We use this document as a guiding principle:
https://catalog.gatech.edu/academics/graduate/expectations/

What is the vision of your lab?
The Bhamla Lab is a group of biophysicists and bioengineers who focus on cultivating an often-overlooked scientific attribute: curiosity. We focus on 2 main themes: Physics of living systems and Frugal Science.

How often do you meet?
The Bhamla Group has one weekly group meeting, with general announcements and discussion followed by a presentation by two group members. Occasionally, we invite guest speakers. I prefer to meet biweekly with each graduate student for one hour and postdoc for individual meetings. However, this can be adapted based on the student's needs and preferences. For example, sometimes we have a weekly subgroup instead.

What is your advising style?
I am both hands-on and hands-off, depending on the stage of the project. I am heavily involved in initiating projects, especially if they involve new systems. I also am responsible for fundraising and providing resources for your research. Since we have a sizable lab, some students have a postdoctoral collaborator or mentor, say someone who does numerical simulations to help the experimental graduate student. Overall, I aim to help you clearly define your next steps. While you will ideally identify these steps yourself, I will assist you, particularly at the beginning. The sooner you take on the role of project leader with me as your advisor, the more productive you will become. My ultimate goal is to support you in becoming an independent researcher.

How does co-advising work?
For co-advising, we set up a mutual expectation document. The student is expected to attend group meetings in both labs they are in. We have had successful co-advisees for PhD/postdoc in physics, chemistry and other colleges on campus. We are collegial and collaborative.

Are you an experimental or a computational group? Primarily we are an experimental group. We do have theorists and computational postdocs in our lab. Grad students often blend experiments, simulations, and even robotics in our work - see example publications to see a flavor of our work style.

Do your graduate students do internships?
Graduate students can participate in summer programs such as at the Marine Biological Lab and in Jungle Biomechanics in Peru, where they venture into the Amazon to explore and find topics of interest. These opportunities offer excellent experience and exposure. Until now, we don’t have students who conducted internships but my ideology is to be open to ideas as they come. Aligning with the same idea and keeping my goal as a mentor to maximize your learning outcome and growth as a scientist. So, if a student has an offer with a plan that makes sense I’ll be open to it.

**Where do your students and postdocs go after they graduate?** Many students and postdocs work at large chemical and pharmaceutical companies. Multiple students work at national labs and in academic positions in the US and abroad. [https://bhamla.gatech.edu/past-lab-members](https://bhamla.gatech.edu/past-lab-members). One member from our lab has spun out technology and formed a company as the founding CEO.

**What sort of hours do you expect students to work?** I do not monitor the amount of time that you are working. It is most important to be efficient with your time, and also it takes a significant amount of time to be productive. My primary concern is to help you be productive. Graduate students and postdocs are allowed three weeks of vacation time, not including national holidays, as per GT policy. Please let me know in advance when you plan to take vacation time and make sure to put it in my calendar. If you plan to take an extended vacation (>2 weeks), please discuss this with me beforehand, to avoid any impact on your funding or visa status. Typically I work with international students, who may need extended time for family travel. I am an immigrant myself and understand these challenges first-hand.

**How many papers do you expect students to publish?** I do not have a fixed number of papers required to graduate. A good minimum goal would be to have three first-author papers plus additional papers based on collaboration. I believe in quality over quantity. My students have graduated with 1 published first-author paper (with a 2nd, 1st author after graduation). We’ve had students with 10 co-authored papers. We usually set goals during the 1st year of PhD of what aspirations a student has. For folks headed to industry, a couple of solid papers are good enough. For students headed to academia, we target flagship journals, which takes extra time and effort. I want you to have a strong publication record to set you up for your next steps after graduation. For students aiming for startups, we prioritize patents, technology development, and translation, such as efforts on field-testing and commercialization pathways (such as through NSF, icorp).

**Do your students attend professional conferences?** Presenting your research at national and international conferences is an important part of your PhD or postdoc experience. I encourage students to submit abstracts to conferences once they have conclusive results in place for their first publication. We support students to present both posters and oral abstracts - both have their
benefits. Developing your science communication skills is important to me and conferences are a big part of this process.

Do you have undergraduate researchers in your lab? Yes. Undergraduate students are typically mentored by a graduate student or postdoc and start by taking research credit (3 credit hours $\geq 10$ hours of research/week). If you are interested in undergraduate research, please reach out to me by email with your resume and interests. We also have opportunities for High schoolers under the Frugal Science Academy which brings many ideas and excitement to the group.

How do you like to be reached during non-emergencies? We use Slack primarily. Students and postdocs have my cell phone number to call or text, but typically this is for urgent issues in exceptional situations.