Dr. Amara is a Charles Howard Candler Professor in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Emory Vaccine Center, Emory National Primate Research Center of Emory University. He received his Ph.D. from the Indian Institute of Sciences, Bangalore, India and did his postdoctoral fellowship at Emory University. His research is focused on the development of vaccines for infectious diseases such as HIV, SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19), HCV and Tuberculosis. Amara’s lab has pioneered the heterologous prime/boost vaccination approaches using DNA, modified vaccinia Ankara (MVA) and novel protein immunogens for vaccine delivery. A HIV vaccine based on these vectors was shown to be safe in healthy human volunteers and completed phase 2 studies in humans. Newer versions of this vaccine are under development and showed promise in the macaque model. More recently, Amara’s laboratory developed MVA and RBD-trimer based vaccines for COVID-19 and these vaccines showed promise in the NHP model. The MVA-COVID-19 vaccine is being manufactured in India for human testing. In addition, Amara’s lab is developing novel vaccination strategies to induce a strong mucosal antibody response and tissue resident memory CD8 T cells. Amara’s lab is also developing novel therapies for HIV by targeting the PD-1 co-inhibitory pathway combined with therapeutic vaccination. He published more than 130 peer-reviewed manuscripts and received multiple grants from NIH.