MICHELLE FAITS

4058 Botanical Avenue
Saint Louis, MO 63110
314-604-7522

SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

Qualified By: PhD training in developmental and cellular neurobiology. Skilled in fixed-tissue and live-cell fluorescent microscopy, including confocal and 2-photon imaging; computational image processing and high-throughput data analysis; characterizing mouse models of neurodegenerative diseases; and brain tissue explant culturing techniques.

EDUCATION

2016 (Expected) **Ph.D.** in Developmental, Regenerative, and Stem Cell Biology, Washington University, Saint Louis, MO

2010 **B.S.** in Biology and Neuroscience, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2011 – Present **Graduate Researcher**, Kerschensteiner Lab, Washington University
Thesis Research: Functional role of mitochondrial trafficking and distribution in the developing dendrites of retinal ganglion cells

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

2009 **Intern**, Pfizer Inc., St. Louis, MO
Research: potential therapeutics for Alzheimer's Disease and optimization of synaptogenesis assays to aid drug discovery

2008 **Intern**, Wyeth Pharmaceuticals, Cambridge, MA
Research: potential therapeutics for Type II Diabetes by screening for compounds to improve insulin secretion

PUBLICATIONS

2016 **M.C Faits**, C. Zhang, F. Soto, D. Kerschensteiner. *Dendritic mitochondria reach stable positions during circuit development*. eLife 2016;10.7554/eLife.11583

FUNDING

2012 – 2015 **Vision Science Training Grant**, National Eye Institute

PRESENTATIONS

2014 **M. Faits,** D. Kerschensteiner. *Mitochondrial motility and function in developing neural dendrites.* Annual Meeting of the Society for Neuroscience, Washington, D.C, 2014.

COURSES AND WORKSHOPS

2014 **Analytical and Quantitative Light Microscopy course**, Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, MA

OTHER EXPERIENCE

2015 – Present **Pro-Arc Diagnostics**, CEO, Co-founder
Founded a company developing a better JC Virus diagnostic to protect the immunocompromised from fatal complications. Ensured low-overhead operations by securing free laboratory space in a local incubator. Led licensing negotiations for NIH patented technology. Raised pre-seed money to fund proof-of-concept experiments. Designed experimental plan to demonstrate commercial viability of an academic discovery.

2014 - 2016 **BioEntrepreneurship Core Leadership Team**, President (2015-2016) & Marketing Director (2014-2015)
Led executive board responsible for entrepreneurship-focused educational and networking events. Orchestrated cooperation between University administration, students and scientific staff, and local biotechnology community to facilitate innovation.

2014 – 2015 **NIH Neuro Start-Up Challenge**, Team Leader, Winner
Led a winning team in an international business plan competition. Organized team member responsibilities, researched market potential of a life-science technology, composed a start-up business plan and communicated technical details to investors and the broader public through pitches and presentations.