



Featured Postdoc **Mariana Mandi Gandelman, PhD**

By: Daniel Scoles, PhD

Quick facts: Department: Neurology
Languages: English, Spanish
Hobbies: Travelling, yoga, sewing.



Bio: Dr. Gandelman is a postdoctoral fellow at the Pulst lab, Department of Neurology, University of Utah. She first started studying neurological diseases 14 years ago as a graduate student at the Institut Pasteur Montevideo and then as a researcher at Oregon State University. Dr. Gandelman was selected to join the postdoctoral trainee program at the Pulst lab in 2016 for her specific expertise in cellular and molecular mechanisms of neurodegeneration and development of novel therapies for neurological disease.

Mandi, tell us about your research. What motivates you to do the work you do?

“My work is driven by a passion to help those affected by devastating neurological diseases and a fascination on how the nervous system works at the subcellular level. Neuroscience research helps me combine my enthusiasm for both and advance the field towards new therapies and cures for neurological conditions.”

What is your most recent professional accomplishment?

“Last November (2018) I was invited to give a talk at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Neuroscience. With an attendance of almost 30,000 neuroscientists from around the world, this meeting is the main platform for the dissemination of cutting edge science in the field. Being able to present my work there was a great honor.”



What made you choose the Pulst lab for your postdoctoral training?

“The unique combination of basic research and therapy development carried out at the Pulst lab has given me a distinct opportunity to apply my specific skills in a wide variety of projects and also acquire new, fundamental ones. Our research focuses on some of the major neurodegenerative diseases, like amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, Parkinson’s disease and the ataxias, and we are making great strides towards a treatment for them.”

What are your future career goals?

“My long-term career goal is to stay in academia and become the leader of a strong research group that can move innovative projects into the drug development stage quickly. With an aging population, brain health is a national priority and neuroscience research will have to widen and deepen its effort.”

If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go, and why?

“Australia and New Zealand are on my bucket list!”

We extend our gratitude to Mandi for her dedication to finding new treatments for neurodegenerative diseases.

