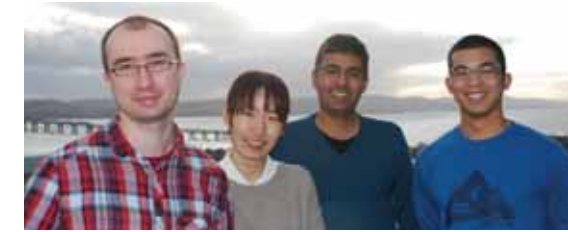




Yogesh Kulathu

Programme Leader, MRC Protein Phosphorylation and Ubiquitylation Unit, College of Life Sciences



‘Pursue a career in science if it excites you and you are really passionate about it.’



Becoming a Scientist was rather a late decision. When I was studying for a degree in Engineering I took an elective course in Molecular Biology and Immunology which was my first real exposure to Molecular Biology. It intrigued me so much that I did a Masters in Biotechnology. It was clear then that a PhD was the next step.

I moved from India to Germany to study for a PhD with Michel Reth at the Max Planck Institute of Immunobiology. I studied lymphocyte signaling and development regulated by kinases and was fortunate to have a supervisor whose attitude of ‘play and learn’ encouraged creative thinking. I decided to do a postdoc and I cast the net wide before settling on David Komander’s newly established group in Cambridge. It was a huge risk to be part of a new group, but very exciting. I learnt everything I know about X-ray crystallography at the LMB over the years I was there. At the start of my postdoc in Cambridge

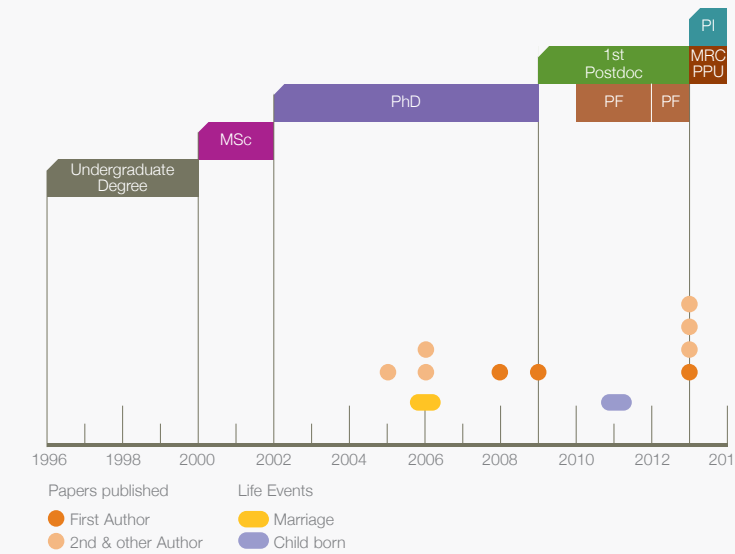
I applied for both the Marie-Curie Intra-European and the EMBO Long Term Fellowships and was awarded both a year later. An agreement between the two funding bodies enabled me to accept both which resulted in me receiving postdoctoral funding over a three year period.

My wife is also a scientist and when we finished our postdocs we needed to decide on where was best to move for both our careers. Dundee offered opportunities that matched both our scientific interests. The opportunity to start my own group at the MRC-PPU allows me to combine the expertise I have developed in the different research labs I have worked in and apply it to the research of understanding signal transduction.

A Day in my Life

My day starts early so that I can fit some work in before my daughter wakes up. As a Programme

Leader at the MRC-PPU my research is core funded and administrative and teaching duties are kept to a minimum. This gives me the possibility to spend the majority of my time at the bench doing experiments. I have recently recruited my first postdocs and a PhD student, making up a good team. So I am just beginning to experience the excitement of directing the research of my own lab and of being able to follow up on many more ideas with the help of the people in my lab.



Undergraduate Degree
Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani, India
Chemical Engineering Elective course - Molecular Biology and Immunology

Masters Degree
Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani, India
Biotechnology

PhD
Max Planck Institute of Immunobiology and University of Freiberg, Germany
Professor Michael Reth
B cell antigen receptor signalling and protein tyrosine kinase regulation

Postdoctoral Position
MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Cambridge
Dr David Komander
Structural basis driving linkage specificity in ubiquitin binding domains and in the ovarian tumour (OTU) family of deubiquitinases.

Postdoctoral Fellowships
Marie Curie Intra-European Fellowship
EMBO Long Term Fellowship

PI: Programme Leader
MRC Protein Phosphorylation and Ubiquitylation Unit, Dundee
Mechanistic basis of signal transduction regulated by post-translational modifications (PTMs)

First Independent Funding
Core Funding MRC Protein Phosphorylation and Ubiquitylation Unit