Dr Saikiran (Sai) Tharimena is a planetary seismologist. Sai started as a civil engineer but turned a scientist, with an urge to decipher the dynamics of the interior of Earth and planetary bodies. His research has a strong interdisciplinary theme with a keen interest in seismology, numerical modeling, geophysical instrumentation, physical oceanography, and remote sensing & GIS. He also tends to be philosophical at times.

Sai's prior research includes seismically imaging the lithosphere – asthenosphere system beneath different tectonic settings, such as large igneous provinces, oceans, and the continents; developing techniques to investigate the interiors of icy ocean worlds such as Europa, Enceladus, and Titan using global scale 3D numerical modeling of possible seismic signals; developing an innovative approach to estimate mixing in the ocean by studying the evolution of passive tracers in numerical models. Sai is also a collaborator on NASA's InSight mission to Mars, which deployed seismometers in 2018 to investigate the interior of Mars.