



PRESS RELEASE

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UNC'S DR. ROOPA THAPAR NOW A HAUPTMAN-WOODWARD VISITING SCIENTIST

Hauptman-Woodward Medical Research Institute announces that Dr. Roopa Thapar has come to HWI as a visiting scientist. Thapar is a guest in the laboratory of HWI's Dr. Dan Gewirth. Gewirth is a senior research scientist at HWI and an associate professor at the University at Buffalo.

Thapar, a research assistant professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics and the Program in Molecular Biology and Biotechnology at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, will be a visiting scientist for approximately one year. While at HWI, Thapar plans to use X-ray crystallography to further her research examining protein-protein and RNA-protein interactions involved in mRNA processing and translation. Her specialty is the use of nuclear magnetic resonance to study macromolecular structure.

Thapar received her bachelor's degree in Pharmacy (Medicinal Chemistry) from C.U. Shah College of Pharmacy, Mumbai, India in 1988 and her Ph.D. in Biochemistry (Structural Biology) from the University of Washington, Seattle, Washington in 1997. She worked as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill from 1997-2000. An NIH-funded scientist, Thapar is an ad hoc reviewer for the *Journal of the American Chemical Society*, the *Journal of Molecular Biology*, *ACS Chemical Biology* and for *Biochemistry* and is a member of the RNA society, the Protein Society, and the American Chemical Society.

ABOUT HWI

With more than 50 years of exceptional scientific research, HWI is an internationally-renowned independent, non-profit facility specializing in the area of fundamental biomedical research known as structural biology. HWI's team of more than 75 staff members is committed to improving human health by studying the causes of diseases, as well as potential therapies, at their basic molecular level. HWI is located in the heart of the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus in downtown Buffalo, New York, in a new state-of-the-art structural biology research center at 700 Ellicott Street. For more information, visit HWI's website at www.hwi.buffalo.edu or call 716-898-8600.