

R·I·T Science+Math

MONTH IN REVIEW

Moumita Das awarded NSF research

Assistant professor Moumita Das, of the School of Physics and Astronomy, is the principal investigator on a project that has been awarded \$334,963 from the National Science Foundation. Co-principal investigators on the project, titled *Biorheology of the vitreous gel* are Scott Franklin, SoPA; David Ross, SMS; and George Thurston, SoPA. This project will explore the relationships between the structure of the vitreous gel of the human eye and its mechanical and thermodynamic properties in order to understand how changes in those properties are correlated with vision impairment.



[NSF >](#)

This summer, Dr. Das was among six teams of researchers to win funding to probe the fundamental physical processes at the cellular level fundamental to all living organisms. Das was a member of two of the six research teams formed at a cross-disciplinary conference called [Scialog: Molecules Come to Life](#). The conference was sponsored by the Gordon and Betty Moore

Foundation, the Research Corporation for Science Advancement, and the Simons Foundation. Her team includes Daniel Needleman, Harvard University, and Douglass Weibel, University of Wisconsin, Madison on a project titled *Heteroplasmy: population dynamics of mitochondria in mammalian cells*.

