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DR. PANTRANGI FOCUSES ON VISION DISORDERS

Madhulatha Pantrangi, Ph.D., joined PreventionGenetics in January 2013 as a human molecular geneticist. Her portfolio focuses on eye disorders.

“There are over 250 genes that have been identified so far for retinal disorders alone (RetNet). Approximately 50% of the patients with Anterior Segment Disorders (ASD) are at risk for glaucoma (Reis et al. 2011. Curr Opin Ophthalmol 22(5):314-24). Early diagnosis by gene tests might help slow disease progression, and may prevent vision loss or open the door to being a part of a clinical trial,” she noted. “Novel therapies are also emerging to target specific genes and variants. We are making progress, but the ultimate goal is to provide gene tests for all retinal and ASD-associated genes,” Dr. Pantrangi added, who comes from a long line of medical professionals. “The medical genetics field is very exciting. Most of my family’s side are physicians. I always wanted to be in the medical field.”

Her postdoctoral fellowship at Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation included work on the human pathogen Staphylococcus aureus virulence gene expression and regulation in the presence and absence of different antimicrobial agents. She was also involved in S. aureus new strain gene annotation, whole-genome mapping to predict S. aureus virulence motifs, identification of Corynebacterium nigricans and pregnancy outcomes. In addition, she served as co-investigator in “Metagenomics study of chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS).”

During the spring 2013 academic term, she served on the faculty at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point as assistant professor of microbiology.

Dr. Pantrangi received her Ph.D. in genetics from the University of Delhi and her master’s in biotechnology from Pondicherry University, both in India.

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