

Back to Basics: Combatting Rare and Neglected Diseases



Kasturi Haldar

Rev. Julius A. Nieuwland C.S.C. Professor, Biological Sciences Director

CURRENT RESEARCH

University researchers partner with pharmaceutical companies to develop novel therapeutics

The mosquito is responsible for most deaths each year; why? Malaria. According to the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, in 2013 alone, malaria caused 198 million clinical episodes and 500,000 deaths, not including deaths in which malaria is a secondary cause. While antimalaria drugs are on the market, for many, the cost or availability prevents adequate healthcare. Dr. Kasturi Haldar, Parsons-Quinn Director of the Boler-Parseghian Center for Rare and Neglected Diseases and Professor of Biological Sciences at the University of Notre Dame, studies the fundamental mechanisms that underpin malaria and other neglected and rare diseases and that lead to novel targets and therapies. Her efforts affect the many patients often left uncared for due to a disease of poverty or the rarity of their disease and the lack of fundamental research to support therapeutic interventions.

To accelerate the development of therapies, Dr. Haldar and her team partner with pharmaceutical companies in innovative models of private public partnerships. For instance, she has signed a collaborative agreement with Eli Lilly & Co for drug discovery and development for any rare or neglected disease. Dr. Haldar's research therefore fills a niche that pharmaceutical companies cannot, without non-profit collaboration, and furthermore creates a sustained impact upon the global community. Additionally, Dr. Haldar combines efforts with a large number of collaborators across all continents (other than the Arctic and Antarctic), who provide clinical samples and specific components of technology for her laboratory work. In so doing, she has relationships across the globe that are able to make impacts in their regional communities that...

AFFILIATION



University of Notre Dame

EDUCATION

- Post doc., Molecular Parasitology, 1983-1988, Rockefeller University, New York
- Ph.D. A.B., Biochemistry, 1982, Bryn Mawr College

RESEARCH AREAS

Life Science, Circulatory, Infectious, Neurological / Cognitive

FUNDING REQUEST

Your contributions will support the continued research of Dr. Kasturi Haldar, of the University of Notre Dame, as she defines unique and fundamental mechanisms that provide molecular insights, targets, and therapies in rare and neglected diseases. Donations will fund the necessary \$1M each year required for primarily personnel in addition to equipment, travel, and supplies. Join Dr. Haldar in improving health for those affected by neglected diseases each year!

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