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KEYNOTE LECTURE



Sheetal Pundir, PhD

Medical Student, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences | McGill University

Sheetal Pundir received the Dean's scholarship for her PhD from the University of Ottawa where she worked on novel anticancer drugs that led to patents and the establishment of Ramsey Lake Pharmaceuticals. Her postdoctoral work defined the metabolic traits of healthy and diseased vasculature in proliferative retinopathies and explored new therapeutic interventions with the potential to improve vision. Sheetal has earned numerous awards for her research collaborations on a diverse range of projects including diabetes prevention, health promotion initiatives, clinical trials, infectious disease diagnosis and the impact of COVID-19 on mental health and education. Recently, she also started initiatives on interventions promoting inner wellbeing among students. She actively contributes to ORBIS initiative of creating free educational resources for medical students from countries with limited resources. As a spokesperson for AIM for Seva Canada, a non-profit organization committed to the education of children from rural and remote areas, she performed in a spoken word poetry fundraising tour. Recognized through several national and international public speaking awards, Sheetal spoke at TEDxNickelCity and represented Canada at the World Championship of Public Speaking. Sheetal also works for **Collaboration Interprofessionnelle Montréalaise Étudiante** (CIME), a community-based, interdisciplinary intervention program for asylum seeker families in Montreal and a winner of Quebec's prestigious Forces AVENIR award.