# Indian-born biochemist develops novel cosmeceutical for psoriasis relief in Belfast



An Indian-born biochemist is on a transformative mission to revolutionise dermatological care for the vast numbers of individuals suffering from skin conditions worldwide. This endeavour, spearheaded by Dr. Pragya Sharma, is inspired deeply by her personal family history, particularly her grandmother’s long struggle with psoriasis, a chronic autoimmune condition that can lead to debilitating symptoms. In establishing her Belfast-based start-up, Granlab, Dr. Sharma aims to bring innovative solutions to the approximately one billion people worldwide affected by skin issues, with a particular focus on those with psoriasis.

Granlab, named in homage to her grandmother, operates out of Belfast’s modern Medical Biology Centre (MBC), where it is positioned as one of Northern Ireland’s pioneering ‘cosmeceutical’ ventures. Combining the realms of cosmetics and pharmaceuticals, cosmeceuticals are products formulated to provide therapeutic benefits that extend beyond mere topical application. This innovative approach is exemplified in Dr. Sharma’s first product, GL-1, which aims to harness the healing properties of biominerals and rare earth metals without the side effects associated with steroid treatments.

The company has made significant strides since its inception, securing £600,000 in initial funding from various sources, including The MedTech Accelerator Rapid Regulatory Support Fund (MARRS) and Innovate UK. This financial backing underscores the growing interest in Granlab’s mission and highlights the potential market for its products, particularly as research indicates approximately 30 million people in the UK alone endure psoriasis, with equality and accessibility being of paramount importance in treatment formulations.

Granlab’s approach is deeply rooted in scientific rigour, and Dr. Sharma, with her PhD from Queen’s University in biochemical research, is equipped to lead this ambition. Her PhD work revolved around understanding iron transport mechanisms in cells, a foundation that became pertinent as recent studies have linked iron dysregulation to skin conditions like psoriasis. The insights derived from her academic work have directly influenced the formulation and development processes at Granlab, which have been validated through clinical trials involving over 300 participants globally. Results from these trials show that 70-80% of participants experienced significant improvements in symptoms, signalling a promising horizon for this novel treatment.

Granlab’s ambitions extend beyond just product development. Dr. Sharma is keenly aware of the broader context in which many psoriasis patients find themselves — often feeling isolated and unsupported in their battles against visible skin issues. To address this, she is developing a support network termed ‘The Clearing,’ aimed at fostering community among individuals facing similar challenges. This initiative reflects her commitment not only to scientific advancement but also to the emotional and social aspects of living with skin conditions.

As Granlab advances towards a 2026 market entry, it is not merely creating a product; it is setting a standard for how dermatological care can evolve. The start-up's phased rollout is designed to initially target dermatology offices and consumers via online platforms, before expanding to premium pharmacies and beauty retailers. Such strategy indicates a comprehensive approach to market penetration, ensuring accessibility of their products to diverse demographics, which is particularly crucial given that conventional treatments often fall short for individuals with varying skin tones and types.

Indeed, as the dermatological landscape transforms, Granlab represents a significant leap forward — blending scientific research with a compassionate understanding of the challenges faced by many. In doing so, Dr. Pragya Sharma stands poised to not only create innovative skincare solutions but also to instil a sense of belonging and confidence in those who have long suffered in silence.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraph 1: [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/business/how-an-indian-born-biochemist-is-using-belfast-as-a-global-base-to-revolutionise-skincare-V2CGAXHYERGNHIC3DXKIIZZRPM/), [[2]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/business/how-an-indian-born-biochemist-is-using-belfast-as-a-global-base-to-revolutionise-skincare-V2CGAXHYERGNHIC3DXKIIZZRPM/)
2. Paragraph 2: [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/business/how-an-indian-born-biochemist-is-using-belfast-as-a-global-base-to-revolutionise-skincare-V2CGAXHYERGNHIC3DXKIIZZRPM/), [[5]](https://www.granlab.co/)
3. Paragraph 3: [[3]](https://www.granlab.co/about), [[4]](https://www.northernirelandchamber.com/member-news/belfast-woman-inspired-by-grandmother-to-launch-revolutionary-medical-dermatology-business/)
4. Paragraph 4: [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/business/how-an-indian-born-biochemist-is-using-belfast-as-a-global-base-to-revolutionise-skincare-V2CGAXHYERGNHIC3DXKIIZZRPM/), [[2]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/business/how-an-indian-born-biochemist-is-using-belfast-as-a-global-base-to-revolutionise-skincare-V2CGAXHYERGNHIC3DXKIIZZRPM/)
5. Paragraph 5: [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/business/how-an-indian-born-biochemist-is-using-belfast-as-a-global-base-to-revolutionise-skincare-V2CGAXHYERGNHIC3DXKIIZZRPM/),[[4]](https://www.northernirelandchamber.com/member-news/belfast-woman-inspired-by-grandmother-to-launch-revolutionary-medical-dermatology-business/),[[7]](https://muckrack.com/pragya-sharma/articles)
6. Paragraph 6: [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/business/how-an-indian-born-biochemist-is-using-belfast-as-a-global-base-to-revolutionise-skincare-V2CGAXHYERGNHIC3DXKIIZZRPM/),[[3]](https://www.granlab.co/about)
7. Paragraph 7: [[2]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/business/how-an-indian-born-biochemist-is-using-belfast-as-a-global-base-to-revolutionise-skincare-V2CGAXHYERGNHIC3DXKIIZZRPM/),[[6]](https://www.beautynailhairsalons.com/XX/Unknown/490991777436556/Granlab)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/business/how-an-indian-born-biochemist-is-using-belfast-as-a-global-base-to-revolutionise-skincare-V2CGAXHYERGNHIC3DXKIIZZRPM/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/business/how-an-indian-born-biochemist-is-using-belfast-as-a-global-base-to-revolutionise-skincare-V2CGAXHYERGNHIC3DXKIIZZRPM/> - An Indian-born biochemist, Dr. Pragya Sharma, is on a mission to revolutionize dermatological care for those suffering from skin conditions worldwide. Inspired by her grandmother's battle with psoriasis, Dr. Sharma founded Granlab, a Belfast-based start-up focusing on cosmeceutical products. Granlab has secured £600,000 in initial funding and is preparing for market entry in 2026, aiming to provide innovative, steroid-free treatments for skin conditions.
3. <https://www.granlab.co/about> - Granlab, founded by Dr. Pragya Sharma, is dedicated to revolutionizing dermatological care for the 900 million people suffering from skin diseases globally. The company specializes in developing non-steroidal treatments that address symptoms and transform lives. Their GL-1 solution represents the next generation in psoriasis care, combining scientific excellence with compassion to restore confidence and quality of life.
4. <https://www.northernirelandchamber.com/member-news/belfast-woman-inspired-by-grandmother-to-launch-revolutionary-medical-dermatology-business/> - Dr. Pragya Sharma launched Gran Lab, a medical dermatology business, inspired by her grandmother's struggle with psoriasis. Supported by the Go For It programme in association with Belfast City Council, Gran Lab specializes in steroid-free, color-inclusive formulations for treating psoriasis and eczema. Dr. Sharma's dedication has been recognized with a Female Founders grant from Women in Business NI and Techstart Ventures LLP.
5. <https://www.granlab.co/> - Granlab is a Belfast-based company blending science and sensitivity to develop non-steroidal treatments for skin conditions like psoriasis and eczema. Their GL-1 formulation combines natural ingredients with advanced pharmaceutical science, offering a steroid-free solution that addresses the root causes of skin diseases. Granlab is committed to providing equitable skin health accessible to all, with color-inclusive products designed for a diverse consumer base.
6. <https://www.beautynailhairsalons.com/XX/Unknown/490991777436556/Granlab> - Granlab is a Belfast-based company combining Ayurveda and molecular science to treat psoriasis and eczema at the source. Their steroid-free, fast-absorbing GL-1 formulation is redefining skincare by blending nature's wisdom with scientific innovation. Granlab is committed to delivering equitable skin health accessible to all, with color-inclusive products designed for a diverse consumer base.
7. <https://muckrack.com/pragya-sharma/articles> - Dr. Pragya Sharma has authored several articles in reputable journals, including a study on a novel therapeutic target for hypertension management published in the Wiley Online Library. Her research contributions span various topics, showcasing her expertise in biochemistry and medicine. These publications reflect her commitment to advancing scientific knowledge and her dedication to addressing health challenges through innovative research.