

I finished my Ph.D. from the lab of Prof. Christian Griesinger, Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry, Goettingen, Germany. My thesis work aimed to elucidate the structural basis of transactivation, a key event in gene regulation. I was awarded Ph.D. in July 2005 by the University of Goettingen. Shortly thereafter, I returned to India to take up a temporary job in a drug discovery company, as a protein-NMR/crystallography scientist. I am also taking care of a Varian 600 MHz spectrometer. I am also guiding a master's level student in cloning and expressing proteins for a drug development project. The idea is to develop small molecule inhibitors to disrupt protein-protein interactions.

In order to take up a career in signal transduction research, I thought a rigorous training in biochemistry is essential. Therefore, I started a Ph.D. work that involved the study of protein-protein interactions from a structural perspective. I took up NMR, as it plays an increasingly important role in biomolecular sciences. It also requires significant time to gain a fair level of competency in protein NMR.

Although Prof. Griesinger's lab is known for NMR methodology development, mine was one of those projects that involved extensive use of other techniques as well. Since I had a biology background unlike many other fellow grad students in our group, I started with cloning, protein expression and purification. Luckily for me, I had a chance to apply other techniques like crystallography, fluorescence, calorimetry, peptide synthesis, mass spectroscopy, circular dichroism, and biochemical techniques like protein and DNA sequencing in addition to NMR

Towards the end of my thesis, I realised that NMR can address some biological questions on its own. Therefore I decided to find new questions in biology and answer them using the appropriate tool rather than sticking to one particular method. After going through your advertisement and publications, I felt that the kind of problems you want to solve suited my research interests, where my knowledge in biophysics could be applied.

I can handle common molecular biology experiments with ease. I believe that this post-doctoral experience will put me firmly on the career path. With the training I get, I will be able to contribute to the ever growing knowledge in signal transduction. My motivation is strong, especially because of my present stay in the industry, where one interacts almost everyday with people from a broad spectrum of expertise, like medicinal chemists, crystallographers and veterinary doctors who do pre-clinical trials.

I request you to have a look into my CV and give your opinion.

Thanks for your time,  
Wishing you a very productive year ahead, With best regards,

Yours truly,

Venkatesh Ramakrishnan, Ph.D.  
Associate Scientist  
Structure Guided Drug Design

Aurigene Discovery Technologies Limited  
Electronic City  
Bangalore  
India

Work Eligibility: No, I am not currently in possession of a US work permit.