

Dr. Suranganie Dharmawardhane Flanagan received her Ph.D. in Cell Biology from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, MA in 1987. She was subsequently trained in cancer cell invasion/metastasis, and signaling via GTP binding proteins at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, NY; University of California at San Diego; and the Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, CA. Her independent research program in breast cancer metastasis was initiated in 2000 at the University of Texas at Austin. Dr. Dharmawardhane is currently a Full Professor in the Department of Biochemistry at the University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus (UPR MSC), San Juan, PR. In collaboration with medicinal chemists at the UPR MSC, her program of anticancer drug development screens and characterizes specific inhibitors to the small GTP binding proteins Rac and Cdc42 as metastatic cancer targeted therapeutics. These anti metastatic cancer drugs are currently being commercialized via MBQ Pharma, Inc., a biotech company where Dr. Dharmawardhane is the Chief Scientific Officer.