

SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM

Session 1

- Presentation by Dr. Budhathoki-Uprety
- Student Presentation: ADMET Exploration of Candidate Drugs
- Student Presentation: COVID-19 Vaccine Impact IT Project

Session 2

- · Presentation by Dr. Kucukkal
- Student Presentation: Drug-Protein Complexes MD Simulations
- Student Presentation: Exploring Role of Mutations in PKU Disease

Invited Talks

Developing Polymers to Mitigate Water Pollution

Dr. Januka Budhathoki-Uprety is an Assistant Professor at North Carolina State University. Her research team focuses on developing advanced macromolecules and their applications in societal need areas. She received BSc (Chemistry, Botany, and Zoology) and MSc (Organic Chemistry) degrees from Tribhuvan University, Nepal, and Ph.D. (Chemistry) from NC State University, USA. She worked as a postdoctoral fellow at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, USA. Dr. Budhathoki-Uprety is the recipient of Barbara Stowe Award (2020, NCSU), the MSK Society Scholar Prize (2018, MSKCC), Tow Postdoctoral Fellowship (2015-2018, MSKCC), ACS Graduate Student Travel Award (2011, ACS), and Academic Excellence for Teaching Award (2003-2005, KMC).



Januka Budhathoki-Uprety, PhD Assistant Professor NC State University

Journey to Academia and Persistence in Reaching Goals



Tugba Kucukkal, Ph.D. Associate Professor Gallaudet University

Dr. Kucukkal earned a Ph.D. in computational chemistry from Clemson University in 2013 and then completed postdoctoral work in computational biophysics. She then joined the faculty of Gallaudet University in 2016. Dr. Kucukkal's research focuses on simulations rare genetic disease mechanisms as well as on cancer drug design.

She is an advocate for increasing diversity in STEM through early exposure to research. Hence, she has a special interest in involving students in research, particularly students from historically underrepresented groups in STEM.

Since 2016, she mentored 20 Deaf/HoH students at Gallaudet and several groups of students at Quest.

Currently, Dr. Kucukkal's research and mentoring efforts are supported by NIH NIGMS, NSF INCLUDES, NSF ACCESS and NIH NLM grants.