

Prof. Shruti Naik, New York University

Dr. Shruti Naik is an Assistant Professor at New York University School of Medicine. She received her Ph.D. in Immunology from the University of Pennsylvania-National Institutes of Health Graduate Partnership Program. There she discovered that normal bacteria living on our skin, known as the commensal microbiota, educate the immune system and help protect us from harmful pathogens. Her work unveiled how immune cells work with our microbial partners to prevent disease and has opened the door for microbiota-based therapies in the skin. As a Damon Runyon Cancer Research Fellow at the Rockefeller University, Naik found that epithelial stem cells can harbor a memory of inflammation which boosts their regenerative abilities. The Naik lab studies the dynamic interactions between immune cells, epithelial cells, and microbes in the skin with a focus on 3 major areas of research: Tissue regeneration and cancer, host-microbe interactions, and early in life immunity.

Naik is a strong advocate for increasing diversity in science and promoting the advancement of underrepresented and marginalized groups. For her research and advocacy, she has received numerous awards including the Regeneron Award for Creative Innovation, the L'Oréal For Women in Science Award, the Damon Runyon Dale F. Frey Award for Breakthrough Scientist, the Sartorius and Science Prize Finalist for Regenerative Medicine and Cell Therapy, the Tri- Institution Breakout Award, the Blavatnik Award for Young Scientists and the International Takeda Innovators in Science Award.