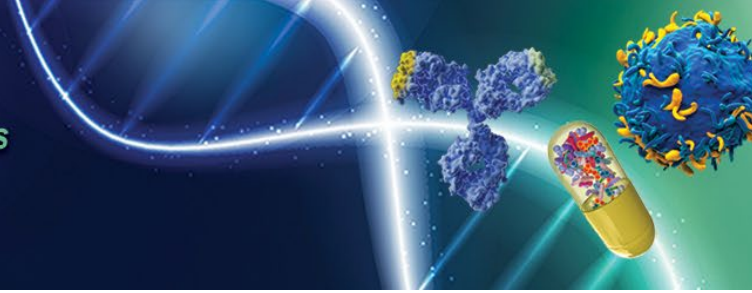


2026 ACCP Annual Meeting

“Harnessing Changing Clinical Pharmacology Paradigms
to Improve Patient Outcomes”

September 27 – 29, 2026 • N Bethesda, Maryland



2026 Tanabe Young Investigator Award

Gauri Rao, PharmD, MS

Associate Professor of Clinical Pharmacy and

Director of the Center for Quantitative Drug & Disease Modeling,

Univ of Southern California Alfred E. Mann School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences

Dr. Gauri Rao is an Associate Professor at the Univ of Southern California (USC) and serves as Director of the Ctr for Quantitative Drug & Disease Modeling at the USC Alfred E. Mann School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences. She earned her PharmD from the Univ at Buffalo, where she also completed postdoctoral training in Infectious Diseases Pharmacokinetics/Pharmacodynamics (PK/PD) and obtained a Master’s in Pharmacometrics in collaboration with Hoffmann-La Roche. Additionally, she holds a master’s degree in Computer Engineering from Michigan State Univ and a Bachelor’s in Electronics Engineering from the Univ of Pune, India.

Dr. Rao leads a translational research program focused on leveraging Quantitative Systems Pharmacology (QSP) to unravel the complex interplay between host immune responses, antimicrobial therapies, and bacterial resistance. Her work integrates *in vitro* and *in vivo* infection models with advanced computational approaches to design optimized dosing strategies for antibiotics and phage therapy.

Her expertise in PK/PD modeling is particularly influential in developing targeted therapeutics such as inhaled phage therapies, where understanding drug distribution, local tissue exposure, and host-pathogen dynamics is essential for precision treatment.

Dr. Rao’s research has been supported by the National Inst of Health, Dept of Defense, US Food & Drug Administration and the Cystic Fibrosis Fdtn.