

Project Narrative

Chronic pain is a debilitating condition which severely impacts quality of life for millions of people worldwide. Ascending pain signals undergo descending modulation by mu-opioid receptor (MOR)-positive neurons in the rostral ventromedial medulla (RVM) through circuits which are not completely understood. In this proposal, I will elucidate the specific circuitry through which MOR+ RVM spinal projection neurons facilitate pain using a combination of genetic, electrophysiological, and behavioral approaches.