

## Mentor Profile – Dr. Rohan J. Khadilkar

**Name: Dr. Rohan J. Khadilkar**

**PhD in Developmental Biology and Stem cells**

**Current position: Postdoctoral Research Fellow**

**Currently residing: Vancouver, Canada**

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### About me:

I was born and brought up in Nashik, Maharashtra, India. I did my schooling in Fravashi Academy, Nashik, India after which I pursued Science and got a degree in Biotechnology. Studying biotechnology made me curious and fascinated about learning in depth about biology which got me interested in taking up my PhD at the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bangalore, India under the supervision of Prof. Maneesha S. Inamdar. Apart from biological research, I really enjoy watching movies and reading books. I write a movie based blog on Facebook. I am very interested and enjoy listening to Indian classical music. Currently, I am also training in Hindustani Classical Vocal music at the Pandit Jasraj School in Vancouver.

### Education and Profession:

I did my schooling in Fravashi Academy, Nashik, India after which I chose the Science stream and finished my pre-university from Nashik. By this time, Biology had generated great interest in me and this was one of the main reasons that I chose to do my Bachelor's and Master's in Biotechnology. I did my Bachelors from Pune University and Masters from Presidency College, Bangalore. After completing my Masters I appeared for a National Entrance Exam that is a pre-requisite for enrolling into a research program at the esteemed government research institutes in India. I appeared for the NET exam and qualified to be a lecturer and also got the research fellowship. I then pursued my PhD in Developmental Biology and Stem cells at Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bangalore under the mentorship of Prof. Maneesha S. Inamdar. This turned out to be a great opportunity to learn about research. After completion of a successful PhD I moved to University of British Columbia, Vancouver as a postdoctoral research fellow. My research has focused on the analysis of

developmental and physiological regulation of blood cell development in an organism. In future, I aim to start my own research group/lab.

### **Teaching and Science Outreach:**

I have been actively involved in teaching courses to students during my Masters and PhD program and that has definitely helped build confidence in me. I am also a certified lecturer after clearing the CSIR-NET Exam offered by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research in 2009. I have also been involved in some education related outreach programs and activities. I was involved in the Teach India Program of the Times of India where as a part of a NGO I taught at some government schools during weekends while I was pursuing my PhD in Bangalore. After coming to Vancouver I have been involved with Pratham, another organization that has been actively involved in the cause and spread of education. I have conducted some career guidance and science awareness Skype on-call sessions with school students from the interior parts of Maharashtra so far. Getting involved with FEA in this unique and noble endeavor has gotten me very excited and I am looking forward to the Skype sessions with the students.