PARAG K. BHATT, PH.D.

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DEDICATED AND ADAPTIVE RESEARCH SCIENTIST

Creative and Analytical Researcher Seeking a Challenging Career in the Cannabis Industry

Tenacious, enthusiastic professional with ten years of experience in a National Institute of Health-funded academic research laboratory. Regarded as an excellent communicator, respected for technical aptitude, versatility, and exceptional work ethic.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

• UV-Vis Spectroscopy • Genetics • Microscopy • Large Sample Data Analysis • R Project • Cannabis Education • Manuscript Preparation • Leadership • Grant Preparations • Teamwork • Project Management • ISO 17025:2017 • MS Office • Adobe Photoshop •

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

St. Louis University School of Medicine **2011 to 2018**

Doctoral Candidate/ Graduate Assistant in Neckameyer Lab – St. Louis, Missouri (June 2011 to Present)

Pursued doctoral degree in behavioral genetics and neuroscience in the Department of Pharmacology and Physiology.

- Investigated the neurotrophic actions of serotonin and dopamine on a simple neural circuit in the fruit fly, *Drosophila melanogaster*. Used a combination of pharmacological and genetic approaches to target key enzymes, receptors, and transporters to affect the actions of target neurotransmitters during development.
- Used a combination of UV-Vis spectroscopy and immunofluorescence to assess efficiency of transgenic approach by quantitating neuronal concentrations of rate-limiting enzymes in serotonin and dopamine synthesis.
- Led implementation of procedural laboratory equipment that involved assessing end user and departmental need for long-term research projects. Involved in financial negotiations with vendors in respect to departmental budget. Acted as liaison by becoming subject matter expert, developed materials and tutorials to train users in equipment protocol and provided on-site support.
- Successfully organized collaborative projects with colleagues from neighboring universities to enhance the body of the dissertation thesis.
- Evaluated and trained numerous high school, undergraduate, graduate, and medical students in laboratory practices whom have gone on to have successful careers in higher education.
- Effectively communicated research program details in large group settings such as laboratory, graduate, and departmental committee meetings as well as numerous regional and national research conferences.
- Published in peer-reviewed journals and a book chapter:
    - Neckameyer, W. S. and **Bhatt, P**. Neurotrophic actions of dopamine on the development of a serotonergic feeding circuit in *Drosophila melanogaster*. BMC Neuroscience. 2012; 13; 26.
    - **Bhatt, PK** and Neckameyer, W.S. Functional analysis of the larval feeding circuit in *Drosophila*. Journal of Visualized Experiments. 2013; 81; e51062.
    - Neckameyer WS, **Bhatt PK**. Protocols to study behavior in *Drosophila*, in "*Drosophila*: Methods and Protocols", 2016, Springer.
    - **Bhatt, P.K.,** Vilza, I., Swamy, H., Avdagic, S., and Neckameyer, W.S. The neurotrophic actions of serotonin and dopamine on the larval feeding circuit in *Drosophila* are sexually dimorphic. Psychology and Neuroscience. 2018; *11*(2), 216-227.
    - **Bhatt, P.K.**, Neckameyer, W.S. The Impact of Oxidative Stress on a Simple Neural Circuit. Psychology and Neuroscience. 2018; *11*(3), 291-305.

St. Louis University **2013 to 2016**

Course Director and Instructor in Department of Biology – St. Louis, Missouri (August 2013 to December 2016)

Responsible for designing curriculum, lecture materials, quizzes, and exams for senior-level undergraduate pharmacology course during fall semesters.

- Collaborated with graduate students to co-deliver didactic lectures to undergraduate students.
- Cultivated strategic partnerships with administrators and faculty.
- Tracked student progress across a variety of service programs.
- Directed program evaluations and designed strategies for enhancing course curriculum for the following year.

St. Louis University School of Medicine **2007 to 2011**

Laboratory Supervisor in Neckameyer Lab – St. Louis, Missouri (November 2007 – May 2011)

Responsible for managing daily operations, recruiting, scheduling, and supervised several researchers while also conducting federally-funded research.

- Utilized behavioral, biochemical, and pharmacological approaches to identify the molecular factors impacting neuronal homeostasis in the fruit fly, *Drosophila melanogaster*.
- Tasked with recruiting, interviewing, hiring, training, and evaluating research candidates.
- Ensured quality and timely completion of research programs.
- Developed and maintained the lab consumables inventory system.
- Performed calibration and preventative maintenance periodically on analytical balances, hot plates, water baths, UV-Vis, epi-fluorescence microscope.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science in Biology (2011)
St. Louis University – St. Louis, Missouri
Related coursework: Analytical Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, Microbiology, Molecular Techniques, Biometry, Statistics, Calculus

Introduction to Molecular Spectroscopy (February 2018)
University of Manchester on Coursera
https://www.coursera.org/account/accomplishments/certificate/JU3GJUEW2MX4

ISO/IEC 17025: 2017 Accredited (June 2018)
A2LA Accreditation Body – University Center, Grayslake, Illinois

Doctor of Philosophy in Pharmacology and Physiology (August 2018)
St. Louis University School of Medicine – St. Louis, Missouri
Related Coursework: Pharmacology- and Physiology- related coursework, Grant Writing, Manuscript Preparation, Microscopy Techniques, Bioinformatics, Biostatistics

Cannabis Concentrate Production Technology Course (April 2019)
Westminster, Colorado

HempStaff Missouri Medical Cannabis Dispensary Training (May 2019)
Bridgeton, Missouri
http://t.cred.ly/l/baceb0e6-12fb-46c1-b82c-c5041e2d4d49