DR. MALATHI BANDA

Malathi Banda, a 2003 WV-BRIN summer intern, conducted her research project in the laboratory of Dr. Quentin Li at WVU and was co-author on a publication related to that project. Following graduation from Salem International University, she entered a graduate program at Wayne State University in Detroit and received her Ph.D. in 2009. Her dissertation research, which was conducted in the Department of Biological Sciences and Geology, was "Alternative Splicing as a Switch in Regulation of Apoptosis Following Exposure to Ionizing Radiation". Dr. Banda then took a position as a post-doctoral fellow at the Karmanos Cancer Institute at Wayne State. Her research involved the role of microRNAs in breast cancer research and in regulation of angiogenesis. In 2012, she moved to the National Center for Toxicological Research/Food and Drug Administration (NCTR) in Jefferson, Arkansas, as an Oak Ridge Institute of Science and Education (ORISE) Fellow. The ORISE Research Programs at the Food and Drug Administration are educational and training programs designed to provide young scientists and university faculty opportunities to participate in project-specific FDA research and developmental activities. In this position, Dr. Banda is working on a variety of projects including improving the efficacy and development of targeted cancer therapeutics by establishing a model to identify molecularly targeted therapies that prevent acquired resistance as well as the development of a method to use in-vivo mutagenicity data to address the question as to whether a specific chemical induces cancer via a mutagenic or non-mutagenic mode of action. Dr. Banda authored several scientific publications and she is also recipient of numerous honors and awards. Dr. Banda has scientific membership in organizations such as American Association for Cancer Research, Environmental Mutagenesis and Genomics Society and Society of Toxicology.