

Nikhil is the Senior Microbiologist at Canalysis Laboratories in Las Vegas, Nevada. Prior to joining Canalysis, Nikhil had 17 years of experience at renowned genomics institutes in Maryland, namely The Institute for Genomic Research (TIGR) / J. Craig Venter Institute (JCVI) and The Institute for Genome Sciences (IGS). At both institutes, Nikhil gained an expertise in genomics research, using advanced molecular biology tools to study host-pathogen interactions. Notably, in 2007, Nikhil was part of the team at TIGR that discovered the presence of a bacterial genome within the genome of the fruit fly *Drosophila ananassae*. Building off this groundbreaking discovery, Nikhil's work centered around investigating this phenomenon in closer detail across a variety of invertebrates, including identifying potential drug targets in the genome of the nematode that causes lymphatic filariasis. The research took on a new importance as the team discovered bacterial DNA integrations in human cancer genomes; Nikhil spent many hours in the lab engineering and validating the effects of these integrations. In addition to his research emphasis on bacteria-animal gene transfer, Nikhil developed methods to enrich bacterial mRNA in host-microbe interactions, enabling cost-effective transcriptional profiling of symbionts like *Wolbachia* and *Ehrlichia*. Nikhil has a BS in Biology from the University of Michigan and a MS in Biotechnology from Johns Hopkins University. He was recently appointed to Nevada's Independent Laboratory Advisory Committee.