Dr. Roopa Thapar Hired as Research Scientist at HWI

The Hauptman-Woodward Institute announces the hire of Dr. Roopa Thapar as a new research scientist. Thapar has been a visiting scientist for almost two years at Hauptman-Woodward Institute.

Thapar will focus on molecular recognition and assembly of large multi-protein and protein-RNA complexes that play important roles in regulation of RNA-mediated gene expression. A number of diseases that include cancer, mental retardation, and muscular dystrophy are caused due to mutations in noncoding regions of genes that can alter the assembly of protein-RNA complexes. Understanding how these ribonucleoprotein complexes assemble using structural biology can lead to new strategies for therapeutic intervention. Thapar uses a multidisciplinary approach combining structural techniques with biophysical tools and biochemical and molecular biological approaches to understand how protein-RNA complexes are regulated.

“Dr. Thapar is a talented scientist who will help carry on the institute’s respected reputation in the scientific community. She is a valuable employee for both HWI’s present and future,” Dr. Ed Lattman chief executive officer and executive director, said.

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.

Thapar resides in East Amherst, NY with her husband and daughter.

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.