

Manasi Kamat

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Introduction: I was born in Palghar, a small town in Maharashtra in 1987 and grew up there and finished my schooling from Anand Ashram English High School. My parents who are both doctors and originally from Mumbai wanted me to move to Mumbai for further studies. So in 2003, I moved out of home and joined Ruparel in Mumbai for my science studies.

I liked the competition in Mumbai and to be honest it wasn't easy dealing with it after being in a small town. But I survived :) and did quite well too.

I always wanted to be a doctor like my parents but was also clear that I wanted to join a good public medical school. I didn't want my parents to shell out unnecessary money for a private institution.

Because of not getting really high marks in my CET then but having done well in my 12th boards I opted for a Bsc and then Msc in biotechnology from Mumbai university.

I realised then that I enjoyed research and the challenges that come with it. This led me to applying for a PhD program here in USA . I joined Penn State University in 2010 in the immunology department and had a great PhD program and a great mentor during my years there. My PhD was the most fun and stimulating and I can give more details about it during my Skype call.

I then did a short post doc in cancer immunology at City of Hope in California. It was a good experience but I always knew I wanted to move into an industry position.

So now here I am at PPD as a senior scientist since March 2018. I don't know what the future has in store for me but I am up for any new opportunities that come my way.

I love to read, write and run. I have a bunch of friends and I go to them and my family for advice and support. Life has been good so far and I hope my experience will influence some young kid out there to choose the path of science or whatever else holds their passion :)