

## **Dharmin Rokad**

Ph.D. Student, Biomedical Sciences

**Interviewed by: Debanjana Chatterjee**

He is an international student who studied in India and UK before joining the PhD program in Iowa State University to continue his interest in research on toxicology and Parkinson's disease. Coming from an international background, Dharmin had myriad



experiences but to him United States is preferable than any other country. He likes specifically Iowa State University, - "I love the campus because this campus is beautiful and is better than any concrete jungle of a city. The people are welcoming here specially the mid-west people. There is no discrimination at all, everything is available here from education, personal and professional helps. I don't have one specific memory but a series of them which made me love Iowa State than any other places I have lived."

The positive thing that keeps him going every day is the whole research idea. According to him, "In research you do not always get the result what you have expected, sometimes you get the result even completely opposite, but at the end of the day you learn something. Even though your hard work is not worth always in terms of the outcome, you know that it is the way it is. It applies in actual life too. It makes you learn that it is not necessary that you have the right idea always which makes you more transparent." He is extremely thankful to his professors for their guidance towards his research and friends and colleagues who helped him out in difficult situations.

What struggled him the most while studying in Iowa State is - "The Cold! Specially the wind chills make it harder. In the beginning I struggled for transportation. Where I lived, the bus services were not frequent in winter. It was hard to survive the winter here without a car." But after having the car now he loves to go for long drives. His favorite pastime is to listen to music, but he considers himself as a bathroom singer!

He was a part of Indian Student's association and Vice President of Toxicological Graduate student's Association which helped him learning team building, communication and leadership skills. He has also transformed as a person while studying in Iowa State from a very introvert person to an efficient communicator and presenter through participation in several meetings, talks and presentations as part of Iowa state's graduate life which he considers as one of his biggest personal achievement.

Does he miss home? "Yes, Family and off course food!"

**Among many other dreams his biggest dream is to be successful in the toxicological field.**

*Debanjana Chatterjee, a graduate architecture student from India, interested in exchanges of multicultural ideas and designs. I have interviewed Dharmin Rokad for ISU Grad Story.*

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