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"Together we have come out as a much stronger team"

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On Womenâ??s Day, in conversation with Dr Parul Ganju, Co-founder & Chief Executive Officer, Ahammune Biosciences



What were the major challenges faced in 2021- on the professional and personal front, and how did you overcome those?

The biggest challenge that the pandemic has brought with it is the uncertainty of what will happen next. With India seeing the worst of covid-19 in 2021 with the second wave, there was hardly anybody who was left unscathed by it. It was quite unnerving for me to stay away from my family during these times due to restrictions on travel and movement. Virtual resources helped me a lot to check-in on my family and friends and stay connected.

Our work too was affected due to disruption in supplies to our laboratory and working with limited workforce- which delayed work and shifted timelines. We have worked hard to ensure team safety along with financial stability of members. Keeping people's morale high under these uncertain times was a tough task but we always kept communication channels open with everybody. Together we have come out of this as a much stronger team. Even under these tough times, 2021 has also been an unprecedented year for the team as our first IND application was approved by DCGI!

Any take-home message for all women achievers in the life sciences sector?

Embrace the challenges in life, they just might be the trigger for your next innovation.

About Her-

For Dr Parul Ganju, 2021 was full of development as her team at Ahammune Biosciences filed the first Investigational New Drug (IND) Application with the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) for approval to conduct human studies with its lead drug candidate for vitiligo, with freshly infused capital raised in a Pre-Series A round. Besides vitiligo, through her startup Dr Parul is aiming to target multiple dermatological indications with a deep pipeline of IP-based molecules that modulate cellular pathways underlying skin health and immunity.