

Professor Priya Abraham completed her MBBS, MD and PhD from Christian Medical College (CMC), Vellore. Her interest is in viruses causing human infections, particularly oncogenic (cancer causing) viruses. She headed the Department of Clinical Virology earlier, and held positions of Deputy Director and Associate Director of CMC Vellore.

As a physician scientist, she and her team have contributed to better management of especially high-risk immunosuppressed patients with chronic liver disease. She was involved in nation's first evaluation of the indigenous hepatitis B vaccine in the late 1990s after which India became self-reliant for this vaccine. Her group screening for viral cause of cervical cancer screening as early as 2004. She was on the National Task Force to study the molecular epidemiology of such viruses in with cervical cancer and is a Technical Advisory group member of the National Hepatitis Control programme. She has received funding support from ICMR, DBT, British Council and NIH, WHO and Institut National de La Recherche Scientifique (Quebec, Canada). She also served on the Scientific Advisory Committee of ICMR-NICED between 2008-2010. She was invited by medical Council of India to set the course syllabus for DM in Virology for the first time in India

She has mentored 10 PhD and 5 MD students in their thesis dissertation work, in addition to teaching and training of undergraduates and postgraduates of various specialties. She has been part of CMC's institutional Review Board and Committee on Scientific Integrity.

Internationally, she has been part of WHO's Guidelines Development Group for HIV and HBV in 2012 and 2014. She was appointed by WHO to draft the Hepatitis Screening Guidelines for Myanmar in 2017. She was also part of the team of WHO consultants to draft the Guidelines and Operational Plan for Hepatitis/HIV &STI elimination in Sri Lanka. She is Fellow of Royal College of Physicians and the Royal College of Pathologists.

In 2019, she took over as Director of ICMR-National Institute of Virology (ICMR-NIV) at Pune just 2 months before the COVID-19 pandemic struck. She and her colleagues detected the first cases of SARS-Cov-2 in the country, visualized the virus under the electron microscope, isolated the virus, developed serological assays and partnered with industry to make India's indigenous COVID-19 vaccine and continued to study the antibody response to emerging SARS-CoV-2 variants. Even through the pandemic, she and her team continued to investigate other outbreaks such as Zika, avian flu, Nipah and monkey pox in different parts of the country. Under her leadership, ICMR-NIV provided several scientific inputs and services during the pandemic.

Back in CMC Vellore, she is part of several National and International committees- Chairperson, Technical Expert Committee for Vaccine Research & New Drug development, (DBT, GOI), Member of BIRAC Apex committee (DBT, GOI), High Level Group for transforming NCDC (MOHFW, GOI), WHO's Regional Validation Committee on Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV, Syphilis and Hepatitis B in South-East Asia, National Verification Committee for Measles and Rubella Elimination, ICMR Expert Group of clinicians for syndromic surveillance for diseases of One Health importance, WHO's Technical Advisory Group on COVID-19 Vaccine Composition (TAG-CO-VAC) and WHO's Advisory committee on Variola Virus Research and ICMR's Central Ethics Committee

She was conferred the Janani Award for Medical Research Leadership and JC Bose Award by Indian Science Monitor, Rotary Vocational Excellence Award, Dharwad, India Today Powerful women in Business Award, PRSI National Award-Pride of India Award for brave Corona fight, Sharda Shakthi Award ,JC Bose Award by Indian Science Monitor, Rotary Excellence Award from Rotary Club of Pune, Certificate of Excellence-World Book of Records, Europe, Pune Leadership Awards, 2022,and the Rajiv Gandhi Mahila Shakti National Award 2022 and the Devi Award for Dynamism and Innovation.

**Recently she been elected as a Fellow of the Indian National Science Academy. She has currently 230 publications to her credit.**

**She features in The Braided River- Universe of Indian women in Science, UNESCO, New Delhi; Spotlight Series- South Asia, Indian women in STEM and Wikipedia.**