

## One Science and Technology Grant, Many Results



Sujan Shresta, Ph.D.

Grant dollars provided through The San Diego Foundation always create positive impact for San Diego, though sometimes they come in new and unexpected ways. An exemplary case is the \$55,000 Blasker award granted to Sujana Shresta, Ph.D. through The Foundation's Science and Technology Working Group last year. It helped fund the research of Dr. Shresta, Ph.D., of the La Jolla Institute for Allergy and Immunology. The award supported Dr. Shresta in her work that could lead to a first-ever vaccine for dengue virus. Dengue fever, a dangerous disease affecting millions worldwide, is an imminent public health threat in the San Diego region.

In addition to funding critical research, the grant contributed to Dr. Shresta's productivity as a young investigator, which helped her receive a larger, multi-year grant from the National Institutes of Health to continue her research. Furthermore, two UCSD graduate students working with Dr. Shresta were able to sharpen their

critical thinking skills, solidify their interest in combining infectious disease research with patient care and co-author a recently published paper. Dr. Shresta's story successfully fulfills a number of goals of the Blasker award, including encouraging emerging scientists to work on cutting edge research, creating local impact with worldwide relevance for an important problem, publication in internationally recognized peer-reviewed journals, and leveraging additional research funding.