

## **ABHISAKE KOLE**

NIH-Cambridge Scholar 2007

Degree: George Washington University, B.S. Statistics, 2005

Research Area: Immunology and Infectious Diseases; Tropical Medicine and Parasitology



Abhi Kole graduated summa cum laude from George Washington University with a B.S. in Statistics and a minor in Economics. At GW, he was on the Dean's List, was awarded the George Washington Presidential Academic Scholarship, was nominated to the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society, and joined the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. During college, Abhi had several productive research experiences. In 2001, he worked with Dr. Ramaiah Nagaraja, head of the Gene Recovery and Analysis Unit at NIH. Abhi's project was to prepare antibodies against the PLAC1 protein whose malfunction had been shown to cause death of the fetus early in conception. He then worked with Dr. Colin Wu at the Department of Epidemiology and Clinical Applications at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute and analyzed data collected from the Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis (MESA) to elucidate any subclinical risk factors for cardiovascular disease (CVD). In the summer of 2005, Abhi worked in Dr. Wenxia Song's Laboratory of Immunochemistry at the University of Maryland on a study of antigen presentation on B-cell surfaces. Since June 2006, he has worked with Dr. Siddhartha Mahanty at the Laboratory of Parasitic Diseases in NIH on a study of immune cells in the blood in residents of a village in Mali, which is endemic for both malaria and filariasis. His work will help to determine how having one disease affects the immune response to the other disease; mass de-worming projects may be implemented in the near future, thus it is essential to know if treatment of lymphatic filariasis or other helminthic infections will change the way endemic residents respond to seasonal malarial infections. Abhi is also a member of the D.C. Helminthological Society, volunteers in the Emergency Room of Montgomery General Hospital, and participates in Purbachal community theatre, which performs two annual plays in Bengali. On reflecting upon the NIH-Oxford-Cambridge program, Abhisake remarks, "We need to remind ourselves that each individual researcher is only a small piece of a much larger puzzle. Only by creating linkages across disciplines, institutions, and even oceans can we hope to see the larger picture of the problems we aim to solve."