

Your health is their world.

## RESEARCHER PROFILE

# Meet Dr. Shashi Gujar

Your health is my world because each day, I am thinking about ways to fight this devastating disease. I know, to truly beat cancer, we need to come together and work as a team. When we find solutions for your health, we are finding solutions for all of us. That's the power of us, together.

My name is Dr. Shashi Gujar, and I am the executive director of the Cancer Immunotherapy, Innovation & Global Partnerships at Dalhousie University, as well as an associate professor in the Departments of Pathology, Microbiology & Immunology, and Biology. My research focuses on cutting-edge cancer technologies known as cancer immunotherapies. These innovative technologies train patients' immune systems to recognize and fight cancer, all on their own. This research is critical, because cancer is pervasive, and the treatments are often debilitating. We want to change that. We want to be able to find ways to create minimally invasive and personalized cancer treatments that will allow our bodies to do the work.

**Imagine, instead of going through surgery, or many rounds of chemotherapy, that you could receive a vaccine that triggered your immune system to fight off the cancer cells that invaded your body. That is the work we are doing and that is the work your DMRF donations are funding.**

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One of the many critical things we learned during the COVID-19 pandemic was how fast and effectively we can find solutions to health problems when we work together at a global level. We are trying to do the same thing with cancer. Thanks to support from DMRF, we are bringing together a team of global partners under the leadership of Nova Scotian researchers, to develop cancer therapies, at a faster rate. This global initiative will advance cancer research outcomes for each of us.

The support we have received from DMRF has been a game-changer as it has allowed us to pursue trailblazing research right here, in Nova Scotia, which is in turn, putting our region on the global health research map. I want to thank the DMRF donors for their interest and generosity. Without your support, my research program would not have existed. I am incredibly grateful and committed to finding new ways by which we can beat cancer.

