

SHIVANG SHAH

NIH-Oxford Scholar 2007

Degree: Amherst College, B.A. Chemistry, 2003

Research Area: Infectious Disease; Malaria Research; Genetics and Genomics



Shivang Shah graduated from Amherst with a B.A. *magna cum laude* in Chemistry in 2003, where he received the Everett H. Pryde Research Award in Chemistry, the Porter Prize in Astronomy, the American Chemical Society Prize, the Kauffman Fellowship in Biomedical Research, and the Hughes Fellowship. His undergraduate research was supervised by Drs. Patricia O'Hara (Amherst) and Shimon Weiss (UCLA) and involved using the tools of fluorescence spectroscopy to probe the biophysics of transcription using both ensemble and single-molecule approaches. Following graduation, Shivang worked in the cancer genetics lab of Dr. Andre Bernards at the Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center. There he worked on screening genetic modifiers of disease burden in early-onset familial breast cancer, mapping promoter/enhancer elements in the neurofibromatosis type I (NF1) gene in a *Drosophila* disease model, and identifying novel mutations modifying NF1 burden via microarray-based resequencing. Upon leaving Boston in 2004, Shivang began work towards an MD at Mount Sinai School of Medicine. During his first summer at medical school, he worked as an NIH/NCI Summer Student Fellow with Dr. Irene Orlow at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center where he screened candidate germline polymorphisms to identify potential genetic markers predictive of melanoma risk and progression. Upon completing his preclinical training, Shivang decided to enroll in the Medical Scientist Training Program at Mount Sinai. His graduate laboratory rotations included time with: Dr. David Fidock (Albert Einstein/Columbia), performing pilot experiments geared toward developing a high-throughput screen for novel apicoplast inhibitors in the malaria parasite *P. falciparum*; Dr. Betsy Herold (Mount Sinai), screening host and viral knockdown targets in the hopes of developing an siRNA-mediated topical microbicide for herpes simplex virus infection; and Dr. Adolfo Garcia-Sastre (Mount Sinai), working toward engineering a recombinant Newcastle disease virus expressing an important malaria antigen on its envelope as part of a prime-boost vaccination strategy. Shivang enjoys teaching and has served as teaching assistant for a variety of courses in college and medical school, and also directed a high school teaching experience program while at Amherst. He also likes music and sang in a number of groups in college, including Route 9, an a cappella group which he co-founded and directed. Shivang has volunteered in a wide variety of capacities, ranging from serving as an art museum docent in college to helping out at a free clinic in the South Bronx during medical school. Ultimately, he hopes to “use science and medicine to help effect social justice for those for whom it is wanting.”