

RESEARCH AT MERRIMACK



Aging in our cells (and ourselves) Unlocking the secrets to longevity



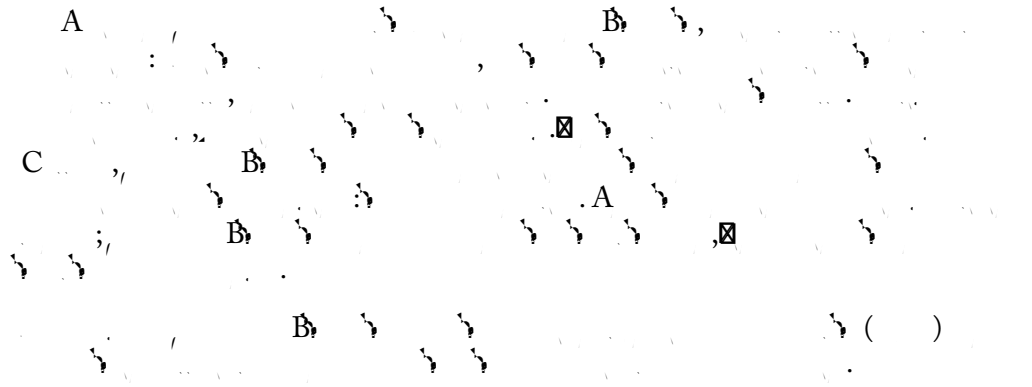
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Leena Bharath, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Health Science

Research Interests:

- Age-associated metabolic dysregulation
- Mitochondrial function
- Inflammaging



Q: How did you come to focus on this particular research?

A: I was interested in the field of aging and metabolism, and I was particularly drawn to the idea of understanding the cellular mechanisms that underlie the aging process. I was inspired by the work of other researchers in the field, and I wanted to contribute to our understanding of this complex process.

Q: Tell us about the cellular aging processes you're studying.

A: I am studying the cellular aging processes that lead to the development of age-associated metabolic dysregulation. I am particularly interested in the role of mitochondria in this process, and how mitochondrial dysfunction can lead to the accumulation of reactive oxygen species (ROS) and the subsequent activation of signaling pathways that promote cellular aging. I am also studying the role of inflammation in this process, and how chronic inflammation can contribute to the development of age-associated metabolic dysregulation.

Q: What's an example of a "mystery" you've found in studying cells?

A: One of the most interesting mysteries I have found in studying cells is the role of mitochondrial dysfunction in the development of age-associated metabolic dysregulation. I have found that mitochondrial dysfunction can lead to the accumulation of ROS and the subsequent activation of signaling pathways that promote cellular aging. However, the exact mechanisms by which mitochondrial dysfunction leads to these changes are still unclear, and I am currently working to elucidate these mechanisms.

