

Dr. Raju Sunagar, **Deputy General Manager R&D, Indian Immunologicals Ltd.**

Dr. Raju Sunagar is a senior immunologist and vaccinologist with a rich background in both academic research and industrial vaccine development. With a Ph.D. in Medical Microbiology from Gulbarga University, India, Dr. Sunagar has developed an impactful career focused on translational research in infectious diseases, mucosal immunology, and vaccine innovation for both human and veterinary applications.

Currently serving as Lead – Process Development at Indian Immunologicals Ltd., Hyderabad, Dr. Sunagar oversees the development and implementation of clinical and preclinical research strategies for a wide range of vaccine candidates. His role involves directing vaccine process development from concept through clinical evaluation, with a focus on high-priority public and animal health concerns.

Previously, he held the position of Senior Scientist at the Ella Foundation, Bharat Biotech, where he played a pivotal role in the development of *INCOVACC™*, the world's first intranasal COVID-19 vaccine. His contributions extended to several other human vaccine candidates, exemplifying his strength in bridging laboratory science with real-world clinical application.

Dr. Sunagar's international experience includes postdoctoral research at Albany Medical College, USA, where he investigated adjuvant-free vaccines for *Francisella tularensis*, a BSL3 pathogen. His work revealed key insights into the influence of host genetics and gender on vaccine efficacy. He also contributed to streptococcal vaccine development and antimicrobial research during his tenure at IISc Bangalore and QIMR in Australia.

His doctoral research focused on bacteriophage therapy for *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteremia, including the isolation of a novel lytic phage, GRCS, which is now publicly available through BEI Resources.

Dr. Sunagar has authored over 25 peer-reviewed publications and regularly reviews for leading journals such as *NPJ Vaccines*, *Frontiers in Microbiology*, and the *Journal of Medical Microbiology*. He is actively involved in scientific networks including the BactiVac Network (UK), VALIDATE Network (Oxford), the Indian Science Congress Association, Association of Microbiologists of India (AMI), American Association of Immunologists (AAI), and the International Veterinary Vaccinology Network.

With his multidisciplinary expertise and dedication to vaccine science, Dr. Raju Sunagar continues to contribute significantly to global efforts in combating infectious diseases.