

While pursuing her graduate degrees, Dr. Placido-Weber was a teaching and doctoral fellow, which she cites as one of the most rewarding experiences of her professional career. As a graduate student, she was actively involved in the Mid-Atlantic Regional Chapter of the Society of Toxicology, as well as the Society of Toxicology. She enjoys mentoring junior scientists in toxicology as she helps them achieve their career goals.

In her current role, Dr. Placido-Weber is responsible for the extraction of postmortem and DUI (Driving Under the Influence) biological samples for screening and confirmation of licit and illicit drugs, as well as ethanol quantitation. She is highly proficient in analytical methods of analysis, such as Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry (GC/MS) and Liquid Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry (LC/MS).

Prior to working for Westchester County, Dr. Placido-Weber was employed by Revlon Consumer Products Corporation as a Toxicologist. She performed risk assessments of cosmetic raw materials and final formulations, reviewed clinical data of safety-in-use studies, and contributed to the international product registration of cosmetic products. She was also a liaison between Product Development and the Product Safety teams, speaking to her ability to collaborate successfully toward common goals.



Hemlata Sukhija '03B.Pharm., '07GP, '11Ph.D.
Lead of Regulatory Affairs
City of Hope, Duarte, CA

Dr. Sukhija is the Lead of Regulatory Affairs within the clinical trials office at the City of Hope, a National Cancer Institute-designated comprehensive cancer center. She is a registered pharmacist, and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Pharmacy in India and a master's degree and a Ph.D. in

Pharmacology from St. John's University.

Dr. Sukhija is also a SOCRA-certified Clinical Research Associate. She has a broad background in the pharmacology of drugs and medicinal sciences, with specific training and expertise in key research areas of pediatric cancer clinical research. During her career, she has worked for Charles R. Drew University, Children's Hospital Los Angeles, and most recently, City of Hope, in the field of clinical research since 2011 at different capacities. She has experience in working over thousands of clinical trials, including studies conducted by consortia, sponsors, and in-house investigators.

She has also collaborated with investigators on grant applications and Institutional Review Board (IRB) submissions at both the clinical and bench research levels. Dr. Sukhija has expertise in US Food and Drug Administration submissions for investigational new drug studies, and provides guidance for the submission of studies to the IRB.



FAITHFUL TO THE MISSION
ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY

Dean's Hour: Careers in Toxicology

The event is sponsored by the Office of the Dean in the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences and Tau Omega Chi. It is supported, in part, by the Society of Toxicology (SOT) through the Mid-Atlantic SOT Regional Chapter.



Tuesday, October 27
5-6:30 p.m.

Featured Speakers



Naila Habeeb '16P, '19GP

*Associate Toxicology Specialist
Shiseido Americas Innovation Center*

Ms. Habeeb is currently employed as an Associate Toxicology Specialist at Shiseido Americas Innovation Center. She began her academic career at St. John's University and became very involved in organizations on campus such as Women in Leadership, Global Medical Brigades, Delta Phi Epsilon, and Tau Omega Chi. She also served as an Orientation Leader at New Student Orientation. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Toxicology with a minor in Chemistry in 2016 and continued at St. John's to pursue her Master of Science degree in Toxicology.

During her graduate years, she was fortunate to gain experience as a teaching assistant. She completed her thesis research work under the mentorship of Jeanette C. Perron, Ph.D. Her efforts focused on identifying the role of bone morphogenetic protein in alcohol toxicity in an overarching project mimicking the clinical model of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. She defended her thesis in 2019.

Working since 2018 at her current position at Shiseido, Ms. Habeeb has been responsible for reviewing ingredients in final cosmetic formulas and ensuring they are safe for consumer use. Additionally, she monitors clinical studies to ensure they are running according to protocol and analyzes data to ensure clean results. Shiseido has also been supportive of her passion to keep active in the research field, and as such, she was able to present some collaborative research with Shiseido and other labs across international meetings such as Eurotox and the Society of Toxicology.



Sessa Kallakuri '15P

*Toxicologist
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services*

Ms. Kallakuri is a Toxicologist in the Toxicology and Assessment section at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. In her role, Ms. Kallakuri leads the toxicology review of Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substance sites, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry sites, the National Priorities List, and other sites of environmental contamination where real or perceived exposure to hazardous substances potentially threatens public health. She is responsible for evaluating environmental data, providing technical support for human health risk assessment, and determining whether a public health hazard exists. As part of her job, Ms. Kallakuri collaborates with other federal, state,

and local health departments, as well as regulatory agencies, and interacts with the public via meetings, telephone conversations, and field visits, responding to community health concerns.

Ms. Kallakuri earned her Master of Science degree in Toxicology in 2015 from St. John's University. Prior to her current position, Ms. Kallakuri was employed at L'Oréal USA Research and Innovation as a Toxicologist from 2015 to 2017. During that time, she evaluated the toxicity of chemical ingredients in hair products to ensure product safety of finished formulations.



Rohan Nagavally, D.A.B.T. '11GP, '15Ph.D.

*Director, Occupational Toxicology
Mylan Inc.*

Dr. Nagavally is the Director of Occupational Toxicology at Mylan Inc. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Pharmacy, and a Master of Science degree in Toxicology and a Ph.D. from St. John's University. He is also an American Board of Toxicology-certified toxicologist.

Dr. Nagavally joined Mylan after completing his Ph.D. in 2015 and leads the occupational toxicology function. He provides toxicology and risk assessment expertise to support Global Environment, Health, and Safety initiatives concerning research and development and manufacturing decisions regarding Mylan products. As the subject matter expert for occupational toxicology, he collaborates with various stakeholders across the company. He is a key contributor supporting antimicrobial resistance, pharmaceuticals in environment initiatives, and an industrial hygiene function for Mylan.



Jessica Placido-Weber '07GP, '16Ph.D.

*Assistant Toxicologist
Westchester County Department of Laboratories and
Research Division of Forensic Toxicology*

Dr. Placido-Weber is currently an Assistant Toxicologist at the Westchester County Department of Laboratories and Research, Division of Forensic Toxicology. She received her bachelor's degree in Chemistry from Fairfield University in 2004. She then went on to obtain her master's degree in Toxicology from St. John's under the tutelage of S. William Zito, Ph.D., Senior Associate Dean and Professor, and continued in the same laboratory to earn her Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Sciences with a specialization in Toxicology.