This is my story

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MD Anderson Cancer Center
Making Cancer History®

Shailendra Mundhada, M.D., M.S.

Owner/Director
Dhruv Pathology & Molecular Diagnostic Lab (NABL Accredited)
Nagpur, Maharashtra, India

Shailendra Mundhada

Blazing a trail of "firsts" for central India

During a trip to the United States in 1997 for a family wedding, Shailendra Mundhada, M.D., M.S., took a side trip to MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston to learn more about the institution for which he had long followed and had great respect. Five years later and with encouragement from Dr. Varsha Gandhi, with whom he spent time with during his initial visit, Dr. Mundhada earned a Master of Science degree in Immunology from the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center UTHealth Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. Dr. Mundhada's quest to learn new techniques to take back to his home country of India was now in forward motion.

After spending seven years as a hospital pathologist at RST Regional Cancer Center in Nagpur, Maharashtra, India, Dr. Mundhada took a bold step after his return from his studies in the United States and founded the Dhruv Pathology & Molecular Diagnostic Lab in Nagpur. Mundhada's drive to maximize his knowledge and newly learned techniques to improve the health of people in India now had a home.

Since the genesis of the Dhruv lab, there have been many *firsts* for the people of central India.

- Dhruv lab was the **first molecular lab** in the central India region.
- Dhruv lab supported the **Phase 3 clinical trial for the AstraZeneca COVID vaccine**.
- Dhruv lab was the **first private lab in central India to offer COVID testing**. To date, more than 100,000 COVID RT-PCR tests have been processed with at one point, more than 1,000 people per day presenting at the lab for COVID testing.
- **Transplant Immunology Lab.** Dhruv Lab is the first in central India to support organ transplants. To date more than 400 kidney and liver transplants have been supported since inception through the Dhruv lab. The cadaver transplant program took off because of the initiatives of Dhruv Lab. The lab is performing HLA tissue typing (CDC + Luminex method), HLA Cross match. It also does the Immunosuppressant (Tacrolimus) drug levels required post-transplant for monitoring.

	• **HIV Lab.** Dr. Mundhada was the first to start CD4 counts and HIV viral loads for HIV patient monitoring in central India. • **Influenza (H1N1) Testing.** Dhruv was the first private lab to get official permission to start H1N1 testing. • **Lab Accreditation.** Dhruv Lab has maintained accreditation for quality since 2012 from the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL). Shailendra and his wife, Sheela Mundhada, M.D., are the first NABL assessors from Nagpur. Dr. Sheela Mundhada completed a Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) and International Cancer Research Technology Transfer Fellowship (ICRETT) at MD Anderson Cancer Center in 2002. • **Blood Bank.** Dr. Shailendra and his wife founded the first blood bank with blood component and apheresis facility. The blood bank was first in central India to earn accreditation from India's National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers (NABH). They also attempted the first Stem Cell Transplantation using PBSC apheresis. Additionally, Dhruv lab is processing PCRs for HCV, HBV, HPV, CMV H1N1 and TB testing. Also, they have an advanced automated microbiology, clinical pathology, histopathology, and hematology capabilities. And with Nagpur being endemic for Sickle Cell Disease (SCD), Dhruv lab was involved in a project on antenatal detection of SCD with India Gandhi Government Medical College and the Sickle Cell Association in Nagpur. Dr. Mundhada's time at MD Anderson prepared him to introduce services to the people of central India that previously were not available. Although he has achieved much success, he has no plans to rest on his laurels. Dr. Mundhada will continue to reach as many people as possible with the latest techniques and processes available. And he is grateful to MD Anderson Cancer Center for fueling his passion for improving the health of the people of Central India.
MD Anderson School(s) from which I graduated	The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center UTHealth Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences
MD Anderson Degree	Master of Science – Immunology
Graduation Year	2003
Current Employer	Dhruv Pathology & Molecular Diagnostic Lab

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Current City	Nagpur, Maharashtra, India
Current Position	Owner/Director of the Dhruv Pathology & Molecular Diagnostic Lab
Academic area of specialization	Molecular Pathology
Who are your mentors?	The people who influenced me include **Dr. Varsha Gandhi**, **Dr. Craig Mullen**, and **Dr. Pedro Cano**. They influenced me because of their future vision and research potential as well as the encouragement they gave me. Because of my association with Dr. Mullen, we brought him to Nagpur as a guest faculty at a local academic program ***Varsha Gandhi, Ph.D.**, is a former chair of the executive committee of The University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Professor and Chair Ad Interim for the* Department of Experimental Therapeutics, Division of Cancer Medicine. ***Craig A. Mullen, M.D., Ph.D.**, former Associate Professor in Pediatrics Patient Care at MD Anderson Cancer Center, is Chief of the Pediatric Hematology / Oncology Division at the University of Rochester Medical Center in New York.* ***Pedro Cano, M.D., M.B.A**, former Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Laboratory Medicine and former Medical Director of the HLA Typing Laboratory at MD Anderson Cancer Center, is a professor at Moffitt Cancer Center in Florida.*
Family Life	Married with two children
Works of interest	• Rhinosporodiosis. Diagnosisby scrape cytology PMID: 7571972 • Cellular tumor vaccines administered after T cell-depleted allogeneic bone marrow transplantation induce effective anti-tumor immune responses. PMID: 16019486 • Three unusual cases of parasites in eye PMID: 30706886 • Incidence of influenza during pregnancy and association with pregnancy and perinatal outcomes in three middle-income countries: a multisite prospective longitudinal cohort study PMID: 30241481 • The Pregnancy and Influenza Multinational Epidemiologic (PRIME) study: a prospective cohort study of the impact of influenza during pregnancy among women in middle-income countriesPMC6150986

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Graduate school(s) from which I received a degree(s).	• The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center UTHealth Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences MS – Immunology – 2003
Undergraduate school(s) from which I received a degree(s).	• Government Medical College, Nagpur, India – M.D./1990 • Government Medical College, Nagpur India – MBBS/1985 Bachelor of Medicine & Bachelor of Surgery (equivalent to M.D. degree in the United States)
High school from which I received a degree.	• Sarawati Vidyalaya (High School) – 1978 Nagpur, Maharashtra, India

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