Dr. Anand Chandrasekhar is a Professor of Biological Sciences at the University of Missouri in Columbia. Anand’s passion for biological research was triggered as an undergraduate at the Birla Institute in India when he learned about embryonic development, which describes the processes involved in transforming a nondescript fertilized egg (the original stem cell) into complex multicellular animals like humans. In his lab, Anand pursues his fascination for developmental biology by conducting research into the processes that give form and function to the brain and nervous system, and by examining the consequences of defects in these processes. He carries out these studies in fish and mouse embryos using histology, microscopy, genetics and biochemistry. This research can provide insights into neurodevelopmental disorders like autism and spina bifida, and is supported by grants from the National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Chandrasekhar received undergraduate degrees in Biology and Electrical Engineering from the Birla Institute of Technology and Science in India. He received a PhD in Developmental Biology from the University of Iowa and completed a post-doctoral fellowship in Neurobiology at the University of Michigan before joining the University of Missouri. Anand has been recognized for his excellence in teaching by the Purple Chalk (2005) and Kemper Fellow (2008) awards.