

Dr. Radha Rangarajan is founder and CEO of Vitas Pharma. Her research interests are in the area of infectious diseases, particularly bacterial and parasitic infections. Prior to Vitas Pharma, she was a scientist in the Drug Discovery division of Dr. Reddy's Laboratories where she managed research programs in multiple therapeutic areas including, anti-infectives and metabolic disorders. She was responsible for developing the preclinical strategy for the anti-infectives portfolio and for implementation of the NCE programs. In addition, she led a team of biologists to establish and implement in vitro assays, conduct drug screens and mechanism-of-action studies.



Dr. Rangarajan received her Bachelor's degree in Biology from Stanford University, Master of Science degree in Biology from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor and her Ph.D. in Neurobiology/Genetics from Rockefeller University, New York. She was a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Immunology and Infectious diseases at the Harvard School of Public Health where she conducted extensive research on the sexual differentiation of the malaria parasite.

Dr. Rangarajan is a member of the American Society of Microbiology. She has published widely and has presented her research at numerous international conferences.

Drug discovery R&D

The global pharmaceutical industry has experienced significant challenges in terms of profitability in the last decade. The collective R&D spend by the large pharmaceutical companies has been estimated at \$50 billion annually, but the number of truly innovative medicines resulting from these investments has remained small. This has necessitated major changes in the pharmaceutical industry's business models the world over.

One interesting model that has emerged in recent times in India is public-private collaboration to promote R&D and entrepreneurship. The establishment of Incubation parks at academic campuses such as the Technology Business Incubator (TBI) at the University of Hyderabad is one such example. This is a joint initiative of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the University of Hyderabad. The TBI provides the infrastructure and space for preclinical discovery activities. TBI serves as a platform for the faculty of the University to work together with companies for translational research.

Vitas Pharma is a drug discovery company based in the Technology Business Incubator at the University of Hyderabad. The company is focused on identifying and developing novel therapies for infectious diseases, particularly, multi-drug resistant nosocomial infections. The goal is to generate multiple high quality projects with faster than benchmark times to market.

We have identified areas of unmet clinic need and potential mechanisms which would lead to successful drugs of differentiated value. In addition, we are pursuing opportunities to collaborate with the faculty of the University of Hyderabad. Our decision making is guided by established go/no go criteria, clear development strategies and target product profiles enabling faster commercialization. The business model is to reach proof-of-concept in the target population in a cost effective and expeditious manner and then seek partners for successful development leading to NDA filing, approval and commercialization.