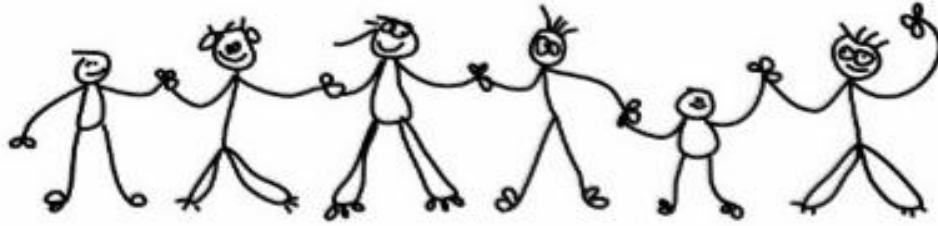


DUTT AND SHILPEE LAB NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2018



Farewell



From all the Gang



We Will
Miss
You



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

Shilpee ma'am...!!!



Creative Corner...



By Deboshmita

Interesting Corner...

The farmer's son's Mistake

Once upon a time there was a rich and happy farmer with two sons. He had a lot of land. He had healthy and strong cattle and some servants too. They lived a very happy life until some years later. After a few years, the farmer's younger son became jealous of his father's property. He knew that he could get his land's share straight away, spend it all, and move to a different country. So, one day he asked his father for his share of the property. His father warned him that he was too young and will have to learn to handle money before he does anything. But he didn't listen so, the father gave him his share which he immediately sold and went away to another country as he had planned. Over there he met some friends who got him into bad ways. He started to use his money for the bad things he learned. He got so absorbed with it, that he forgot to earn by getting a job. After a few years his money got over. He was poor and his house was taken from him. He went to his friends' houses where they said "we only befriend rich people." and slammed the door on his face. He finally understood his mistake and travelled a long way to reach his home. After reaching home, he told everything to his father. He said "You were very young and didn't know how to handle money, you can live here in peace with your brother." He and lived there happily.

Reading-a necessary habit

Reading is necessary for everyone, young and old. It improves our vocabulary whether it's a book, newspaper or anything else. Reading newspapers increases our knowledge, it tells us about what's going on around the world. Reading non-fiction books tells us about what has been done, what is being done and what will or could be done. So, it gives us new ideas. Fictional books enhance writing skills because we learn what kinds of words can be used in different kinds of places. We get absorbed by the world of books and we feel as if we are standing over there and looking at the scene. Even our imagination enhances. When we read a book about magic like Harry Potter, we wish that this imaginary world and Hogwarts, the school of magic was real. If we read a frightening book like *Graveyard Book* by R.L. Stine, we feel scared as we feel as if we are the main character and we are going through all the horrors of our new world. If we turn the last page of a book and feel like we have lost a friend, we know we read a good book. That is also how I feel when our exams are over. All of this helps us to be fluent in our language, whatever it may be.

Today we entered a city. ^{new and big} I was starving and tired and ^{very} sleepy. I had to strain my eyes to see the others in front of me. The burden I was carrying was so heavy. So, I stopped near a noodle vendor to rest. I was probably never as tired as I was then. My breath was whistling. I was squatting on my haunches and put my head down. I felt a bit better then. I was feeling so bad that we were refugees. Tired, starving refugees. We have such good land, but still. 'If I get any money I will buy seeds for' I thought let my thought was interrupted by a man. He was giving a few coins. I told him that I did not beg of him and told him whatever happened. But the kind man still gave me the coins. I felt like a beggar at that moment, it was so sad. I looked at the man. He was a copper coin and a silver coin. I bought some food for my grandson and ate the rest of it with my copper coin. I will buy seeds with the silver coin. Then, my grandson will have something to grow when we go back to our land. Will he be able to do it? If I don't return with him, I hope he doesn't get cursed like everyone else. My poor son and his wife they drowned. I just hope there won't be any floods further on. If there is, I am sure he will be prepared unlike us. My little boy will grow up to be very smart. I am sure of it.

In conversation with...

Dr. Sameer Salunkhe



-- Compiled and Edited by Dr. Mukul S. Godbole

General Facts

1. *By birth, my name is: Sameer*
2. *Pals call me: Sham, Sam, etc.*
3. *I was born on: 25th July 1987*
4. *My childhood was spent at: Konkan and Satara*

Personal Life

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

My childhood was just like any other kid raised in a middle class Hindu family blessed with loving parents and relatives. I have many wonderful memories of my childhood but one thing I miss about my childhood is the excitement and joy of a child experiencing new, even small-small things.

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

I did my bachelors in biotechnology from K. W. C. Sangli and masters from V. S. B. T. Baramati. It was a different life throughout, especially because I had no experience staying away from home and parents. Before entering the hostel life, I used to be a very reserved kind of person and difficulty gelling with other students. However, staying with hostelites changed it completely. I learned to live an independent life, learned to share things and most importantly earned really close friends. We enjoyed every bit of our journey together also helped each other grow both in career and in the personal front. I always have felt the importance of having good pals with you; it helps change your mind positively.

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

I have stayed most of my childhood in my village and some years in city as well, and I find myself very fortunate to experience both types of lifestyles very closely. As a child I always wanted to be a doctor (the one who treats diseases) and it was kind of obvious because of lack of good health care in villages. I have seen people greeting doctors as gods and their importance in day to day life. To add to that, my elder cousin

sister got admitted to a government MBBS college and since then I always wished to be a doctor in the future. However, fortunately I became a doctor (the one who invents and helps the other doctors to take care of the patients and earn more respect). I don't know how it works now but during my childhood I had no idea of what a scientist is and I feel sad that we were not made aware of different career prospects.

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

Yes, my dad. He is one person I know who has greatest temperament and a best way to deal with biggest of problems with calm mind. I always want to be the way he is. He might not have the best of educational qualification or wealth, but has a rich mind which always has shown me right path with his wisdom and foresight in adversity. I have been learning to be as humble and a controlled person just like my papa. While reaching for the greatest heights in my career, I wish to be a grounded person like him.

5. You are a proud father of a beautiful girl! What were your feelings when got the news?

I never had imagined to get married and even have a baby even before getting my Ph.D. I was just like any other bachelor who doesn't want to get into a life full of responsibilities. I now have started to believe that all that happens for a good cause. When I held my tiny daughter for the first time in my hands, I felt like taking up the biggest responsibility of my life which boosted me with more energy to take up this challenging new role of being a father and to make a more successful life.

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

Apart from research I love to spend time with my family and friends. I like watching YouTube, eating tasty Indian food and mostly sleeping in free time.

Science and Philosophy

1. In your opinion, what is research?

To me, research is fulfilling your exploratory desires in a scientific manner which should not be bounded by a particular discipline and resources. I like to connect threads of existing knowledge with appropriate experiments towards solving a relevant question in the best possible way I can, and doing so I love to collaborate with the experts in the field. In my opinion, research is something that keeps me happy for putting my life into something worthy.

2. What are your views about research in company and academic institutions, since you had the opportunity to work both ways?

It's true that I have worked with research and development in Industries before joining my Ph.D. It was my choice to quit my job and get into academic research and I don't regret it. As I mentioned previously that for me research should not be bounded by disciplines and others interest. Probably, it is good for few to enjoy directed research with security of job and progress. However, I do prefer taking risks and enjoy freedom in my research.

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

Frankly sharing, I don't remember of doing extensive research on the background of PIs and available projects offered that time as always advised and should be followed. It was more of an intuitive decision for

me. For me what mattered that time was how easily I could connect with Shilpee ma'am. Somewhere I knew, for research I need an enthusiastic, approachable guide, while funding, qualifications and previous publications from ACTREC wasn't my consideration at all, that's because I assumed it must be roughly an equivalent in comparison.

4. What has kept you motivated to pursue research?

I know why is this question asked to me, but now I realize it happens to almost every one of us to feel like quitting. Many things pushed me out of my that desire majorly is my own nature to not give up easily and was fortunate to be supported by my guide, my family and their expectations from me and for a most important reason that I cannot live a loser's life. Time, patience and efforts gives solution to every problem. Have faith, it works.

5. What have been the most (a) exciting and (b) challenging scientific question you have had the opportunity to address in your Ph.D.?

I think all the questions that I was involved in answering are interesting and will continue to interest me as we don't answer them completely. If to choose specifically I would say that understanding mechanisms of drug resistance was challenging of all, as it was an exploratory project in which I used to wrongly consider that everything is already known. I now believe that it's the creativity of your mind that unfolds many dimensions to address any quest, and then I don't think why it shouldn't be novel.

6. Can you describe in brief the experiences of your Ph.D. tenure? And, what are your future plans?

Ph.D. was the greatest learning curve of my life! It is a ride where you experience every up and down of the life with mixed feeling of uncertainty and excitement of what's next? Obviously, no one knows how it would happen at the start but trust me at the end you will be overwhelmed when you will look back and rewind how it happened.

My future plans are well known; I am expecting even greater learning experiences with my post-doctoral research and would like to make my loved ones proud of my work.

I thank each and every person from both the labs who helped me during my PhD in any sort and also wish a splendid future ahead. Please keep in touch!