

# PRAGNYA PRASANNA ATHRI

Research Associate at Eradivir |Undergraduate student  
at Purdue University

affiliated with John Martinson Honors College

## PROFILE

I am a conscientious and proficient student deeply committed to Immunotherapy, Cancer Research and the advancement of Public Health my endeavours centre around pioneering early detection methods and contributing to substantive breakthroughs for payload development for cancer treatment.

## EXPERIENCES

### 2025- present Research Associate - Eradivir

- Working on the expansion of Eradivir's bispecific antigenic immunotherapy (BAiT) platform for the treatment of kidney cancer and hematologic malignancies.

### 2025 Discovery Immunology CO-OP - Merck

- Designed and optimized two functional assays—proliferation and migration assays—using Human Intestinal Fibroblasts to investigate cellular dynamics in Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD).
- Performed extensive live-cell imaging and microscopy, capturing real-time cell behavior to assess drug response and tissue remodeling.
- Utilized these assays to evaluate mechanisms of action (MOA) of novel drug candidates, contributing to preclinical drug development and mechanistic insights.

### 2024 Summer intern - Eradivir

- Conducted immunological assays to characterize the efficacy and immune profiles of various immunotherapeutic agents.
- Assisted with BSL-2 level animal studies, supporting in vivo evaluation of treatment responses.
- Collaborated with a graduate student on peptide synthesis, contributing to the design and development of therapeutic compounds

### 2023- 2024 Undergraduate research

- Currently exploring small molecules to convert cold tumors into immunologically active “hot” tumors.
- Conducted research under a graduate mentor to study and enhance Treg cell recruitment within the tumor microenvironment.
- Routinely isolated PBMCs from human donors and stimulated differentiation using cytokines for immune profiling.
- Collaborated with a postdoc in Dr. Low's lab on in vivo studies involving immunomodulatory combination therapy to reprogram M2 macrophages into M1 phenotype for cancer treatment.
- Collaborated on projects that focused on development of a novel folate receptor-based diagnostic platform for early detection and prevention of cancer metastasis.

### 2023 Summer Internship at Indian Institute of Science (Bangalore, India)

- Investigated Actin and Myosin's role in cell division within a synthetic cell Biology lab

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## EDUCATION

### PURDUE UNIVERSITY (Indiana)

2022- 2026 | Bachelor in Cellular and Molecular Biology

Minor: Chemistry

Certificate: Pharmaceutical Manufacturing

Overall GPA: 3.73

## SKILLS

### Lab Skills

- Cell Culture
- Flow Cytometry
- MicroScale Thermophoresis
- ADCC/ADCP/ CDC
- Imaging (Cytation/ EVOS/ Incucyte)
- ELISA
- Transduction
- In-vivo studies (mice)
- PBMC/ Leukopak isolation
- Lung homogenisation

### Technical Skills

- Powerpoint presentation
- Excel
- Graphpad Prism
- Public Speaking

## PRESENTATIONS

- 1) Poster and Oral Presentation at the Internal Immunology Symposium at Merck
- 2) Development of BAiT for the treatment of folate receptor-expressing tumours - Poster and Oral Presentation
- 3) Development of BAiT for preclinical evaluation in Hypoxic melanoma - Poster presentation

## SOCIAL WORK

- Co-founded GLEEMAN Foundation to advance rural education during the pandemic; led collaborations with City Corporation for streamlined COVID data management.
- Forged partnerships with NGOs to drive awareness and destigmatization around menstruation, LGBTQ+ issues, and mental health.
- Led student impact initiatives as ROTARACT Secretary and Purdue Student Government campaign contributor, organizing blood drives, mental health campaigns, CPR trainings, and advocating Indiana Lifeline Law reform.

## TRAININGS

- Mice and rodents Handling and restrain
- Mice blood collection
- Mice injections (IP/ IV/ ID/SQ)
- CITI RCR

## AWARDS

- Deans List and Semester Honors (Purdue University Fall 22' & 23' & 24' & Spring 23' & 24')
- COVID warrior (Chain makers of Kanakapura)