DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

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Sympathetic nervous system: connectivity and functions

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Rejji Kuruvilla, Ph.D.
Professor, Department of Biology
Vice Dean for Natural Sciences
Johns Hopkins University

HOST: Austin Keeler

Dr. Rejji Kuruvilla is a Professor in the Biology Department at Johns Hopkins University. She joined the Biology Department as an Assistant Professor in 2005, was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in 2012, and to Professor in 2019. She joined the Deans Office, Krieger School of Arts and Sciences as the Vice-Dean for Natural Sciences in Jan 2024. She obtained her B.S. in Chemistry from St. Xavier's College Kolkata, India, and a Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the University of Houston, TX, USA. She completed a post-doctoral fellowship in the Department of Neuroscience, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.

Dr. Kuruvilla's research focuses on the sympathetic nervous system, which controls physiological processes, including cardiac function, body temperature, blood glucose, and immune function. Dr. Kuruvilla was elected as a fellow of the American Association for Advancement in Science (AAAS) in 2023. She served as a standing member of NIH study section from 2013–2017 and has chaired international conferences (Gordon Research Conferences/Keystone Symposia). She served the Director of Graduate Studies for the Cell, Molecular, Developmental Biology, and Biophysics (CMDB) graduate program at Johns Hopkins from 2014-2021. She has mentored several early career faculty, post-doctoral fellows, graduate students, undergraduate students, and high school students. She has been involved in public outreach activities, including presenting in the "Women in Science" series at a Baltimore high school, mentoring faculty in a grant writing workshop at Morgan State University, a HBCU, and mentoring high school students in research projects in her laboratory.