

# VARUN RACHAKONDA

CELL 281-235-6642 • E-MAIL VARUNR@STANFORD.EDU

## EDUCATION

---

09/2005 – Present

Stanford University, Stanford, CA

### **Bachelor of Science, Biomechanical Engineering, Expected May 2009**

- Current Cumulative GPA: 3.79 /4.00
- Course work: Manufacturing & Design, Statistics & Probability, Differential equations, Stem Cell engineering, Biology, Physics, Chemistry (Bio, Organic, Physical, & Inorganic).
- Skills: SolidWorks, Java, Microsoft Office, Finite Element Analysis.

08/2001 – 05/2005

St. John's School, Houston, TX

- High school achievements: Siemens Westinghouse Semifinalist, National Merit Finalist, Bausch and Lomb Science Award (University of Rochester), AP Scholar with Distinction, Suzy Mercado Scholarship
- Cumulative GPA – 93.3/100.0 SAT Score: 1550

## WORK EXPERIENCE

---

6/20/07 – 8/10/07

Houston, TX

### **Endothelix, Inc. – Biomechanical Engineering Summer Intern**

- Performed In-House studies for medical device parameter optimization
- Proposed new software algorithm for *Vendys* medical device system
- Assisted with grant writing and manuscript publication

01/10/07 – 6/15/07

Stanford University, Stanford, CA

### **Department of Neurosurgery, Dr. Stephen Skirboll**

- Recipient of Stanford University Undergraduate Research Program Quarterly Grant (Winter 2007)
- Project Focus: Characterization of cancer stem cells in human malignant gliomas
- Designed/optimized novel microfluidic device, performed tissue culture, microimmunopanning assays

06/2006 – 8/2006

University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, TX

### **Department of Cell Biology and Neurological Sciences, Dr. Qing Lin**

- Participated in Summer Undergraduate Research Program (SURP) at UTMB
- Project Focus: Determined the role of neurogenic components (dorsal root reflexes) in colonic inflammation in rats
- Performed rat microsurgery, Laser-Doppler blood flow measurements, & pharmacology

06/2004 – 10/2004

Rice University, Houston, TX

### **Tissue Engineering Lab, Dr. Kyriacos A. Athanasiou**

- Project Focus: Developed scaffold-free tissue constructs to replace degenerated articular cartilage
- Determined a new method of augmenting cell numbers to prepare tissue constructs
- Selected as semi-finalist winner in Siemens-Westinghouse Science Competition

06/2003 – 02/2004

Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX

### **Parkinson's Disease Lab, Dr. Wei-Dong Le**

- Conducted lab procedures such as DNA and RNA extraction, tissue analysis, gel electrophoresis, and PCR
- Published (Oct 2004) a review article on the Biomarkers of Neurodegenerative Diseases

## PUBLICATIONS

---

**Rachakonda V, Pan TH, LE WD.** "Biomarkers of neurodegenerative disorders: how good are they?" Cell Res. 2004 Oct;14(5):347-58. Review.

## LEADERSHIP AND ACTIVITIES

---

- Co-President of Stanford Student Biodesign (SSB) 2007-2008
- Research coordinator for SEVA (Stanford Emergency Research Institute) 2007-2008
- SCOPE – Hospital Intern 2007-2008
- Associate Director of Asia-Pacific Student Entrepreneurship Society (ASES) 2006-2007
- Special Events Co-Chair of SANSKRITI (South Asian Student Organization) 2006-2007
- Stanford Bhangra (Indian Dance) Team 2005-06/2007-08