

## **ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: SONYA FONSECA, Ph.D. '02**

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Sonya Fonseca, Ph.D. '02, *Principal Scientist II | Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research*

### **INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION OF SCIENTISTS**

Dr. Sonya Fonseca, Class of 2002, is a Principal Scientist II for Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research, a global pharmaceutical company that utilizes innovative science and technology to address and reimagine medicine. Knowing that heart disease and stroke are the world's leading cause of death, Dr. Fonseca was motivated to pursue a career as a research scientist in the field of cardiovascular disease. "There is a high unmet medical need in this area, and I wanted to be involved in making medicines for patients to improve their quality of life, and hopefully someday find a cure." Her scientific contributions at Novartis are leading directly to novel medications for heart failure. Dr. Fonseca is also involved in student-mentoring programs. In her own words, "Science is a field where you can continually grow and learn new things every day. While this is definitely a key motivator, my real passion lies in helping patients. If I can have a small part in this process, this is all the motivation I need."

**Education:** *B.S. Biology, Rivier University; Ph.D. Molecular/Cell Biology, University of Massachusetts Medical School* ■