

AMRITA A IYER

Brief Biography

Personal information:

In her own words, Amrita describes herself as an enthusiastic, chatty and cherubic person who loves to interact with people. She grew up in Bangalore in a home atmosphere that instilled in her a love for science and maths. She developed a love for biology in school and aspired to be a doctor. But, a lesson on how genetics controls life inspired her towards becoming a researcher.



Amrita is now a PhD student in Houston, USA. Apart from doing experiments in lab, Amrita is passionate about science communication. She writes popular science articles in blogs, talks to school children about science and likes making science podcasts. Other than science, Amrita loves music, cooking, art and crafts. She enjoys carnatic music, glass painting and baking specifically. Amrita's parents are education professionals who run their own online tutoring business in Bangalore. Her sister is an architect and her pet dog Alex, is a highly pampered rottweiler.

Education and Profession:

Amrita grew up in Bangalore and did her schooling at Sri Kumaran Childrens Home (CBSE) until 2009. Then, she went on to pursue her B.Tech in Biotechnology from VIT, Vellore. During summer holidays of her bachelors, she did an industrial internship at Biocon, and a research internship at NIMHANS. Next, she did her Masters (by research) in Biological sciences from IIT Madras. In 2016, after completing her masters she left for the US to pursue a doctoral degree in Molecular and Human Genetics. Currently, Amrita is in her third year of PhD at the Baylor college of Medicine's Human genetics department in Houston, Texas. Amrita's research is focussed on trying to understand the genetic networks that control regeneration of hair cells in the inner ear.

Why and how I would like to help FEA

Amrita has always been interested in teaching/mentoring young children. In her opinion, channelizing young minds is the best way to impact the future. She has always strived for doing her bit in ensuring equality in education amongst youth. She is a critical thinking mentor at Minds Matter, Houston an organization which caters to children in Texas with the same vision as FEA in India. Amrita has always enjoyed interacting with young children especially in talking about educational opportunities, growth and science. The enthusiasm, inquisitiveness and energy in school children has always made her happy. Amrita considers herself very lucky to have found the right mentors for career and life in her parents and teachers all along. Understanding the impact, a

mentor can have on a mentee's life, she aspires to come back to India in a few years and continue such mentoring activities because she feels it will help many young children realize their dreams. FEA is a great platform for her to learn and fine tune her mentoring skills, and she hopes to have a fruitful interaction with everyone associated-over skype and in person.