is : Madhura
2. Pals call me : Madhur
3. I was born on : 12th July 1993
4. My childhood was spent at: Dombivli

Personal Life

1. Can you describe any one ever-lasting memory about your childhood?

My family is originally from Konkan. And we have a house in a typical village located in mountains of Sahyadri near Chiplun. I spent almost 15 summers of my life there with my grandmother and great-grandfather. Every minute of it I can say is an everlasting memory! We have a family business of our own Alphanso mangoes and as exciting as it is to have such mountains of mangoes in the house, it is also fun and tiring to work on it the whole summer! There are some memories that will never diminish. The card games that lasted for hours, running around the village, the self-created orchestra of cousins during day-long power cuts, Inventing games from the parts of trees and stones around, listening to stories from great grandfather, fighting endlessly, watching old movies on the only channel available and eating mangoes till our stomachs and hearts were full of it!

2. How was your college life? And, what did you enjoy the most?

I was a student of KET's V. G. Vaze college, Mulund for 5 years including Jr college and 3 years of BSc. Being in a place for such a long time gives it a different comfort. The classrooms, ground, canteen, stairs, labs, library all felt like a second home. I have spent the best of my college years there and cannot forget any moment of it! I also met people there who became an integral part of my life later. MSc though was a lot different. Having an HOD who some might say was a 'strict person', we hardly used to leave the department. One of such days, I was waiting near the centrifuge which was kept on the table near the window. And incidentally I looked up and saw a person standing outside the window clinging to the wall. FYI, our lab was on 3rd floor! I was so shocked and went out to see what was happening and found out that there was a full-fledged preparation going on in college for the upcoming fest which obviously we didn't even know about! And whoever is a Ruiate or is from Mumbai knows how big a deal Ruia's Festival is! Later, my own sister became a core member of the organizing committee for the festivals there and used to call people like me shut inside the labs, sad! Anyway, with all the pressure and the hard work, I did enjoy MSc at Ruia for I met some of my best friends there.

3. As a child/teenager, what did you aspire to become in life? Any reasons associated with it?

Since the time I remember, I have always loved the teaching profession. Spent most of my childhood playing teacher and was fortunate enough to play the part later in reality for a few years. And having had some really

great teachers in life, I think, I have always aspired to become someone who can influence/inspire at least one person someday.

4. Would you like to state a person or an event that has inspired/influenced your life?

I believe that a person doesn't need to go too far to get inspired. Following this, I can say there are members of my family itself who inspire me the most. My great grandfather, grandparents and most of all my parents! Their life stories and the messages that they give through them so unintentionally are some of the best philosophies I have heard.

Apart from them, I have had some really great teachers in life. Starting from my Science, Sanskrit and English teachers in school to my college professors to my MSc dissertation guide Dr. Bhavani Shankar, (SOG) from BARC. I spent only 3 months under her guidance, but the amount of work ethics and discipline I have learned from her and the way she kept motivating me throughout is unforgettable. I would like to mention an incident here. One of the days, because of the hurry to catch BARC bus to North gate, I had forgotten a multichannel pipette on the table (Released) after completing the experiment. The next morning when I reached at 8.10 am, she was already in her cabin (Always first to come to lab) and I found a note on my table under the pipette saying "Everything has a designated place Madhura. Please do not forget next time." These are the small things that always stayed with me.

Another source of great inspiration for me are books. People always say, reading biographies is inspiring. But I have experienced the best of inspirations and wisdom even from fiction novels. A lot of simple sentences that have influenced me have come from fiction. I would like to mention one of the favorites. A dialog by Prof. Dumbledore from Harry Potter, "It is our choices that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities."

5. Do you have any hobbies or passion apart from research?

Now this might sound cliché, but yes, my first and forever hobby is reading. But again, it's not just a hobby. As I mentioned a couple of times above, it has influenced and stayed with me the most. A reader I believe can live a different life every time a new book is opened. It's as enriching as breathing fresh air when I go out for birding in a forest area. Another of my 'hobbies'. I have a camera that aids me in capturing them in a frame but I hardly am a photographer!

6. Would you like to share any ever-lasting memory associated with the lab?

I have been in the lab for just 1.5 years and all of it has been one great memory. I particularly remember the cleaning spree we had once when Anagha, Saket and I decided to clean the CO2 incubator and the laminar hood we share. We actually started with just that but soon went crazy and started on the whole fridge, microscope, tables, shelves and even cleaned every inch of the floor and the windows! Another of lab cleaning spree came around just a month back in whole of ACTREC I guess when we again had a really fun day recording and video shooting the lab. I would always remember the light moments spent with lab-mates, the

coffees and laughter we share, working in a playful environment with music on, the lab get-togethers like new year's party and trips like Bhandardara camping.

Science and Philosophy

1. In your opinion, what is research?

I believe that science itself is knowing and most importantly appreciating the how's and what's about wonders of nature. Research is answering a question in an unbiased way so as to further our understanding of an unknown. Here, I would like mention something from the book Origin by Dan Brown and quote Antoni Gaudi, "Nothing is ever invented, for its written in nature first. Originality consists of coming back to the origin."

2. Why did you choose to join the Dr. Shilpee Dutt laboratory for pursuing your Ph.D.?

Cell biology and Immunology have always been my primary interests. When I joined ACTREC, looking at the project list, "Therapy induced cellular senescence in GBM" was one of the few projects that instantly caught my attention. During the rotations, Shilpee Ma'am was quite approachable and we had a really good conversation about the project. Considering the lab had two openings that year, fortunately for me, ma'am and Debo both agreed with my choice.

3. What motivated you to take up research as career?

Curiosity! It has always been enough for me to choose science as a career. Research I felt is a way of having means to satisfy that curiosity about the unknown with a small contribution to it.

4. What are your future plans?

Primary goal at the moment is to complete the study I have taken up as PhD and learn as much as I can, doing it. For later, too early to decide yet. I have always had equal inclination towards academics and research as a career. But will always stay with Biology for sure.