

West Lab Alumni

Postdocs, residents, senior scientific staff

Padmanabhan Pattabiraman, postdoctoral fellow (2005-2008)

Current position: Assistant Professor, Dept. of Ophthalmology, Indiana University School of Medicine, Indianapolis, IN

Jay V. Deng, Ph.D. postdoctoral fellow (2007-2012)

First Position: CSO, Encor Biotechnology, Gainesville, FL and Adjunct Assistant Professor, Dept. of Psychiatry, University of Florida, Gainesville.

Next position: Adjunct Assistant Professor, Duke University, Dept. Neurobiol (2017-2020)

Current position: CSO/CEO and co-founder Ayti BioScience, Beijing, China

Dan Su, Ph.D. postdoctoral fellow (2010-2012)

Current position: Senior Data Analyst, Zymeron, Research Triangle Park, NC

Anthony Zannas, M.D. Psychiatry resident (2013-2014)

First position: Postdoctoral fellow, Max Planck Institute for Psychiatry, Munich

Current position: Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Xiaoting (Tina) Wang, Ph.D. postdoctoral fellow (2013-2015)

Current position: Director of Regulatory Affairs, Immun, Raleigh, NC

Weiwei Liu, Ph.D., Visiting scholar, Chengdu University, China (2019-present)

Current position: postdoctoral fellow, Chengdu University, China

Vijay Swahari, M.D. Psychiatry resident (2018-2020)

Current position: Staff Psychiatrist, Alaska VA Health Care system, Anchorage, AK

David Gallegos, Ph.D. Postdoctoral fellow (2019-2020)

Current position: Scientist II, Takada Pharmaceuticals, Boston, MA

Katherine Tonn Eisinger, Ph.D. Postdoctoral fellow (2019-2021)

Current position: Strategic Feasibility, IQVIA

Matthew Green, Ph.D. Postdoctoral fellow (2019-2021)

Current position: Senior Scientist, Vyant Bio Inc.

Graduate Students

Cambria Hanselman (Cell and Molecular Biology/Neurobiology, 2007-2008)

Awarded Master's degree, fall 2008

Current position: Scientist, Parabel sustainable hydrofarming

Ashley Hutchinson (Pharmacology, 2007-2011)

Thesis title: "Monoaminergic regulation of MeCP2 phosphorylation in mouse models of psychiatric disease"

Defended PhD thesis Dec. 15, 2011

Current position: Assistant Senior Lecturer, Örebro University, Sweden

Michelle Lyons (Neurobiology, 2006-2012)

Thesis title: "Mechanisms of specificity in neuronal activity-regulated gene transcription"

Defended PhD thesis March 12, 2012

Current position: Associate Partner, McKinsey and Co., New York, NY

Ranjula Wijayatunge (Developmental and Stem Cell Biology/Neurobiology, 2006-2012)

Thesis title: "The H3K27-specific histone demethylase Kdm6b (Jmjd3) is induced by neuronal activity and contributes to neuronal survival and differentiation"

Defended PhD thesis April 9, 2012

Next and current position: Senior research associate, UTSW; Project Manager, Cancer Prevention Initiative, Dallas, TX

Young May Cha (Medical Scientist Training Program/Neurobiology, 2009-2012)

Awarded Master's degree Dec. 2012

Next position: Anesthesiology residency, University of Pennsylvania

Liang-Fu Chen (Neurobiology 2011-2017)

Thesis title: "Mechanisms of Specificity in Neuronal Activity-regulated Gene Transcription"

Defended PhD thesis Nov 16, 2017

Next and current position: postdoctoral fellow, Joanna Wysocka lab, Stanford University

David Gallegos (Neurobiology 2013-2019)

Thesis title: "Psychostimulant-Regulated Plasticity in Interneurons of the Nucleus Accumbens"

Defended PhD thesis Nov. 12, 2019

Next position: postdoctoral fellow, Environmental Protection Agency

Current position: Scientist II, Takada Pharmaceuticals

Martine Trembley (UPGG 2015-2021)

Thesis title: "Functions of the histone linker protein H1.4 in neuronal development and intellectual disability"

Defended PhD thesis March 22, 2021

Next and current position: Laboratory Genetics and Genomics Fellow, Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, NY, NY

Urann Chan (Neurobiology 2016-2022)

Thesis title: "Developmental Regulation of H3K27me3 Drives Excitatory Synapse Maturation and Social Behavior."

Defended PhD thesis March 11, 2022

Next and current position: Consultant, McKinsey and Co., New York, NY (July 2022)

Melyssa Minto (Computational Biology and Bioinformatics 2017-2022)

Thesis title: "Systematic Examination of Epigenomic Regulation of Neuronal Plasticity"

Defended PhD thesis October 13, 2022

Next and current position: Bioinformatic Scientist, RTI International, Research Triangle, NC

Mariah Hazlett (Neurobiology 2016-2022)

Thesis title: "Structural, Functional, and Behavioral Outcomes of Stimulus-Dependent Transcription in Nucleus Accumbens Parvalbumin-Expressing Interneurons"

Defended PhD thesis November 22, 2022

Next and current position: Postdoctoral fellow, Lisa Goodrich lab, Harvard Medical School

Vijendra Ramesh (MCB 2016-2023)

Thesis title: "Postmitotic dynamics in chromatin post-translational modification and architecture underlie cerebellar granule neuron maturation."

Defended PhD thesis May 10, 2023

Next position (Sept 2023): Postdoctoral fellow, Bill Kaelin lab, Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA.

Graduate Rotation students

Nicole Parragio (Cell and Molecular Biology) – fall 2006

Halima Chuktan (Cell and Molecular Biology) –fall 2006

Andreas Pfenning (Computational Biology and Bioinformatics) –spring 2007

Jung Min Lee (Neurobiology) –fall 2007

Felicia Hawthorne (University Program in Genetics and Genomics) –spring 2008

Dominic Luciano (Neurobiology) –fall 2008

Dominic Ippolito (Neurobiology) –spring 2009

Beth Thompson (Cell and Molecular Biology) –spring 2009

Christina Tognoni (Psychology and Neuroscience) –spring 2010

Nathan Hedrik (Neurobiology) –summer 2010

Cynthia Hsu (Neurobiology) - spring 2011

Lisa Sears (Cell and Molecular Biology) –fall 2011

Chris Vockney (Development and Stem Cell Biology) –spring 2012

Paige Dexter (Cell and Molecular Biology) –fall 2012

Scott Barish (Cell and Molecular Biology) –fall 2012

Justin O'Hare (Neurobiology) –spring 2013

Brett Condon (Cell and Molecular Biology) –fall 2013

Matt Biegler (Neurobiology) –spring 2014

Lindsey Cantin (Development and Stem Cell Biology) –spring 2015

Elizabeth Pax (Cell and Molecular Biology) –spring 2015

Bryson Deanhardt (Neurobiology) –fall 2015

Martine Trembley (University Program in Genetics and Genomics) –spring 2016

Elizabeth Fleming (Toxicology) –spring 2016

Sarah Cunningham (University Program in Genetics and Genomics) –winter 2016

Caitlin Paisley (Neurobiology) –spring 2017

Mary Rose Branch (Neurobiology) –fall 2017

Maya Evanitsky (Developmental and Stem Cell Biology) –spring 2018

Luke Bartelt (University Program in Genetics and Genomics) – spring 2019

Aryana Yousefzadeh (Psychology) – research practicum summer 2019

Maddie Clark (Neurobiology) – fall 2019

Minel Arinel (Cell and Molecular Biology) – fall 2019

Federica Mosti (Cell and Molecular Biology) – spring 2021

Kavya Raghunathan (Developmental and Stem Cell Biology – fall 2021

Hannah Reed (Neurobiology) – fall 2021

Jesus Sotelo Fonseca (University Program in Genetics and Genomics) – spring 2022

Mariana Holguin Lopez (Neurobiology) – spring 2022

Taylor Wade (Cell and Molecular Biology) – fall 2022

Joey Mao (Cell and Molecular Biology) – fall 2022

Fayrouz ElWesmi (Cell and Molecular Biology) – spring 2023

Senior honors thesis undergraduate students

Charlotte Schwarz - Duke University class of 2012.

Thesis title: "Activity-regulated transcription of *Bdnf* by the MEF2 transcription factor family."
Medical School, Hungary; Psychiatry residency Duke

Caitlin Finn - Duke University class of 2014.

Thesis title: "NMDA Receptor-Dependent Regulation of BDNF by CaRF".
Weill Cornell Medical School, MD program

Jalen Carter - Duke University class of 2015, Biocore Scholar.

Thesis title: "Transcriptional regulation by BDNF in the developing cerebellum."
Kaiser Permanente, operations; UCLA, Master's in Public Health program

Marty Yang - Duke University class of 2015.

Thesis title: "Single-cell analysis of neuronal activity-dependent transcription."
Harvard Medical School HST program, Harvard Neurobiology PhD program

Allen Zhou – Duke University class of 2017.

Thesis title: "Epigenome modification at gene regulatory elements activates neuronal activity-dependent gene transcription."
Harvard Medical School, MD program

Nicole Wayne – Duke University class of 2017.

Thesis title: "Regulation of histone methylation in the developing cerebellum."
NIH IRTA fellowship; University of Pennsylvania MD program

Kim (Jane-Valeriane) Boua – Duke University class of 2019.

Thesis title: "Identifying a unique regulatory cell population within the Lateral Habenula."
Research Technician, Duke Dept of Neurosurgery; Washington University MD/PhD program

Ernesto Morfin Montes de Oca – Duke University class of 2019.

Thesis title: "Targeted epigenetic editing at the *Arc* enhancer: a strategy for modulating transcription of *Arc*."
Research technician UW; Weill Cornell, MD program

Wendy Tan – Duke University class of 2021.

Thesis title: "Characterizing the Expression of Histone H1.4 Expression Throughout Development and its Role in Rahman Syndrome."
University of West Virginia, MD program

Diwas Gautam – Duke University class of 2021.

Thesis title: "Role of chromatin regulators in Autism Spectrum Disorders."
University of Utah, MD program

Krishna Sinha - Duke University class of 2022.

Thesis title: "Utilizing Novel Epigenomic Editing Tools to Regulate the Expression of the Immediate Early Gene *Arc*."
Mayo Clinic, Alix School of Medicine, MD program

Rebecca Li – Duke University class of 2023.

Thesis title: "Autism-associated mutations in *Kdm6b* affect its role as a chromatin regulator in brain development."
Research technician, West lab Duke University

Research programs, independent study, and work study students

Rachel Wang (Duke University) – undergraduate research 2005-2007

Lauren Burch (Haverford University) - summer undergraduate research 2006

Andrea Pretorian (Duke University) – summer undergraduate research 2006

Kelli McDowell (Duke University) – PREP post-bac program student 2006-2008

Monica Hamilton (Duke University) – HHMI summer research 2007

Chase Palisch (Centre College) – NSF REU summer research 2007

Bochong Li (Duke University) – undergraduate research 2007-2009
Rishi Mistra (University of Tennessee) – NSF REU summer research 2008
Fangda Jiang (Duke University) – HHMI summer research 2010
Spencer Lewis (Duke University) – ARRA summer research 2010
Heetae Hong (Duke University) – work study 2010-2011
Peter Cruz-Gordillo (Duke University) – undergraduate research 2010-2011
Nika Larian (Transylvania University) – NSF REU summer research 2011
Kyle Davidson (Duke University) – Summer Neuroscience research fellowship 2012,
independent study 2012-13.
Kurt Isaac-Elder (Howard University) – NSF REU summer research 2012
Rebecca Brenner (Duke University) - HHMI summer research 2013, independent study 2014.
Johnny Kim (Duke University) – summer research 2013, independent study 2013-14.
Hannah Ahrendt (Duke University) – bSuRF summer research program 2016
Ashley Williams (Duke University) – Master's in Biomed Science and postbac 2019-2021
Cynthia Dong (Duke University) – undergraduate researcher 2021
Ben Goldstein (Duke University) – undergraduate researcher 2021
Esha Patel (Duke University) – undergraduate researcher 2022
Brianna Smith (Duke University) – Genome Scholars summer 2022
Nolyn Myema (Yale University) – Genome Scholars summer 2023
Ella Rosenberg (Princeton University) – summer research 2023