

DEEPTHA VASUDEVAN

920 E. 58th Street, Rm. 915, Chicago, IL 60637 • (678) 964-1543 • deepthav@uchicago.edu

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy in Neurobiology and Anatomy
The University of Utah

August 2014 – July 2020
Salt Lake City, Utah

Bachelor of Technology, Industrial Biotechnology
SASTRA University

June 2009 – May 2013
Thanjavur, India

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Heckscher lab, Department of Molecular Genetics and Cell Biology
The University of Chicago

Chicago, IL
October 2020 – Present

Postdoctoral Scholar

Regional specializations in sensorimotor circuit development in the *Drosophila* nerve cord

Dorsky lab, Department of Neurobiology and Anatomy
University of Utah

Salt Lake City, UT
August 2014– July 2020

Ph.D. Candidate

Role of local neurogenesis in locomotor recovery following spinal cord injury in larval zebrafish

Das lab, Department of Microbiology and Cell Biology
Indian Institute of Science

Bangalore, India
December 2013 - July 2014

Junior Research Fellow (Technician)

Mechanisms of Hepatitis C viral RNA translation and the role of host proteins in viral replication

Krichevsky Lab, Center for Neurologic Diseases
Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School

Boston, MA
January 2013 - July 2013

Undergraduate Research Intern (Semester Abroad Program)

Role of microRNA-10b Glioblastoma Multiforme tumorigenesis

PUBLICATIONS

1. **Deeptha Vasudevan**, Yi-wen Wang, Hannah Carr, Elaine Kushkowsky, Sean Corcoran, Elaine Paniel, Christopher Wreden, Conor Lee-Smith, Ellie S. Heckscher. How serially homologous neuroblasts produce different temporal cohorts along the *Drosophila* larval body axis. bioRxiv 2024.11.09.622783v2 (conditionally accepted in Development)
2. **Deeptha Vasudevan**, Chris C. Wreden, Ellie S. Heckscher. Imaging neural activity in intact, semi-restrained *Drosophila* larvae. Cold Spring Harbor Press, 2024. PMID: 39284629
3. Fengqiu Daio, **Deeptha Vasudevan**, Ellie S. Heckscher, Benjamin White. Hox gene-specific cellular targeting using self-splicing Trojan exons. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, U. S. A., 2024. PMID: 38602904.
4. **Deeptha Vasudevan***, Samuel Alper*, Maya K. Wheeler, Samin Panahi, Richard I. Dorsky. Transcriptomic analysis identifies injury-responsive fibroblast populations as potential mediators of Wnt-dependent spinal cord regeneration. bioRxiv 2024.05.17.594712v2. (* denotes equal contribution) (in revision in Developmental Dynamics)

5. **Deeptha Vasudevan***, Yen-Chyi Liu*, Joshua P. Barrios, Maya K. Wheeler, Adam D. Douglass, and Richard I. Dorsky. Regenerated interneurons integrate into locomotor circuitry following spinal cord injury. *Experimental Neurology*, 2021. PMID: 33957107 (* denotes equal contribution)
6. Shivaprasad Shwetha, Anuj Kumar, Ranajoy Mullick, **Deeptha Vasudevan**, Nilanjan Mukherjee and Saumitra Das. Correction for Shwetha et al., HuR Displaces Polypyrimidine Tract Binding Protein To Facilitate La Binding to the 3' Untranslated Region and Enhances Hepatitis C Virus Replication. *Journal of Virology*, 2019. PMID: 31363065
7. Shivaprasad Shwetha, Anuj Kumar, Ranajoy Mullick, **Deeptha Vasudevan**, Nilanjan Mukherjee and Saumitra Das. HuR displaces PTB to facilitate La binding to the 3'UTR and enhances HCV replication. *Journal of Virology*, 2015. PMID: 26339049

GRANTS, AWARDS, AND HONORS

- Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship (2026)
- Best Oral Presentation Award, Midwest *Drosophila* Conference (2025)
- Best Oral Presentation Award, UChicago Annual Postdoctoral Symposium (2024)
- Career Advancement for Postdocs (CAP) award, Biological Sciences Division at the University of Chicago (2021)
- John Weis Memorial Award from the University of Utah to present a poster at the Gordon Research Conference on Neural Development (2018)
- Herman Hooten Award from the University of Utah to present a poster at the International Zebrafish Society Meeting (2018)
- Tom Parks Award from the Department of Neurobiology and Anatomy to present a poster at the Society for Neuroscience Meeting (2017)
- Outstanding Poster Award at the Developmental Biology Training Grant (2017) retreat
- Outstanding Poster Award at the Southwest Regional Developmental Biology Conference (2016)
- University of Utah Graduate Research Student Travel Award to attend The Allied Genetics Conference (TAGC) organized by the Genetics Society of America (2016)
- Desh-Videsh Fellowship from SASTRA University for the Harvard-MIT Semester Abroad Program; 1 of 6 students selected from 1500 applicants (2013)

SELECTED TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Invited speaker, Rising Stars Symposium, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (November 2025)
- Invited speaker, University of Chicago Neuroscience Retreat. (September 2023)
- Invited speaker at the University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT. (August 2022)
- Platform presentation at the International Zebrafish Society Meeting, Madison, WI. (June 2018)
- Platform presentation at the Gordon Research Seminar on Neural Development, Newport, RI. (July 2018).
- Platform presentation at the virtual Monsoon Brain Meeting. (June 2020)

SCIENTIFIC REVIEW AND SERVICE

- Elected Co-Chair for the upcoming Gordon Research Seminar on Neural Development (2026)
- Co-Chair, Neural Development and Physiology session at the GSA *Drosophila* Meeting (2025)
- Member, Postdoc Advisory Board to the Office of the Provost, University of Chicago (2023 – Present)
- Grant reviewer for the Graduate Women in Sciences Postdoctoral Fellowship (2022)

- Collaborating Reviewer, Journal of Neuroscience (2022)
- Session Moderator, Neurogenetics of the *Drosophila* larva meeting (2021)
- Student Representative, Steering Committee for the Molecular Biology Graduate Program (2019 – 2020)
- Student Representative, Graduate Education Committee for the Dept. of Neurobiology and Anatomy, University of Utah (2018 – 2020)
- Ad-hoc Reviewer, Neural Development (2018)
- Organizer and Session Moderator, Utah Fish Conference (2018)
- Organizer, Bioscience Career Symposium for graduate students and postdoctoral research fellows, University of Utah (2016 – 2017)
- Student Advisor, Molecular Biology Graduate Program, University of Utah (2016)

TEACHING

- Teaching Assistant, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory *Drosophila* Neurobiology: Genes, Circuits, and Behavior course (2022)
- Proposal reviewer, Vertebrate Development course, University of Chicago (2021)
- Teaching Assistant and Proposal Reviewer, Developmental Neurobiology course, University of Utah (2018)
- Guest Lecturer, Hawthorne Elementary School, Salt Lake City (2019)
- Speaker, TED-style talks, National History Museum of Utah, Salt Lake City (2017)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Genetics Society of America (2016 – Present)
- Society for Neuroscience (2017 – Present)
- Society for Developmental Biology (2016 – Present)

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Advisor at Project SHORT, a non-profit organization that provides one-on-one mentorship to students from disadvantaged backgrounds for graduate school applications. (2022 – Present)
- Coordinator of NEETO, a neuroscience outreach program for high school students from disadvantaged backgrounds at the University of Chicago. (2022 – Present)
- Career Coach for America Needs You (ANY), an organization that provides career development training opportunities to first-generation college students around the country. (2022 – Present)
- Community Advisory Board member and scientific liaison for Chicago Public Media, which operates Chicago's local radio station, WBEZ, and daily newspaper The Chicago Sun-Times. (2021 – Present).
- Science Fair Judge, Uintah Elementary School, Salt Lake City (January 2019)
- Invited Speaker at Hawthorne Elementary School, Salt Lake City. (September 2019)
- Science Communication Fellow, Natural History Museum of Utah. (2017)
- Outreach scientist with Skype a Scientist, Brain Bee, and Brain Awareness Week. (2017 – 2019)

MEDIA

- Podcast guest at IndSciComm, episode “A Soupçon of SciComm with Deeptha Vasudevan on Zebrafish and Neurogenesis”. (2018)
- Podcast guest discussing spinal cord regeneration at Cinema Science Podcast, episode “Avatar: Exoskeletons Made Out of Washing Machines”. (February 2019)

- Credited feature in a science documentary by the University of Utah presented at the Sundance Film Festival titled “One in A Million”. (2019)

REFERENCES

Ellie S. Heckscher, Ph.D. (Postdoctoral Advisor)
Associate Professor, Department of Molecular Genetics and Cell Biology
The University of Chicago
Cummings Life Science Center, Rm. 915E
920 E. 58th St. Chicago, Illinois 60637
heckscher@uchicago.edu

Claude Desplan, Ph.D. (Postdoctoral Advisory Committee Chair)
Silver Professor of Biology and Neuroscience
NYU Department of Biology
24 Waverly Place
Waverly Building 6th Floor, New York City, NY 10003
cd38@nyu.edu

Richard I. Dorsky, Ph.D. (Graduate Advisor)
Professor, Department of Neurobiology
University of Utah
20 South 2030 East
Bldg. 570 BPRB, Rm. 490E
Salt Lake City, Utah 84112
richard.dorsky@neuro.utah.edu