

Saswata Talukdar, Ph.D.

Director and Leader of CardioMetabolic Disease,
Early Discovery group, Merck

Dr. Talukdar received his B.Sc. in Chemistry and M.Sc. in Biochemistry from the University of Calcutta, India. He then moved to the U.S. and completed his Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the West Virginia University School of Medicine. He had a productive postdoctoral research period in the laboratory of Jerry Olefsky at UCSD where he published a series of high-impact papers on insulin resistance and different approaches to improving insulin sensitivity, e.g., various GPCR's including 21, 105, 120 as well as FGF21. Before joining Merck, he was Biology leader on FGF21, and led a matrixed team representing many disciplines to guide a preclinical asset through to Phase 1. He was the Biology point of contact and team member for the Ertugliflozin-Sitagliptin Phase 3 development joint project between Pfizer and Merck, and is serving the role at Merck. He has authored several publications and maintains a strong external network with KOLs through invited talks in National and International meetings. Saswata is passionate about science and committed to a career in research in an attempt to bring the next generation therapeutic to improve patients' lives.