



Tejal Desai, Ph.D.

Training: She received the Sc.B. degree in Biomedical Engineering from Brown University in 1994 and the Ph.D. degree in bioengineering from the joint graduate program at University of California, Berkeley and the University of California, San Francisco, in 1998.

Department and Position: Professor of Physiology and Bioengineering at the University of California, San Francisco. She is also a member of the California Institute for Quantitative Biomedical Research and co-chair of the UCSF/UC Berkeley Graduate Group in Bioengineering.



Career Profile: Prior to joining UCSF, she was an Associate Professor of Biomedical Engineering and Associate Director of the Center for Nanoscience and Nanobiotechnology both at Boston University. Dr. Desai directs the Laboratory of Therapeutic Micro and Nanotechnology. Her research is on micro and nanofabrication techniques to create implantable biohybrid devices for cell encapsulation, targeted drug delivery, and templates for cell and tissue regeneration. In addition to authoring over 100 technical papers, she is presently a senior editor of *Langmuir*, *Biomedical Microdevices*, and *Sensors Letters* and is co-editor of an encyclopedia on *Therapeutic Microtechnology*. She has chaired and organized numerous conferences and symposia in the area of bioMEMS, bio-nanotechnology, and micro/nanoscale drug delivery/tissue engineering. Her other interests include K-12 educational outreach, gender and science education, science policy issues, and biotechnology/bioengineering industrial outreach.

Dr. Desai's research efforts have earned her numerous awards. In 1999, she was recognized by Crain's Chicago Business magazine with their annual "40 Under 40" award for leadership. She was also named that year by Technology Review Magazine as one of the nation's "Top 100 Young Innovators" and more recently Popular Science's Brilliant 10. Dr. Desai's teaching efforts were recognized when she won the College of Engineering Best Advisor/Teacher Award. She also won the National Science Foundation's "New Century Scholar" award and the NSF Faculty Early Career Development Program "CAREER" award, which recognizes teacher-scholars most likely to become the academic leaders of the 21st century. Her research in therapeutic microtechnology has also earned her the Visionary Science Award from the International Society of BioMEMS and Nanotechnology in 2001, a World Technology Award Finalist in 2004, the 2006 Eurand Grand Prize Award for innovative drug delivery technology, and the 2007 Young Career Award from the Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society.

