



Dr. Arun Yadav

Written by Trilok Neupane, Ph.D. Trainee



Dr. Arun Yadav grew up in Mumbai, India. He pursued his undergraduate in Chemistry at the University of Mumbai, where he also continued his master's and Ph.D. in organic chemistry. After completion of a Ph.D. program in 2007, he was offered a job as a research associate in GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) Pharmaceuticals Ltd., India. Dr. Yadav was always interested in drug discovery and he got the opportunity to make his dream come true by working in one of the world's leading research-based pharmaceutical companies, GSK. His responsibilities at GSK were to design and synthesize new chemical entities targeting drug discovery. As a result, he became familiar with advanced technologies used in drug discovery.

Dr. Yadav then moved to Canada in 2008 as a postdoctoral fellow at Dalhousie University where he worked with Dr. Donald F. Weaver. His research was focused on drug design for chronic neurodegenerative disorders, including Alzheimer's disease. Dr. Weaver was highly impressed by the performance of Dr. Yadav and offered him the position of research scientist in his start-up company, Treventis Corporation. After working for around 3 years at Treventis, he then did another postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Manitoba. Dr. Yadav then joined Treventis Corporation again in 2013 as a group leader and principal scientist of medicinal chemistry. His team focused on developing small molecule inhibitors for the treatment of neurological diseases. In 2016, Dr. Yadav joined Paraza Pharma as a senior scientist.

Paraza Pharma is a collaborative research organization that collaborates with its client partner, is intellectually involved in their project, does science for them, and makes sure that they succeed with their goals. Paraza gets involved right from generating ideas up to doing preclinical studies of drug candidates. Dr. Yadav's major responsibility at Paraza is to design, synthesize those potential drug candidates acting against different targets. When



asked about the exciting part of his job at Paraza, he said that he enjoys doing science, accepting the challenges, and solving the problems related to medicinal chemistry. For Dr. Yadav, the share of joy after solving the problems cannot be measured in terms of any rewards. Research is a challenge; it is based on a hypothesis and the hypothesis will not work every time. When his own idea and hypothesis work, that will provide him the satisfaction and motivation to do more science.

Dr. Yadav is also a part of the committee that recruits new employees at Paraza. So typically, new graduate students who are looking for a job in an industry are evaluated on various aspects such as how well they are trained, how they can tackle problems, what research potentials they have, and how rationally and logically they position themselves against a challenge.

Dr. Yadav mentioned that networking is a very good trait to have and suggested students for reaching out to peers and scientists who share similar research interests. He also focused on the importance of internship programs. Many industries have internship programs which is a good platform for graduate students to prove themselves, get exposure to industrial research, and build a relationship with the scientists working in the industries. The internship will also give graduate students the chance to decide if they want to pursue their career in the industry or take a different path.

Dr. Yadav also mentioned that Paraza is more than happy to involve Dalhousie graduate students in their internship program. He also asked graduate students to reach out to Paraza if they are passionate about science and interested in high-quality research related to drug discovery.