2019-2020 UTCSP Pain Scientist Award Recipients

MARIANA BUENO is currently a postdoctoral research fellow in Dr Bonnie Stevens’ lab at The Hospital for Sick Children and a recipient of the UTCSP Pain Scientist Scholarship 2018/2019. She obtained her Masters in Nursing (2006) and PhD (2011) at the School of Nursing, University of São Paulo. Dr Bueno’s research career focuses on generating and synthesizing evidence for preventing or minimizing pain in neonates and infants. Her current research focus is to build capacity on developing and evaluating knowledge translation interventions targeted at knowledge users (parents, families, and health care professionals) to improve pain outcomes in neonates and infants.

MEGAN DRUPALS is an MD/PhD student at the University of Toronto in the laboratory of Dr. Michael Salter. Her doctoral work focuses on exploring the role of cannabinoid receptor signalling in chronic pain, and identifying the critical cell types involved in both males and females. Previously, she completed her Bachelor of Science at the University of British Columbia, where she conducted research in the pain field at institutions in both Canada and the United States as part of the Co-operative Education Program.

MILIND MULEY is currently a postdoctoral fellow in Dr. Mike Salter's lab at the Hospital for Sick Children. He obtained his Master’s in Pharmacology (2010) from University of Pune, India, where he evaluated isolated plant components for their neuroprotective activity in rat models of cerebral ischemia. After completion of his master’s degree, he joined research and development unit of a Pharmaceutical company (2011-2013) in India; his role involved the development of new animal models for the screening of New Chemical Entities in the area of inflammation and arthritis. Subsequently, Milind obtained his PhD in Pharmacology from Dalhousie University (2017) studying the role of neutrophil elastase (a serine proteinase) and proteinase-activated receptor-2 (a G-protein coupled receptor) in the pathogenesis of arthritis and pain in the lab of Dr. Jason McDougall. His current work focuses on studying the role of immune cells in the development of chronic pain using preclinical animal models. His research will help elucidate the mechanisms underlying chronic pain and define new therapeutic targets.

ALBORZ NOORANI completed his Bachelor of Science in Cell and Molecular Biology at the University of Toronto. He recently started his Master’s degree under the supervision of Dr. Mojgan Hodaie at the Krembil Research Institute. Alborz’s research project aims to use the neuroimaging techniques to understand hippocampal changes in Trigeminal Neuroglia patients.

MAHAM ZAIN is a graduate student in Dr. Bonin’s sensory plasticity lab at the University of Toronto. She originally joined the lab as a summer student in 2017, at which time she began a systematic review analyzing the relationship between neuronal firing in the dorsal horn of rats and mechanical stimulation. While working on the review, Maham was also involved in a project that explored possible memory impairments in mouse models of chronic oro-facial pain. As a part of her current Master’s project, she aims to use novel surgical methods, in vivo optogenetics and imaging to disentangle the involvement of different neuronal populations in the development of chronic pain.