

Ish Venkatesh

Research Assistant Professor

Department of Biomedical Sciences
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EDUCATION AND TRAINING

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee PhD in Neuroscience Advisor: Dr. Ava.J.Udvardia	2009-2014
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Anna University, India BS in Biotechnology	2005-2009
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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant Professor Marquette University, Milwaukee	2018- Present
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Postdoctoral Research Associate Marquette University, Milwaukee- WI Mentor: Dr. Murray.G.Blackmore	2014- 2018
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RESEARCH SUPPORT AND FELLOWSHIPS

NIH R21 (Co-Investigator) - R21NS106309	2018-2020
NSF – XSEDE XRAC grant	2018-2020
Craig.H.Nielsen Post-doctoral fellowship	2016-2018
NSF – XSEDE grant for Bioinformatics data analysis	2016-2018
Ruth Walker grant-in-aid for graduate research	2012-2014
UWM Chancellor’s award for graduate research	2009-2014

PUBLICATIONS

Wang, Z., Mehra, V., Simpson, M. T., Maunze, B., Chakraborty, A., Holan, L., Eastwood, E., Blackmore, M. G.,* and **Venkatesh, I.*** (2018) KLF6 and STAT3 co-occupy regulatory DNA and functionally synergize to promote axon growth in CNS neurons. *Sci. Rep.* **8**, 12565

* Co-corresponding authors

Venkatesh, I.*, Mehra, V., Wang, Z., Califf, B., and Blackmore, M. G. (2018) Developmental chromatin restriction of pro-growth gene networks acts as an epigenetic barrier to axon regeneration in cortical neurons. *Dev. Neurobiol.* 10.1002/dneu.22605

*Coessponding author

Venkatesh, I., and Blackmore, M. G. (2017) Selecting optimal combinations of transcription factors to promote axon regeneration: Why mechanisms matter. *Neurosci. Lett.* **652**, 64–73

Venkatesh, I.*, Simpson, M. T., Coley, D. M., and Blackmore, M. G. (2016) Epigenetic profiling reveals a developmental decrease in promoter accessibility during cortical maturation in vivo. *Neuroepigenetics.* 10.1016/j.nepig.2016.10.002

*Coessponding author

Simpson, M. T.*, **Venkatesh, I.*** Callif, B. L. Thiel, L.K, Coley, D. M., Winsor, K. N., Wang, Z., Kramer, A., Lerch, J. K., and Blackmore, M. G. (2015) The tumor suppressor HHEX inhibits axon growth when prematurely expressed in developing central nervous system neurons. *Mol. Cell. Neurosci.* **68**, 272–283

* These two authors contributed equally

Williams, R. R.*, **Venkatesh, I.***, Pearse, D. D., Udvardia, A. J., and Bunge, M. B. (2015) MASH1/Ascl1a Leads to GAP43 Expression and Axon Regeneration in the Adult CNS. *PLoS One.* **10**, e0118918

* These two authors contributed equally

AWARDS AND HONORS

UWM graduate student travel awards (Society for Neuroscience meetings): 2011-2014

International symposium for Neuroregeneration Travel Award: 2013

Best research poster award- Midwest Zebrafish conference: 2013

TALKS AND SEMINARS

Computational frameworks to identify novel gene combinations regulating mammalian axon regeneration. BIT, Sathy-India, 2017

Epigenetic regulation of CST axon regeneration. American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET), Great Lakes Chapter. Chicago, USA 2015

Gene regulatory pathways driving optic nerve regeneration in Zebrafish. BIT, Sathy-India, 2014

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (First author at International conferences only)

2017 Ishwariya Venkatesh, Vatsal Mehra, Matthew Simpson, Zimei Wang and Murray Blackmore. An integrated in silico pipeline identifies novel transcription factor combinations that promote axon growth in CNS neurons. Society for Neuroscience 2017. Washington DC.

2017 Ishwariya Venkatesh, Vatsal Mehra, Matthew Simpson, Zimei Wang and Murray Blackmore. An integrated in silico pipeline identifies novel transcription factor combinations that promote axon growth in CNS neurons. International Society for Neuroregeneration. Pacific Grove, CA.

- 2016 Ishwariya Venkatesh, Vatsal Mehra, Ben Califf, Matthew Simpson, Zimei Wang, Denise Coley, Murray Blackmore, 2016. Combinatorial transcription factor treatments to promote axon outgrowth in CNS neurons. Society for Neuroscience 2016. San Diego, CA.
- 2015 Ishwariya Venkatesh, Matthew Simpson, Zimei Wang, Denise Coley, Murray Blackmore, 2015. Combined genetic/epigenetic manipulations to promote CST axon regeneration. Society for Neuroscience. Chicago, IL.
- 2015 Ishwariya Venkatesh, Matthew Simpson, Zimei Wang, Denise Coley, Murray Blackmore, 2015. Combined genetic/epigenetic manipulations to promote CST axon regeneration. International symposium for neuroregeneration. Asilomar, CA
- 2014 Ishwariya Venkatesh, Ava.J.Udvadia,2014. Identification of transcription factors driving GAP-43 gene expression and optic nerve regeneration in zebrafish. International zebrafish development and genetics. Madison,WI.
- 2014 Ishwariya Venkatesh, Robert Teal, Ava.J.Udvadia,2014. Identification of transcription factors necessary for re-establishing retinotectal projections after optic nerve transection in zebrafish. Society for Neuroscience. Washington DC.
- 2013 Ishwariya Venkatesh, Ava.J.Udvadia, 2013. Identification of transcription factors regulating gap43 gene expression during optic nerve regeneration in zebrafish. 6th Aquatic Animal Models for Human Disease & Midwest zebrafish conference. Milwaukee,WI
- 2013 Ishwariya Venkatesh, Ava.J.Udvadia, 2013. Identification of transcription factors regulating gap43 gene expression during optic nerve regeneration in zebrafish. Society for Neuroscience. San Diego,CA
- 2013 Ishwariya Venkatesh, Ava.J.Udvadia, 2013. Identification of transcription factors regulating gap43 gene expression and axon outgrowth during optic nerve regeneration in zebrafish. International symposium for neuroregeneration. Asilomar, CA.
- 2012 Ishwariya Venkatesh, Ava. J.Udvadia, 2012. Probing molecular pathways regulating CNS regeneration in zebrafish. International zebrafish genetics and development. Madison,WI
- 2012 Ishwariya Venkatesh, Ava. J.Udvadia, 2012. Identification of transcription factors regulating axon outgrowth and gap43 gene expression during optic nerve regeneration in zebrafish. Society for Neuroscience. New Orleans, LA

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Lead Teaching Assistant

2011-2014

Human Anatomy and Physiology labs, UW-Milwaukee

- Independently taught two labs per year
- Designed course syllabus, lab activities, case studies for A&P labs
- Trained and coordinated between 10-30 TAs per semester on lab course material

Teaching assistant

Human Anatomy and Physiology labs, UW-Milwaukee

2009,2010

- Independently taught two labs per year

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Neuroinformatics in the Age of Big Data: Working with the Right Data and Tools Workshop at The Society for Neuroscience- Washington DC	2017
Analysis of high-throughput sequencing data- data intensive biology workshop University of California-Davis	2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none">In-depth hands-on training in command line tools, R and Python tools for the analysis of next-gen sequencing data	
Workshop on recent advances in analysis and visualization of RNA-Seq data University of California-Davis	2016
Workshop on design and execution of CRISPR-cas9 based knockdown strategies Medical College of Wisconsin	2016
Grant writing workshop for early career scientists University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee	2014

OUTREACH / VOLUNTEER / RELATED EXPERIENCE

Science outreach

Brain awareness outreach Active member of lab team that designed and executed fun activities to demonstrate basic neuroscience concepts to high school children from areas of Milwaukee/Racine-WI as part of Brain Awareness week.	2010- 2014
Science Judge - Wisconsin Regional Competition of the National Ocean Sciences Bowl Volunteered to be the science judge for Wisconsin regional competition of the national ocean sciences bowl	2010- 2014
Reach out to Rural India-STEM education in the USA Help disadvantaged/children from rural India pursue STEM education in USA. Training involves spreading knowledge on STEM opportunities available in the USA, help finalizing universities, guidance throughout the application process including prep for knowledge tests, putting together graduate school applications, VISA interviews, etc. Have helped ~15 students in the last 6-7 years who are currently pursuing STEM degrees in the USA.	2010-Present

Other volunteer services

Big Brothers and Big sisters of Milwaukee Mentored a little sister through this program for 3 years. Mentoring involved introducing little sister to new hobbies such as reading, arts and crafts, basic science through fun group activities, chess etc. Mentoring also involved helping little sister navigate through difficult situations at home and school, helping her build a positive life image.	2011-2013
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