

Nandita Mirajkar received her DVM from Bombay Veterinary College, India in 2010. She is currently a PhD candidate at the College of Veterinary Medicine - University of Minnesota, where she trains in Veterinary Microbiology & Molecular Diagnostics. Her thesis research involves developing diagnostic tests to detect and characterize the causative agents of swine dysentery (*Brachyspira hyodysenteriae* and "*Brachyspira hampsonii*") as well as whole genome sequencing to identify genes associated with virulence and pathogenesis of the disease. Her research is expected to improve diagnosis, treatment and control of *Brachyspira* infections, particularly swine dysentery in pigs.