

ASNR Meet Our Members: Syamala Buragadda

Dr. Syamala Buragadda is a Postdoctoral Fellow at McGill University, and she has been a Member of ASNR since 2022. She joined the organization to benefit from access to cutting-edge research which helps keep professionals updated on the latest advancements in the field. Dr. Buragadda also recognized that ASNR provides valuable networking opportunities, fostering connections between clinicians, researchers, and specialists to enhance collaboration. Another aspect that drew Dr. Buragadda to ASNR was how it supports professional development through educational resources like conferences and webinars, while also offering career advancement through leadership roles and committees.



Additionally, Dr. Buragadda appreciates how ASNR Members can contribute to the field by collaborating on research, sharing clinical expertise, and shaping the future of neurorehabilitation. Learn more about Dr. Buragadda and her work in our interview.

1) How did you get interested in science, and what steps did you take to get to your current role?

My interest in science began at a young age, driven by curiosity about how the brain works and how we can better understand neurological conditions. This curiosity led me to pursue a degree in biological sciences, with a growing interest in neuroscience. As I delved deeper into the field, I became particularly fascinated by how neurodegenerative diseases impact brain function, which shaped my decision to specialize in this area.

For my PhD, I focused on studying subtle brain changes in people with multiple sclerosis (MS). This research allowed me to investigate how early changes in brain structure and function can inform better diagnosis and treatment approaches for MS patients. The work was incredibly rewarding as it combined both basic neuroscience and clinical applications.

During my PhD, I took every opportunity to engage in research, present findings at conferences, and collaborate with other researchers in the field. These experiences helped me build a strong foundation in neurorehabilitation and clinical trials, which paved the way for my current postdoctoral role, where I continue to explore ways to improve patient outcomes in clinical settings.

2) What is the focus of your current research, and what are some of your findings?

In my research, I aim to better understand subtle brain changes in people with MS and how these changes correlate with disease progression and response to treatments. One of the key areas I'm exploring is how early intervention strategies can be tailored based on these subtle brain changes, which could potentially slow the progression of MS or improve patients' quality of life.

3) What are your longer term career goals?

My long-term career goals are centered on advancing the field of neurorehabilitation and clinical research, with a particular focus on improving outcomes for patients with MS and other neurological conditions. I am passionate about translating research findings into practical applications that can directly benefit patients, and I hope to continue making meaningful contributions to both the academic and clinical communities.

In terms of research, I aim to further investigate the subtle brain changes that occur in neurodegenerative diseases like MS, with the goal of identifying early biomarkers that can predict disease progression and treatment responses. This could lead to more personalized and effective treatment strategies, improving patients' quality of life. I also hope to expand this work to include other populations, focusing on how diverse and underrepresented groups may experience neurological diseases differently and ensuring that clinical trials are more inclusive.

From a career perspective, I aspire to hold a leadership position in academia or within a clinical research organization, where I can continue to pursue my research while mentoring the next generation of scientists and clinicians. Additionally, I would like to contribute to policy development that promotes equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) in clinical trials, ensuring that all populations have access to cutting-edge treatments and interventions.

Ultimately, I hope that my work will have a lasting impact on improving diagnostic techniques, treatment plans, and patient outcomes, particularly in underserved communities. My goal is to help shape a more inclusive and patient-centered healthcare system through research and advocacy.

You can follow Dr. Buragadda on X/Twitter ([@syamala3110](#)) or [get connected with her on LinkedIn](#).