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Dr. Shalaka Kotkar is a safety specialist in the Biological Safety Program at UTHealth and an instructor for BIDTI. She holds a doctor of philosophy in cellular and molecular microbiology from Purdue University and a master's degree in public health in occupational and environmental health sciences from UTHealth School of Public Health. As a member of the Biological Safety Program, Dr. Kotkar led the annual commissioning of three BSL-3 laboratories, including a select agent laboratory. She also contributed significantly to developing and producing a UTHealth Ebola training video.