

Brief Biography

Pinky Kain Sharma was brought up in NTPC Badarpur, New Delhi till the age of 22. Pinky always loved the science in school and was very keen on taking science as a career. She wanted to be a medical doctor. But later she decided to become a scientist at age of 20 realizing that she enjoys challenges in science. After completing bachelor's degree in Microbiology honors from Delhi university, Pinky moved to Indore to do a specialized Master's degree in Microbiology course at Devi Ahilaya University. There she got fascinated about the fact that science can do wonders and enables one see small things like cells which are otherwise not possible for a common man. Pinky received her Ph.D. from National Centre for Biological Science (TIFR-NCBS) Genetics and Neurobiology, Bangalore with renowned scientist late Veronica Rodrigues. She did her first postdoctoral work with Christian Klaembt at Muenster, Germany understating two different cells in the brain- neuron and glia. Later she moved to California, USA at University of California Riverside for the next post doc. She runs her own lab in regional Centre for Biotechnology, Faridabad, India now as an independent group leader. She is a recipient of very prestigious grant from Wellcome trust DBT India Alliance. Her laboratory uses invertebrate model - fruit flies (*Drosophila melanogaster*) to understand "mechanisms of taste and how taste gets modulated". In addition to following her passion for science, she likes to do canvas oil painting, photography, writing, traveling and cooking.

Pinky came to know about FEA from Buck Institute where she is working as a visiting scientist with Pankaj Kapahi. She is a strong believer that education, teaching and learning from each other educates us and provides us wisdom to achieve and fulfill one's dreams. Pinky is generally involved in science outreach programs that she does with schools and colleges in India. During her science outreach programs, she has realized the need for a mentorship and awareness program everywhere. She feels privileged to do it now for FEA. With this program, Pinky is keen on supporting students and provide mentorship for the growth and development of students at FEA. Pinky is looking forward for this great opportunity to teach and learn the young generation, which is an honor.