



## **Biosketch**

### **Annamma Spudich, PhD(biological sciences/biochemistry)**

Annamma Spudich, born in Kerala, India, experienced first-hand the many aspects of traditional Indian medical culture, and developed a deep interest in diseases primarily endemic in tropical areas.

Spudich is a cell biologist (PhD, 1988, Biology Dept, Stanford University), and was awarded the Frances Lou Kallman Award for Excellence in Science and Graduate Study upon graduation. She did postdoctoral work with Professor Lubert Stryer in the Department of Structural Biology, Stanford University School of Medicine, and in 1990 received the McCormick Fund Award for Women. From 1992-1994, she served as Associate Director of the Cell Sciences Imaging Facility, Beckman Center, Stanford University School of Medicine. She was a Senior Research Associate in the Department of Biochemistry, Stanford University School of Medicine, from 1994-1998. From 1998-2000, Spudich was a Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Cellular and Molecular Pharmacology, University of California, San Francisco.

Spudich's industry experience includes a 1-year sabbatical leave from Stanford to work at Genentech as a Visiting Scientist, on a project related to the actin cytoskeleton. She also served as Senior Advisor, India Operations, for Calyx Therapeutics, Hayward, California from 2002-2004, and served on the Scientific Advisory Board of Cimed, Bangalore, India from 2018-2019.

Spudich has published numerous important papers dealing with the role of the actin-based cytoskeleton in fertilization and cell division and has been an invited speaker at the American Society for Cell Biology Annual Meeting, the Gordon Research Conference on The Cytoskeleton, the National Institutes of Health, the Max-Planck Institute, Munich, Germany, and the Workshop on the Cytoskeleton and Cell Signaling, International Congress of Cell Biology, Madrid, Spain.

For the last 20 years, Spudich has been an Independent Scholar on an ever-expanding study of traditional Indian medical culture and its interface with biomedicine. As a Visiting Scholar and then Visiting Professor at the National Center of Biological Sciences(NCBS)/TIFR, Bangalore she has published several seminal papers on this subject. She organized two conferences, the first at Stanford University on "The Seeds of Culture" and the second at the NCBS in Bangalore on "Indian Traditional Knowledge: History, Influences and New Directions for Natural Sciences." Spudich has curated major exhibits on contributions of traditional medical systems to contemporary medicine and science: at the Cantor Center for Visual Arts at Stanford University in 2003; at the NCBS in Bangalore in 2008 and 2017; and at the Traditional Medical Conference in Leiden in 2018. She also has an on-going installation at

the Natural History Museum, India.

Spudich has given numerous invited lectures on the interface of traditional medical systems, contemporary science and medical history. They include lectures at the National Geographic Society in Washington, D.C.; Stanford University School of Medicine; the Magnes Museum/Bancroft Library at the University of California Berkeley; the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) in Bangalore; the International Ayurveda Conference in Trivandrum; the International Conference on the Natural History of Indian Biodiversity in Hyderabad; the INK conference in Mumbai; the 25th Anniversary Symposium at the NCBS in Bangalore; the Research Cluster, Biodiversity and Medicines, Pharmacognosy and Phyto-therapy, UCL School of Pharmacy; University College, London; and the International Traditional Medical Systems Conference, Leiden, Netherlands.

Since 2005 Spudich has been a Visiting Scholar/Visiting Professor at the NCBS/TIFR, Bangalore, India. She also has been a Consultant at the Foundation for the Revitalization of Local Health Traditions (FRLHT), Bangalore, India since 2009.

In summary, Annamma Spudich's experiences in basic research, the biotech industry, her independent scholarship on regional medical cultures, and her first-hand experience with the prevalence and ravages of vector borne diseases in tropical areas, stimulates her keen interest in therapeutic approaches to neglected diseases that affect populations globally.