# Dr (Ms). Vidita Vaidya, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai conferred on KT Shetty Memorial Oration – 2016

**Dr Vidita Vaidya** is currently a Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) in Mumbai. She received her PhD from Yale University working with Professor Ronald Duman. She did her postdoctoral training with Professor Ernest Arenas at Karolinska Institute and Prof. David Grahame-Smith at Oxford University. She joined TIFR as a faculty member in March 2000.

Dr. Vaidya's work has identified important targets for putative rapid-action antidepressants and provided key insights into the mechanisms that underlie the establishment of vulnerability to anxiety and depressive disorders. Dr. Vaidya's group demonstrated that norepinephrine and thyroid hormone regulate adult hippocampal neurogenesis. The work has helped to identify key leads for future drug development of rapid-action antidepressants, and has opened up the possibility that fast-acting antidepressants may exert their effects on adaptive plasticity by reactivating developmental pathways within the adult brain. Dr. Vaidya's group has also identified persistent alterations in serotonin receptor ($5\text{-HT}_{2A}$ receptor) function evoked by adverse early experience in specific emotional neurocircuits, and their role in setting up individual differences in vulnerability to psychopathology. Her work has highlighted both the adaptive and maladaptive consequences of early stress, and indicated that antidepressant treatments and $5\text{-HT}_{2A}$ receptor blockade can rescue the long-lasting maladaptive effects of early stress experience

Prof. Vidita Vaidya is an elected fellow of the Indian National Science Academy (INSA). She has been a Senior Overseas Research Fellow of the Wellcome Trust. She received the National Bioscientist Award from Department of Biotechnology, New Delhi in 2012 and the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award for Medical Sciences in 2015.

**More info: http://www.tifr.res.in/~dbs/faculty/vvlab/Research.html**