## *CV & Research Profile of Sonam Dhamija, PhD.*

### *General Information*


**Name** Dr. Sonam Dhamija

**Nationality** Indian

**Affiliation** Faculty of Life Sciences & Biotechnology
South Asian University (SAU)
Rajpur Road, Maidan Garhi
New Delhi-110068, India

*www.researchgate.net/profile/Sonam_Dhamija*

*https://www.linkedin.com/in/dr-sonam-dhamija-4122242b/*

*Google Scholar profile-Dhamija Sonam*

Lab Website: *RNA Biology in Cancer*

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### *University Education and scientific career*

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| **09/2025 – till date** | **Assistant Professor,** South Asian University (SAU), New Delhi, India |
| **11/2023 – till date** | **DBT/ Wellcome Trust India Alliance Intermediate Fellow**, CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB), New Delhi (In September 2025 moved to SAU) |
| **07/2021 – 09/2025** | **Assistant Professor,** Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research (AcSIR), New Delhi |
| **11/2020 – 10/2023** | **Ramalingaswami Fellow,** Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB), New Delhi |
| **04/2020 – 07/2020** | **Project Consultant,** Kusuma School of Biological Sciences (KSBS), IIT Delhi, New Delhi, India |
| **09/2017 – 08/2019** | **Postdoctoral Fellow,** Division of "RNA Biology & Cancer", DKFZ, Heidelberg & Division of Cancer Research, University Clinic Freiburg, Germany |
| **09/2015 – 08/2017** | **Cell Networks Postdoctoral Fellow,** Division of "RNA Biology & Cancer", DKFZ, Heidelberg & Division of Cancer Research, University Clinic Freiburg, Germany |
| **06/2011 – 06/2015** | **Postdoctoral Fellow (HiLF Project leader from 2013-14)**, Institute of Physiological Chemistry, Medical School Hannover (MHH), Hannover, Germany |
| **05/2007 – 05/2011** | **PhD (Dr. rer. nat.)**, Institute of Physiological Chemistry, Medical School Hannover (MHH), Germany. Thesis work entitled-"**Interleukin-1 activated post-transcriptional control affecting mRNA stability & translation**"<br>Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Helmut Holtmann. *Grade:* Very Good (*magna cum laude*) |
| **11/2006 – 03/2007** | **Project Assistant**, Molecular Sciences Laboratory, National Institute of Immunology (NII), New Delhi, India |
| **08/2004 – 09/2006** | **MSc (Microbial Gene Technology)**, Department of Microbial Technology, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai, India. Master's Thesis entitled-<br>"**Nanotherapeutics for Cancer**" carried out at ACTREC (Advanced Centre for Training, Research and Education in Cancer), Mumbai, India<br>Supervisor: Prof. Dr. S. Shanmugasundaram. *Grade:* University Second Rank |
| **10/2001- 06/2004** | **BSc Biotechnology (Hons.)**, Amity Institute of Biotechnology, Ch. Charan Singh University, UP, India. *Grade:* First Class |

### *Additional training and qualifications*

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| **03/2017** | Bioinformatics workshop on Python and Git, University of Freiburg, Germany, March 9-10$^{th}$, 2017 |
| **09/2010** | State-approved Course (according to § 15 GenTSV) on **''Gene Technology, Biosafety and Biosecurity''** for project leaders**,** MHH, Hannover, Germany, Sept 14-15$^{th}$, 2010 |

## *Awards & academic achievements*

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| **2025** | **Invited Speaker** at the India **EMBO** lecture course ''RNA-protein complexes: from molecular assembly to physiological functions & disease'', NCCS, Pune, 24-28th February, 2025. |
| **2023** | **DBT/Wellcome Trust India Alliance Intermediate Fellowship 2023** |
| **2023** | **Invited Speaker** at the International Conference on Cancer Biology (ICCB), IIT Madras, Chennai, 14-16th September, 2023. |
| **2021** | **Review editor** at *Frontiers in Cell and Developmental Biology* |
| **2020-2023** | **Ramalingaswami fellowship,** Department of Biotechnology, Government of India |
| **Since 2017** | **Reviewer** for: *International Journal of Cancer, International Journal of Molecular Sciences, Science Signaling, Cells, Cancers, Plos One, Separation and Purification Reviews, Frontiers in Cell and Developmental Biology* and *The ncRNA Journal* |
| **2016** | **Invited Speaker** at the Montreal International Symposium on Angiogenesis and Metastasis (MISAM-2016), Montreal, Canada |
| **2015-17** | **CellNetworks Postdoctoral Fellowship** Cluster of Excellence Cellular Networks, Heidelberg, Germany |
| **2012** | Talk Prize, International Meeting of GRK 1591, Halle, Germany "Activation of post-transcriptional control mechanisms by the pro-inflammatory cytokine interleukin-1" |
| **2006** | University second rank, M.Sc. Microbial Gene Technology, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai, India |

## *Research grants*

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| **2023-28** | **DBT/Wellcome Trust India Alliance Intermediate Fellowship** (start from November 2023)<br>Funding: ~3.6 crores INR |
| **2023-26** | **BRIC-NIBMG/ CSIR-IGIB collaborative grant**<br>**Funding:** ~15 lakhs INR |
| **2022-25** | **DST SERB POWER Grant** (approved for funding in 04/2022)<br>Funding: ~55 lakhs INR |
| **2020-23** | **Ramalingaswami re-entry fellowship 2019-20,** Department of Biotechnology, India.<br>Funding: ~1 crore INR |
| **2013-14** | **Research Grant Award ('HiLF' ) for Early Career Scientists** from the Hannover Medical School, Germany.<br>Funding**:** 20,000€ for an independent project |

## *Peer-reviewed publications*

Total number of published papers: **21**, Cumulative Impact Factor ($IF^{2007}$-$IF^{2023}$): **124.14**. First author papers: **7**, Last / corresponding author papers: **2**, shared first author contributions are underlined. *h-index*: **15**, i10-index: **16,** Total citations: **1573**, (Source: Google Scholar, September 2025).

1. Salim U, Menon MB, **Dhamija S*,** Vivekanandan P*(2025). RNA G-quadruplexes regulate mammalian mirtron biogenesis. ***J Biol Chem***, 301(3): 108276. *corresponding Citations: **0** / $IF^{2023}$: **4.0**

2. Pal J, Riester M, Ganner A, Ghosh A, **Dhamija S**, Mookherjee D, Voss C, Frew IJ, Kotsis F, Neumann-Haefelin E, Spang A, Diederichs S. (2025). Nonstop mutations cause loss of renal tumor suppressor proteins VHL and BAP1 and affect multiple stages of protein translation. ***Science Advances***, 11(7):eadr6375. Citations: **0** / $IF^{2023}$: **11.7**

3. Jose S, Sharma H, Insan J, Sharma K, Arora V, Puranapanda S, **Dhamija S**, Eid N, Menon MB. (2025). Kinase Inhibitor-Induced Cell-Type Specific Vacuole Formation in the Absence of Canonical ATG5-Dependent Autophagy Initiation Pathway. ***Mol Cell Biol,*** 45(3): 99-115. Citations: **0** / $IF^{2023}$: **3.2**

4. Brahmbhatt HD, Chowdhary M, Gupta R, Priya A, Kundu A, Singh P, **Dhamija S**, Gupta A, Singh A (2024). Stem cell factor-mediated upregulation of SIRT1 protects melanin-deprived keratinocytes against UV-induced DNA damage in individuals with vitiligo. ***The FASEB Journal***,38(22):e70198. Citations: **1** / $IF^{2023}$: **4.4**

5. Ghosh A, Riester M, Pal J, Lainde KA, Tangermann C, Wanninger A, Dueren UK, **Dhamija S**, Diederichs S (2024). Suppressive cancer nonstop extension mutations increase C-terminal hydrophobicity and disrupt evolutionarily conserved amino acid patterns. **Nature Communications**, Oct 25;15(1):9209. Citations: **2** / IF[2023]: **14.7**

6. Singhal K, **Dhamija S**, Mukerji M (2023). Exonized Alu repeats in the 3'UTR of a CYP20A1_Alu-LT transcript act as a miRNA sponge. BMC Research Notes, Mar 9; 16(1):32. Citations: **1 /** IF[2023]**: n.a.**

7. Kumar A, Goyal N, Saranathana N, **Dhamija S**, Saraswat S, Menon MB and Vivekanandan P (2022). The slowing rate of CpG depletion in SARS-CoV-2 genomes is consistent with adaptations to the human host. **Molecular Biology and Evolution**, 39(3):msac029. Citations: **23 /** IF[2020]**: 11.062**

8. Menon MB, Yakovleva T, Ronkina N, Suwandi A, Odak I, **Dhamija S**, Sandrock I, Hansmann F, Baumgärtner W, Forster R, Kotlyarov A, Gaestel M (2022). Lyz2-Cre-mediated genetic deletion of Septin7 reveals a role of septins in macrophage cytokinesis and Kras-driven tumorigenesis. **Frontiers in Cell and Developmental Biology,** 9:795798. https://doi.org/10.3389/fcell.2021.795798 Citations: **11 /** IF[2020]**: 6.684**

9. Pal J, Becker A, **Dhamija S**, Seiler J, Abdelkarim M, Sharma Y, Behr J, Meng C, Ludwig C, Kuster B & Diederichs S (2021). Systematic analysis of migration factors by MigExpress identifies essential cell migration control genes in non-small cell lung cancer. **Molecular Oncology,** 15:1797-1817. Citations: **18 /** IF[2020]**: 6.603**

10. **Dhamija S**, Yang CM, Seiler J, Myacheva K, Caudron-Herger M, Wieland A, Abdelkarim M, Sharma Y, Riester M, Groß M, Maurer J & Diederichs S (2020). A pan-cancer analysis reveals nonstop extension mutations causing SMAD4 tumor suppressor degradation. ***Nat Cell Biol***, 22: 999-1010. Citations: **29 /** IF[2019]**: 20.042**

11. **Dhamija S**, Becker AC, Sharma Y, Myacheva K, Seiler J and Diederichs S (2019). *LINC00261* and the adjacent gene *FOXA2* are epithelial markers and are suppressed during lung cancer tumorigenesis and progression. ***Non-coding RNA,*** 5 (1), 2. Citations: **19 /** IF[2022]**: 4.3**

*12.* Menon MB & **Dhamija S** (2018). Beclin 1 Phosphorylation - at the Center of Autophagy Regulation. ***Front Cell Dev Biol.*** 6:137. Citations: **368 /** IF[2018]**: 5.206**

13. **Dhamija S*** & Menon MB* (2018). Non-coding transcript variants of protein-coding genes - what are they good for? ***RNA Biol***, 15: 1025-1031. **Corresponding author* Citations:**110 /** IF[2017]**: 5.216**

14. Vučićević D, Gehre M, **Dhamija S**, Friis-Hansen L, Meierhofer D, Sauer S, Ørom UA (2016). The long non-coding RNA PARROT is an upstream regulator of c-Myc and affects proliferation and translation. ***Oncotarget*** (2016), 7: 33934-47. Citations: **9 /** IF[2016]**: 5.168**

15. **Dhamija S** & Diederichs S (2016). From junk to master regulators of invasion: lncRNA functions in migration, EMT and metastasis. ***Int J Cancer***, 139: 269-80. Citations: **293 / IF[2016]: 6.513**

16. Menon MB, **Dhamija S**, Kotlyarov A & Gaestel M (2015). The problem of pyridinyl imidazole class inhibitors of MAPK14/p38α-MAPK11/p38β in autophagy research. ***Autophagy*** 11: 1425-1427. Citations: **35 /** IF[2015]**: 9.108**

17. **Dhamija S**, Winzen R, Doerrie A, Behrens G, Kuehne N, Schauerte C, Neumann E, Dittrich-Breiholz O, Kracht M & Holtmann H (2013). Interleukin-17 (IL-17) and IL-1 activate translation of overlapping sets of mRNAs, including that of the negative regulator of inflammation, MCPIP1. ***J Biol Chem*** 288: 19250-19259. Citations: **36 /** IF[2013]**: 4.6**

18. Tiedje, C, Ronkina, N, Tehrani, M, **Dhamija, S**, Laass K, Holtmann H, Kotlyarov A & Gaestel M (2012). The p38/MK2-driven exchange between tristetraprolin and HuR regulates AU-rich element-dependent translation. ***PLoS Genet*** 8: e1002977 Citations: **274 /** IF[2012]**: 8.517**

19. **Dhamija S**, Kuehne N, Winzen R, Doerrie A, Dittrich-Breiholz O, Thakur BK, Kracht M & Holtmann H (2011). Interleukin-1 activates synthesis of interleukin-6 by interfering with a KSRP-dependent translational silencing mechanism. ***J Biol Chem*** 286: 33279-33288. Citations: **67 /** IF[2010]**: 4.773**

20. **Dhamija S**, Doerrie A, Winzen R, Dittrich-Breiholz O, Taghipour A, Kuehne N, Kracht M & Holtmann H (2010). IL-1-induced post-transcriptional mechanisms target overlapping translational silencing and destabilizing elements in IκBzeta mRNA.***J Biol Chem*** 285: 29165-29178. Citations: **43 /** IF$^{2010}$**: 5.328**

21. Winzen R, Thakur BK, Dittrich-Breiholz O, Shah M, Redich N, **Dhamija S**,Kracht M & Holtmann H (2007). Functional analysis of KSRP interaction with the AU-rich element of interleukin-8 & identification of inflammatory mRNA targets. ***Mol Cell Biol* 27:** 8388-8400. Citations: **182 /** IF$^{2007}$**: 6.420**

***Manuscripts submitted or under preparation***

1. *Research Article:* 5-iodotubercidin inhibits epithelial-mesenchymal transition by inhibiting NFkB-dependent transcription. Sayari Bhattacharya, Muskan Manjari, Manoj B. Menon & **Sonam Dhamija*** (*corresponding author). *Under preparation*.
2. *Research Article:* C15ORF48 is a TGFβ-induced microprotein-encoding bifunctional RNA with role in Epithelial-Mesenchymal Transition. Muskan Manjari, Sameera Puranapanda, Vaishnavi G, Janki Insan & **Sonam Dhamija*** (*corresponding author). *Under preparation*.

***Book chapters***

1. *Book Chapter:* **Dhamija S** & Menon MB. Long non-coding RNAs as scaffolds for multiprotein signalling complexes (2020). In "RNA Technologies" Springer Series Vol. 10: *The Chemical Biology of Long Noncoding RNAs,* 10: 131-147.
2. *Book Chapter:* **Dhamija S*** & Menon MB. Measuring lncRNA expression by Real time PCR (2021). Methods in Molecular Biology: Long non-coding RNAs in Cancer, 2348:93-111. *Corresponding author

***Patents***

1. Kundu B, Mishra A, Gupta P, Pandey AK, Pradhan P, Menon MB, Gomes J, Perumal V, **Dhamija S.** Primer sets, Biomarkers, Kit and Applications thereof (COVID-19). US patent filed. Pub. No: US 2022/0002824 A1- dated 06/01/22.

***Other Publications (non-peer reviewed)***

1. Published preprint: Jose S, Sharma H, Insan J, Arora V, **Dhamija S**, Eid N, et al. Kinase inhibitor-induced cell-type specific vacuole formation in the absence of canonical ATG5-dependent autophagy. bioRxiv. 2023:2023.08.27.554994.

2. Published preprint: Mishra A, Pandey AK, Gupta P, Pradhan P, **Dhamija S**, Gomes J, Kundu B, Vivekanandan P, and Menon MB (2020). Mutation landscape of SARS-CoV-2 reveals five mutually exclusive clusters of leading and trailing single nucleotide substitutions. bioRxiv, 2020.2005.2007.082768.

3. Published Abstract*:* Moneke I, **Dhamija S**, Becker A, Jung M, Hauser A, Luebbert M, Passlick B & Diederichs S. P3. 13-32. Drug Sensitivity of Lung Adenocarcinoma Towards Inducers of Epigenetic Modifications. Journal of Thoracic Oncology. 2018. 13 (10), S989.

4. Published Abstract*:* Moneke I, **Dhamija S**, Becker AC, Jung M, Hauser AT, Luebbert M, Passlick B & Diederichs S. Sensitivität des Adenokarzinoms der Lunge für epigenetisch aktive Wirkstoffe. Zentralblatt für Chirurgie-Zeitschrift für Allgemeine, Viszeral-, Thorax-und Gefäßchirurgie. 2018. 143: S 01-V209.

5. Published Abstract*:* Behrens G, Winzen R, Dörrie, **Dhamija S**, Holtmann H. Functional characteristics of a translational silencing element in the mrna of Ικbζ. 2015. The FEBS Journal. 281.18.

6. Published Abstract*:* **Dhamija S**, Winzen R, Doerrie A, Behrens G, Kuehne N Schauerte C, Neumann E, Dittrich-Breiholz O, Kracht M, Holtmann H. Translational activation of anti-inflammatory RNase MCPIP1 by the pro-inflammatory cytokines IL-1 and IL-17. CSHL meeting on 'Translational Control' - Cold Spring Harbor, New York, U.S.A., 2012.

7. Published Abstract*:* **Dhamija S**, Doerrie A, Winzen R, Dittrich-Breiholz O, Taghipour A, Kuehne N, Kracht M & Holtmann H. IL-1-induced post-transcriptional mechanisms target overlapping translational silencing and destabilizing elements in IκBζ mRNA CSHL meeting on 'Translational Control' - Cold Spring Harbor, New York, U.S.A., 2010. p130.

## *List of Posters & Talks*

- **INVITED TALK: Dhamija S.** When non-coding becomes coding: a facet of translational control. The **India EMBO lecture course** ''RNA-protein complexes: from molecular assembly to physiological functions & disease'', NCCS, Pune, Maharashtra, 24-28th February, 2025.
- TALK: **Mazumder A. and Dhamija S.** Cytosolic enhancer RNAs as potential micropeptide encoders. **BRIC-NIBMG and CSIR-IGIB Conclave 2025**, BRIC- National Institute of Biomedical Genomics, West Bengal, 05-06th May, 2025.
- POSTER: Sayari Bhattacharya, Muskan Manjari, Manoj B. Menon & **Sonam Dhamija**. 5-Iodotubercidin as an inhibitor of Epithelial to Mesenchymal transition. **International Symposium on Mitochondria, Cell Death, and Human Diseases**. JNU, New Delhi, 17th –18th February 2025.
- TALK: **Mazumder A. and Dhamija S.** Understanding the cytoplasmic role of enhancer RNAs in cancer progression. **BRIC-NIBMG and CSIR-IGIB Conclave 2024**, CSIR- Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB), New Delhi, 19th-20th April, 2024.
- POSTER: Himanshi Sharma, Susan Jose, Janki Insan, Khushboo Sharma, Varun Arora, Sameera Puranapanda, **Sonam Dhamija**, Nabil Eid and Manoj B. Menon. SB202190-induced cell-type specific vacuole formation is independent of canonical ATG5-dependent autophagy initiation pathway. **27th Meeting on Signal Transduction**, Leonardo Hotel Weimar, Germany, 4th-6th November 2024.
- **Published interview:** For *Eureka* which is an online scientific newsletter by Sunandan Divatia School of Science, NMIMS, Mumbai, in a special issue **"Empowering Diversity: Perspectives from Indian Women in Science", March 2024 (**https://eurekasdsos.wordpress.com/2024/03/27/special-issue-issue-9/).
- **Invited TALK: Dhamija S.** Coding and non-coding RNAs. **Genomics towards better health**, University of Kashmir, Srinagar, 22-23rd September, 2023.
- **INVITED TALK: Dhamija S.** Breaching protein-coding non-coding boundaries in cancer and beyond. **International Conference on Cancer Biology (ICCB)**, IIT Madras, Chennai, 14-16th September, 2023.
- POSTER: Janki Insan, Sameera Puranapanda, Manoj B. Menon & **Sonam Dhamija**. Mining transcriptomic datasets to uncover EMT-associated long non-coding RNAs in Cancer. **ICCB**, IIT Madras, Chennai, 14-16th September, 2023.
- TALK: **Dhamija S.** Breaching protein-coding non-coding boundaries in cancer & beyond. **NIBMG-IGIB Conclave-2023**, National Institute of Biomedical Genomics, West Bengal, 06th-08th July 2023.
- TALK: **Dhamija S.** Junk or no junk- decoding messages in the human genome. **CSIR-IGIB Open Day**, IGIB, New Delhi, 22nd April 2022.
- TALK: **Dhamija S.** A pan-cancer analysis reveals nonstop extension mutations causing SMAD4 tumor suppressor degradation. **Science@DKFZ series**, DKFZ, Heidelberg, Germany, October, 2020.
- TALK: **Dhamija S.** Non-STOP mutations. **CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB)**, Delhi, India, 2020.
- **Invited TALK**: **Dhamija S.** Non-STOP mutations: blurring the lines between coding and non-coding regions in cancer. **Guest Lecture** – **South Asian University**, Delhi, India, 2020.
- POSTER: Yang CM*, **Dhamija S*,** Caudron-Herger M, Wieland A, Myacheva K, Abdelkarim M, Sharma Y, Seiler J, Maurer J & Diederichs S. A pan-cancer analysis reveals Nonstop Mutations causing SMAD4 tumor suppressor degradation. **Deutsches Konsortium für Translationale Krebsforschung (DKTK) Retreat** - DKFZ, Heidelberg, Germany, 2018.
- TALK: **Dhamija S.** A pan-cancer analysis reveals Nonstop Mutations causing SMAD4 tumor suppressor degradation **Seminar Series "Functional and Structural Genomics"** – DKFZ, Heidelberg, Germany, 2018.
- TALK: **Dhamija S.** Long non-coding RNAs in EMT and Metastasis. **Thoracic Surgery Research Meet"** – University clinic Freiburg, Freiburg, Germany, October 2016

- **INVITED TALK: Dhamija S.** LncRNAs in metastasis and epigenetic regulation: MALAT1 story and beyond. **Montreal International Symposium on Angiogenesis and Metastasis (MISAM-2016) - "Treating Disseminated Cancer by Targeting the Epigenome"**, Montreal, Canada June 15 -17, 2016.
- TALK: **Dhamija S.** Long non-coding RNAs in EMT and Metastasis. **SFB 850 Seminar "Cancer and Development"** – Albert-Ludwigs-University, Freiburg, Germany, 2016.
- POSTER: **Dhamija S**, Winzen R, Dittrich-Breiholz O, Menon MB, Schwarzer A, Dork-Bousset T, Kotlyarov A, Gaestel M & Holtmann H. Long non-coding RNAs and their role in epithelial to mesenchymal transition. **Symposium- '50 Years of Scientific Excellence in Medicine at MHH'** - Hannover, Germany, 2015.
- TALK: **Dhamija S.** Translational activation of anti-inflammatory RNase MCPIP1 by the pro-inflammatory cytokines IL-1 and IL-17. "**Translational Control' Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, New York**, USA, September 4-8th, 2012.
- TALK: **Dhamija S.** Activation of post-transcriptional control mechanisms by the pro-inflammatory cytokine interleukin-1. **International meeting GRK1591- 'Posttranscriptional Control of Gene Expression - Mechanisms and Role in Pathogenesis'** - Halle, Germany, 2012.
- POSTER: **Dhamija S**, Winzen R, Thakur BK, Dittrich-Breiholz O, Kracht M & Holtmann H. Involvement of KSRP and TTP in the Degradation of mRNAs for Interleukin-8 and other Inflammatory Proteins. **Summer school 'Signaling and Immunity'** - Hannover, Germany, 2008.

***Summary of research profile & scientific interests***

I obtained MSc in Microbial Gene Technology from Madurai Kamaraj University with a research project on the design and *in vivo* characterization of an shRNA against cancer. Later, I moved to the lab of Prof. Helmut Holtmann at the Hannover Medical School, Germany (Biochemistry, Director: Prof. Matthias Gaestel) for my doctoral thesis work which focused on post-transcriptional control of pro-inflammatory gene expression, which led to the discovery of a novel pathway of translational control downstream to Interleukin-1 (Winzen *et al.* 2007; Dhamija *et al*. 2010, 2011, 2013; Tiedje *et al.* 2012). After receiving a PhD degree in Biochemistry in 2011, I continued in the same institute with an independent research project on 'Long non-coding RNAs in epithelial-to-mesenchymal transition in Cancer'. In 2015, I received the CellNetworks fellowship to pursue this project further in the group of Prof. Sven Diederichs at the DKFZ, Heidelberg and at the Division for Cancer Research at the University Clinic of Freiburg (Dhamija & Diederichs 2016; Vucicevic *et al.* 2016; Dhamija *et al*. 2018). My work there was focused on a special class of mutations called non-stop extension mutations and their relevance in cancer (Dhamija *et al*. 2020). In 2020, I established my lab at CSIR-IGIB with primarily focus on understanding 1) cellular functions and mechanisms of deregulated lncRNAs/microproteins in cancer 2) stop-codon dysfunction in physiology and pathology with emphasis on protein translational control in cancer and 3) the interplay of RNA-binding proteins in EGFR signaling with focus on KRAS, EGFR and BRAF mutations in lung cancer. We could establish a role for RNA G-quadruplexes in the generation of mirtrons, which are micro-RNAs generated as byproducts of splicing (Salim *et al*. 2025). From September 2025, the 'RNA Biology in Cancer' laboratory shifted base to the South Asian University. We continue to investigate the beautiful, enchanting world of RNA Biology.

Date: 01.09.2025 Dr. Sonam Dhamija