





## **TWO GRADUATE STUDENTS IN THE FUNCTIONAL FOODS LAB SUCCESSFULLY DEFEND THEIR THESES**

Two of Dr Bhimu Patil's graduate students who conducted much of their research at the Citrus Center recently successfully defended their theses. They are amongst eight interdisciplinary students who have graduated from Patil's lab within the last 5 years.

**Kranthi Mandadi** completed his master's degree through Texas A & M-Kingsville working on interdisciplinary research at the Citrus Center under the direction of Dr. Bhimu Patil, and later conducting animal studies under Dr. Farzad Deyhim in the Human Sciences Department in Kingsville. His study focused on isolating bioactive compounds present in citrus, namely limonoids and flavonoids, and evaluating whether their consumption would affect bone homeostasis in osteoporotic rats. The rats were fed these compounds, as well as a crude grapefruit extract, for 60 days, and then analyzed for bone density and strength. Those fed with limonin, naringin and the crude extract showed a significant increase in tibial density; femoral strength was also higher in rats fed on limonin and the crude extract. Limonin and naringin were found to increase bone formation and lower bone resorption. The results suggest a positive correlation between consumption of citrus fruit and maintaining bone health. Kranthi, who received several poster awards, has been accepted for the PhD program in Hmt.

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