

## DR. PRANOTI MANDREKAR PHD

**Dr. Pranoti Mandrekar** is Associate Professor in the Department of Medicine and serves as Co-Director of the Translational Science program at the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at University of Massachusetts Medical School (UMASS). Dr. Mandrekar received her PhD from the University of Mumbai, India and completed her post-doctoral training at the Worcester Foundation for Biomedical Research and University of Massachusetts Medical School. Her research laboratory focuses on understanding molecular mechanisms of innate immune cell activation, alcohol and liver disease.



She has been continuously funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Department of Defense and is recognized at the national and international level for her contribution to the field of alcohol and immune cell signaling, published in high-impact journals. She has organized satellite meetings, workshops/symposia at the International Society for Biomedical Research in Alcoholism, Research Society of Alcoholism and American Association for the Study of Liver Disease (AASLD), has been invited as a speaker, session chair and on discussion panels at international conferences. Dr. Mandrekar serves as a regular member of AA-1 Study Section at NIAAA/NIH and is a standing member of NIH Hepatobiliary Pathophysiology Study Section, Xenobiotic and Nutrient Disposition and Action Study section as well as Special Review Panels at NIAAA. She also serves on AASLD, Digestive Disease Week abstract review panels, AASLD/ALF Joint Research Awards Committee and was an invited speaker at NIAAA's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration to provide an overview of the past 40 years of research in the field of alcohol and immune responses. In addition to scientific research, Dr. Mandrekar is a leader in initiating and promoting Faculty Development initiatives at UMASS and received the Chancellor's Award in promoting Excellence in Diversity at UMASS. She is currently the Chair of the Mentoring Advisory Board at UMASS and serves as a UMASS faculty representative at the Council of Faculty and Academic Societies in American Association of Medical Colleges.

### Topics covered during the seminar

Dr. Mandrekar will present basic information on innate immune cells, their significance in the liver, and contribution to liver disease pathogenesis. She will discuss the importance of cross-talk of signaling pathways between stress mediators and innate immune cell activation. Her presentation will focus on role of toll-like receptor (TLR) activation culminating in production of cytokines and chemokines, and their relevance to progression of liver disease and cancer.

In addition Dr. Mandrekar will provide a brief overview of opportunities of collaborative NIH initiatives/grants between US labs and Indian scientists/labs to utilize the unique resources in India and promote scientific understanding of disease processes. Dr. Mandrekar has extensive experience as Reviewer of Study Section Panels that assesses international collaborative grants. She will discuss Review criteria for international collaborative grants. Live discussions to identify important scientific endeavors in India and establish collaborations with US labs will advance scientific research benefitting all communities.