

## Brief Biography

Swaminathan Kumar (Swami) was born and brought in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India. I wanted to help become a medical doctor and help people suffering from diseases. I couldn't secure medical seat and so I decided to join a bioengineering program to still pursue my bigger dream of helping people by discovering new medicines. I did my bachelors in SASTRA University, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu. After finishing my bachelors, I could not afford to do masters abroad. So, I worked for couples of years in Bangalore, India as a research assistant in Indian Institute of Science and National Centre for Biological Sciences to gain research experience and apply for Ph.D. programs abroad.

I couldn't get any Ph.D. admission in 2015. So, I joined a MS program at MD Anderson Cancer Center (US No: 1 Cancer hospital) where I knew I will get stipend to support my living. I was very happy that I gained a lot of experience as an MS student and I successfully finished my MS. I have started my MS in the same cancer center. I did not come to abroad for posh/better quality of life, but I wanted to have better opportunities to do the kind of research that I wanted to pursue in the field of cancer biology. One of my important strengths is whenever I failed to achieve something, I was quick to fix my shortcomings and look for the next best alternative that was available to me.

Look forward to talking to you all on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2019

With warm regards,

Swami