

Jason Miranda, Investigator, Neuromodulation Devices Galvani Bioelectronics



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While learning about the different functions that make up both biotechnology and Pharmaceutical companies, Hannah contributed to our device development activities by creating a biomechanical computational model. Our hope is that the model will provide us with data to inform experimental design and device design decisions. Hannah was also our first Galvani Intern and helped us demonstrate that the internship program can successfully benefit both our students and our research.

Our aims for this internship were twofold:

- 1) Identify a student with expertise in computational modelling of vascular mechanics to begin building a tool to assist electrode design
- 2) Establish a successful internship program for our newly formed company, where we identify interested students to provide them with industrial work experience.

Hannah was our first Galvani Intern and successfully filled both aims. She established a computational model and the tools needed to develop this in the future. She is now being signed on as a consultant to further this work. She also made the most of her time with us, to learn about the industrial work environment and met with several people outside our company during her time on the GSK campus. Her success during this internship also helped show that our internship program can provide benefit to both the student and our company which has helped us in gaining continued support for the program from the Galvani Management Team.

Hannah produced a tool that could allow us to investigate the impact of device designs on the physiology and structural mechanics of anatomical structures. The tool will progress toward validation and be used in guiding device design decisions in the future.

Q&A:

1. *Would you be willing to take on PIPS students, if yes/no, why?*
 - Yes, since students come from broad disciplines and universities in the local area, the program is a great resource for our company to support talented students and make connections to new academic researchers.
2. *Why did your organisation want to get involved in the LIDo Programme/BBSRC placement programme?*
 - Hannah came to us through a recommendation from the RVC. She happened to be looking for an internship and has expertise in an area that we had a project need.
3. *What were you looking for in your placement student?*
 - We were looking for a student that was motivated to explore research in an industrial environment with computational modelling experience in biomechanical engineering.
4. *Does your organisation typically recruit people with a PhD background?*
 - Yes, the R&D aspect of our company is almost entirely made up of PhDs and MDs.