

Varsha Vijayakumar

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[Helsinki, Finland](#)

Education

Master of Science (Medical Genetics and Genomics)

University of Glasgow, UK

Graduation Date: September 2023 | ***Classification:* With Merit**

- **Master's Thesis:** Systematic review on the psychosocial impact of newborn genomic screening on parental decision-making and healthcare utilisation.
- **Class Representative:** Represented and supported peers and liaised with faculty for student concerns.

Bachelor of Technology (Biotechnology with Genetic Engineering)

Bharath Institute of Higher Education and Research, India

Graduation Date: June 2022 | ***GPA:* 3.7/4.0**

- Awarded a full 4-year tuition scholarship for academic excellence.
- Served as **Student Body President** for four years, leading initiatives to support student success and engagement.

Research Experience

Project Researcher

Cancer Institute (WIA), Department of Molecular Oncology | March 2024 – March 2025

- Designed an experiment involving cisplatin-resistant and cisplatin-sensitive cervical cancer cell line samples to identify differentially expressed genes associated with the resistance phenotype.
- Maintained long-term cell cultures of 6 different cervical cancer cell lines, conducting various experiments including but not limited to STR analysis, Live Cell Imaging and RNA expression analysis.
- Supervised and mentored two undergraduate research interns, delegating tasks and providing training in cell culture, DNA extraction, and data analysis techniques.

Research Assistant (Master's Thesis)

University of Glasgow, School of Medicine, Veterinary, and Life Sciences | April 2023 – August 2023

- Conducted a systematic review to evaluate the psychosocial impact of newborn genomic screening on parents and caregivers.
- Analysed data from multiple studies to provide evidence-based recommendations for improved screening practices.
- Developed expertise in critical literature review and data synthesis methodologies.

Research Assistant

Bharath Institute of Higher Education and Research | June 2019 – June 2022

- Spearheaded genotyping projects analysing genetic variations in over 100 samples.
- Played a key role in COVID-19 diagnostics, performing over 75 PCR assays with high accuracy.
- Maintained and calibrated laboratory equipment to ensure optimal performance for molecular biology experiments.

Professional Experience

Associate Medical Writer

Klarity Health | October 2023 – Present

- Collaborated with cross-functional teams to develop accessible, engaging medical content for diverse audiences.
- Conducted in-depth research to ensure accuracy in healthcare communications.
- Proofread and edited content to adhere to industry standards and guidelines.

Medical Content Manager

Migraine World Summit | January 2021 – July 2022

- Created and optimised multimedia content for websites and social media platforms, enhancing audience engagement.
- Authored scripts and conducted interviews for the 2022 summit, promoting scientific knowledge dissemination.

Genetic Counselling Intern

Mediscan Systems | September 2021 – February 2022

- Conducted 110 genetic counselling cases, analysing patient histories and genetic test results under senior supervision.
- Organised and maintained over 500 patient files to support clinic operations.

Training and Development Coordinator

Abuse Refuge Organisation | February 2022 – August 2022

- Assessed the success of training initiatives, presenting recommendations to improve outcomes.
- Organised professional development training for over 500 participants and tracked feedback for future planning.

Research Assistant

AMI Institute of Bioscience | February 2020 – March 2020

- Supported research staff by gathering data and assisting with ongoing projects.
- Developed problem-solving skills through independent and collaborative work.

Key Skills

- **Technical Skills:** PCR, genotyping, STR analysis, RNA expression analysis, Cell culture, Live cell imaging.
- **Data Analysis:** Statistical methods, systematic reviews, bioinformatics pipelines.
- **Scientific Writing & Communication:** Translating complex research into accessible formats.
- **Critical Thinking & Problem-Solving:** Addressing challenges in research protocols and patient data.
- **Collaboration & Leadership:** Mentoring students and coordinating cross-functional teams.
- **Soft Skills:** Strong organisational, time management, and adaptability skills.

Awards and Achievements

- **University Research Award Winner (2022):** Recognised for outstanding undergraduate research on migraine triggers.
- **Full Tuition Scholarship:** Awarded for academic excellence during undergraduate studies.

Selected Projects

- **Master's Thesis:** Conducted a systematic review into the impact of integrating newborn genomic screening into genetic counselling services, addressing parental decision-making, psychological well-being, and healthcare utilisation.
- **Investigating Cisplatin Resistance in Cervical Cancer Cell Lines:** Designed experiments and optimised protocols for long-term cell culture stabilisation.
- **Linking Migraine Triggers to Attack Incidence:** Conducted a global comparative study of migraine triggers and their impacts on patients.
- **Genetic Variation Studies:** Spearheaded genotyping projects, analysing and interpreting genetic data in over 100 samples.
- **COVID-19 Diagnostic Efforts:** Performed over 75 PCR assays during the pandemic, ensuring precision and reliability.

Volunteering and Extracurricular Activities

- **Active Listening Volunteer (7 Cups of Tea):** Level 5 certification in empathetic support.
- **Soul Palliative Care Volunteer:** Contributed 1,480 hours supporting end-of-life care.
- **Samaritans Hotline Volunteer:** Provided crisis support through active listening and communication.