



Dr. Rajiv Kumar Mondal,
Principal, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, The ICFAI University, Tripura

Dr. Rajiv Kumar Mondal, M.Sc., Ph.D., is a molecular virologist and academician currently serving as Principal at the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences (FAHS), The ICFAI University, Tripura, India. He obtained his B.Sc. in Microbiology (Hons) (2004) and M.Sc. in Biochemistry (2007) from the University of Calcutta before pursuing his doctoral research in Biochemistry with a specialization in Virology and Molecular Biology at the Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education & Research (SSKM Hospital), Kolkata, under The West Bengal University of Health Sciences (WBUHS). His Ph.D. thesis focused on the prevalence and molecular characterization of occult hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection in HCV- and HIV-infected patients and cases of cryptogenic liver disease in Eastern India. Following his doctorate, he undertook a postdoctoral fellowship at the Institute of Human Virology, School of Medicine, University of Maryland, Baltimore, USA (2016–2019), where he investigated host–viral interactions during hepatitis viral infections.

Over the course of his career, Dr. Mondal has been actively engaged in multiple prestigious national and international projects. As a DBT Research Associate at the National Institute of Biomedical Genomics (NIBMG), Kalyani, and the Indian Institute of Science (IISC), Bengaluru, he explored the transcriptome of cell-free nucleic acids in chronic HCV patients undergoing antiviral therapy. He later contributed as Project Scientist-III to the DBT-BRICS initiative on genomic surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 across Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, where he gained extensive expertise in next-generation sequencing (NGS), viral epidemiology, and public health surveillance. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he played a key role in establishing a BSL-2 laboratory for SARS-CoV-2 diagnostics at Suri Sadar Hospital, West Bengal, and actively contributed to viral genome sequencing and analysis through the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomic Consortium.

His research expertise encompasses viral molecular biology, drug resistance, transcriptomics, and in vitro viral infection models. He has contributed significantly to HBV research, having submitted over 60 full HBV genome sequences to GenBank, and has co-authored 14 peer-reviewed publications in high-impact journals such as *Clinical Microbiology and Infection*, *Journal of Virology*, *Scientific Reports*, *Journal of Viral Hepatitis*, *Microbiology Spectrum*, and *Journal of Biosciences*. His scholarly impact is reflected in 407 citations, an h-index of 10, and an i10-index of 10 on Google Scholar.

Recognized nationally and internationally, Dr. Mondal has presented his work at major virology conferences, receiving awards for oral presentation and best poster presentations in international HBV meetings held in Germany (2015) and the UK (2012). His accolades include the DBT Research Associateship (2020), CSIR-UGC NET Lectureship (2007), and several international travel grants from ICMR, DST, and CICS. Beyond research and teaching, he contributes to the scientific community as a reviewer for leading journals including Microbiology Spectrum, Scientific Reports, Journal of Biosciences, and BMC Infectious Diseases.

Through his multidisciplinary expertise of more than 16 years spanning viral molecular virology, public health, and academic leadership, Dr. Rajiv Kumar Mondal continues to advance viral research and education, bridging laboratory science with real-world health challenges. At the ICFAI University, Tripura, Dr. Mondal's academic contributions extend beyond research into teaching, mentoring, and administration. As Principal of FAHS, he oversees academic and administrative operations, ensuring quality education, curriculum development, research promotion, and accreditation compliance. The role involves mentoring faculty, guiding students, managing operations, fostering industry collaborations, and facilitating internships and placements through collaborations with hospitals across India to prepare future-ready healthcare professionals aligned with national and global standards.