

# DR APARNA DHAR



## Advancing Precision Oncology through Genomic Insight & Compassionate Care



Dr Aparna Dhar  
 Cancer Genetics & Molecular  
 Oncology Specialist

India's Cancer Genetics and Molecular Oncology landscape is reshaping how cancer is understood and treated. Moving beyond one-size-fits-all approaches, this evolving discipline decodes cancer at a genetic and molecular level, enabling precise diagnostics, targeted therapies, and truly personalized care. At the forefront of this transformation is Dr Aparna Dhar, a Cancer Genetics and Molecular Oncology specialist with over 18 years of experience spanning clinical practice, translational research, and genetic counselling.

Trained at globally reputed institutions including the Mayo Clinic and the University of Glasgow, she has contributed to groundbreaking programs across NHS Scotland, the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, and the Harvard Medical Foundation. This international exposure has given her a deep understanding of population-scale genomics and its translation into clinical care. Currently based in India, she leads oncology and genetic counselling programs across Max Hospitals, where she plays a critical role in embedding genomic testing into routine oncology practice. "Cancer is no longer a single disease; it is a collection of molecularly distinct conditions, and understanding that difference is where meaningful treatment begins", says Dr Aparna Dhar, Cancer Genetics & Molecular Oncology specialist, Max Super Speciality Hospital.

### An Evolving Path in Oncology

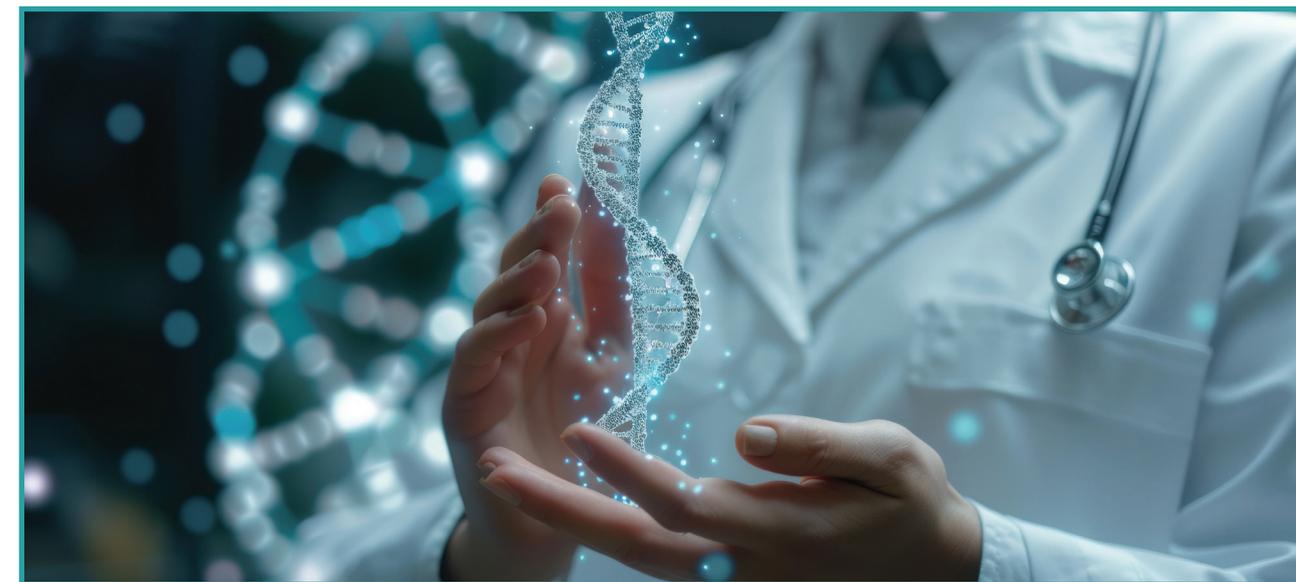
Dr Aparna Dhar's entry into cancer genetics was not premeditated but evolved organically through circumstance and curiosity. Her early academic grounding was in cardiovascular genetics, influenced by a strong family history of cardiac disease. The emphasis in her

early education and postgraduate studies reflected her early research focus, which remained consistently linked with inherited cardiovascular diseases. The phase also corresponded with a critical point in cancer research when new genomic findings were establishing an understanding of cancer being a biologically heterogeneous entity with fundamentally different molecular underpinnings.

As she gained increasing insight into her advanced education and international clinics, she saw how molecular biology was quickly translating from basic principles into practice. Targeted therapies and precision oncology were no longer purely theoretical concepts, but practical tools for making a tangible impact. Gradually, Dr Aparna Dhar found herself being pulled towards the complexity and potential for making a difference in molecular oncology. Often, she reflects with a conviction she holds with her paternal grandfather, who believed that sometimes in life, one is swerved towards a different path not because one's previous path was incorrect, but because another voice beckons.

### Integrating Genomics with Compassionate Care

What truly differentiates Dr Aparna Dhar's practice is her foundation as a medical geneticist combined with her identity as a genetic counsellor. This dual training enables her to work across specialties seamlessly while anchoring each clinical decision in patient understanding and emotional context. To her, genetic counseling is not an add-on service but the key to good precision oncology. She makes the point of elaborating that genetic risk communication needs to be clear, empathetic, and nuanced. Risk without understanding inspires fear, while



thoughtful explanation empowers patients and families to make decisions. "Risk does not need to be frightening when it is communicated with honesty, sensitivity, and perspective; understanding creates agency", says Dr Aparna Dhar. Her clinical model integrates genomic sequencing, molecular profiling, diagnostics, and counselling into a single, continuous care pathway.

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 Dr Aparna Dhar believes that the true power of precision oncology lies not just in decoding genes, but in translating that knowledge with empathy, clarity, and purpose to meaningfully improve patients' lives

Reports are not treated as isolated data points but as narratives that reflect tumor biology, personal history, and familial context. Advances such as liquid biopsies and multi-omics profiling now enable real-time disease

monitoring and early identification of resistance or recurrence. Artificial intelligence further supports her work by assisting with complex data interpretation and reducing the scope for human error. However, she remains clear that technology enhances rather than replaces clinical judgment. Genomics provides information, but it is the clinician's responsibility to translate that information into meaningful, humane care. Her thought leadership and clinical contributions have been featured across leading healthcare publications and global platforms, including ASCO Breakthrough and ESMO Asia, reinforcing her role in shaping conversations around precision oncology in India.

### Future Vision

Dr Aparna Dhar sees the next phase of her work rooted in education, collaboration, and system-level impact. Having spent the last eight years practicing in India, she has developed a nuanced understanding of the country's healthcare realities and patient expectations. Expanding genetic literacy among clinicians and patients alike remains central to her vision, as she believes that the success of precision oncology depends as much on awareness as on innovation. She is particularly passionate about multidisciplinary collaboration through molecular tumor boards, which foster shared decision-making and collective learning, initiatives she actively supports within Max Healthcare. Over the next decade, her goal is to ensure that genomic science translates into tangible benefits for patients, without losing sight of empathy and communication. **si**