

Dr. Shalima Nair

I grew up in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, until the age of 16 after which I moved to Mysore, Karnataka, where I did my BSc.Ed in Chemistry, Botany and Zoology along with a bachelor degree in education. This was a four-year course at Regional Institute of Education, Mysore, to pursue a career as a teacher. After completing my bachelors, I went back to Chennai and worked as a primary school teacher in a school. However, my passion of studying further led me to apply for Masters in biotechnology at Mysore University, which I got through after clearing the entrance exam. After my MSc, I got a job in a bioinformatics company at Chennai through campus selection. After working for a year, I wanted to continue my studies in life sciences, which led me to apply for doctoral studies. I undertook my doctoral research in the field of Genetics and Neurobiology at NCBS, Bangalore. After completing my PhD, I moved to Sydney, Australia, where I did my postdoctoral studies. Currently, I am working as a senior scientist at the Garvan Institute of Medical Research. I work in the field of Epigenetics, where our lab's main focus is to understand the epigenetic mechanisms in human during healthy and disease conditions and to identify biomarkers that can predict early diagnosis of breast and prostate cancer. One of my main works recently has been to study the effect of various drugs in breast and prostate cancers that are resistant to hormone deprivation therapy and to understand the mechanisms behind therapy resistance.

I live in Sydney with my husband, who is a Principal Research Audiologist and my two children. My other passion is cooking, which I get to experiment on my husband and kids!