Vishal Singh Parihar was born on 29th of March 1979 in the village of Haneja, Teh-Thathri, District Doda, Jammu and Kashmir. He was educated at Govt. Girls High School, Thathri and moved to Jammu-Tawi, where he studied up to 12th class at S. M. Jain High School. Continuing with Veterinary Medicine at Nagpur Veterinary College, Vishal achieved a Veterinary Medical Degree in 2002 and did research under the guidance of Prof. Dr. N. N. Zade at the Department of Veterinary Public Health in Nagpur.

Vishal was awarded 2003–2004 STINT-International fellowship for studies in veterinary public health at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, SLU, Uppsala, Sweden, where he was supervised by Prof. Wilhelm Tham and Prof. Marie-Louise Danielsson-Tham. The research conducted on zoonotic aspects of *Listeria monocytogenes* led to an MSc degree. Vishal continued his PhD studies at SLU, Uppsala, and later at Örebro University, Sweden, and did research in India under the supervision of Dr. S. B. Barbuddhe of ICAR Research Complex for Goa.

Although more than 350 papers are published annually on *L. monocytogenes,* few cover the transmission of *L. monocytogenes*. Vishal's interaction with researchers at the 2004 International Symposium on Problems of Listeriosis (ISOPOL XV), Uppsala, highlighted the lack of information about the sources and routes in the human population. Thus, this PhD thesis was dedicated to the issue. Animals in Vishal's home state (Jammu and Kashmir) suffer from listeriosis and have high mortality rates. However, no data are available about human population. Together with Dr. Barbuddhe at ICAR, Goa, Vishal demonstrated the possible role of fish as a source for human listeriosis in India. The research was presented in NATURE.

Vishal is gifted with a family in India comprising of papa (Shri. P. L. Parihar), mummy (Shri. Shakuntla Devi), two sisters (Dr. Sonika and Alka), the love of his life (his wife, Dr. Amitha), son (Daniel), brother-in-law (Ashok), and in Sweden, Wilhelm and Marie-Louise.

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