

Granton A. Jindal

Assistant Project Scientist • University of California San Diego

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EDUCATION

Princeton University	Princeton, NJ
Ph.D., Chemical Engineering	Nov. 2017
Certificate, Bioengineering	Aug. 2017
M.A., Chemical Engineering	Apr. 2014
Thesis: “Analyzing pathogenic MEK variants in zebrafish”	
California Institute of Technology	Pasadena, CA
B.S., Bioengineering, with Honors	Jun. 2012
Research Title: “Investigating AND gate topologies to aid in proteomic analysis”	

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Departments of Medicine and Molecular Biology, University of California San Diego	La Jolla, CA
Assistant Project Scientist; Advisor: Prof. Emma K. Farley	Nov. 2023 – Present
Postdoctoral Researcher; Advisor: Prof. Emma K. Farley	Nov. 2017 – Oct. 2023
Understanding how mutations in noncoding areas of the genome affect tissue-specific gene expression using high-throughput assays in <i>Ciona</i> , chick, and human iPSC-cardiomyocytes. Demonstrated that affinity-optimizing mutations within cardiac enhancers disrupt heart development.	
Lewis-Sigler Institute, Princeton University	Princeton, NJ
Graduate Researcher; Advisors: Prof. Stanislav Y. Shvartsman, Prof. Rebecca D. Burdine	Jan. 2013 – Sep. 2017
Demonstrated a ranking of MEK1 mutations found in RASopathies, human developmental disorders, using functional assays in zebrafish embryos. Showed context-dependent ERK signaling with MEK1 mutations in zebrafish embryos.	
California Institute of Technology	Pasadena, CA
Undergraduate Researcher; Advisor: Prof. David A. Tirrell	Jun. 2010 – Jun. 2012
Demonstrated split mutant Methionyl-tRNA Synthetase activity with in-gel fluorescence images using bacterial cell culture methods, molecular cloning, and Western blots. Used alkyne functional groups to purify azide-labeled proteins.	
Louisiana State University	Baton Rouge, LA
Undergraduate Researcher; Advisor: Prof. Grover L. Waldrop	Jun. 2009 – Sep. 2009
Learned laboratory skills including polymerase chain reaction, molecular cloning, site-directed mutagenesis, and protein expression. Introduced specific mutations into the Biotin Carboxylase protein using these techniques.	

FELLOWSHIPS AND FUNDING

Hartwell Postdoctoral Fellowship , The Hartwell Foundation	Nov. 2020 – Oct. 2022
AHA Postdoctoral Fellowship , American Heart Association	Jan. 2019 – Oct. 2020
Chancellor’s Research Excellence Scholarship , UC San Diego	Jan. 2018 – Sep. 2019
Cardiology Postdoctoral Training Program Fellow , National Institutes of Health	Jan. 2018 – Dec. 2018
Graduate Research Fellowship , National Science Foundation	Jul. 2013 – Jun. 2015, Jul. 2016 – Jun. 2017
Amgen Scholars Research Fellowship , Amgen Foundation	Jun. 2011
Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship , Caltech	Jun. 2010

AWARDS

Schulman Award for Cardiovascular Research , UCSD Division of Cardiovascular Medicine	Jun. 2022
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Hilde Mangold Postdoctoral Symposium Participant , Society for Developmental Biology	Jul. 2020
Poster Award , 11 th Structural Birth Defects Meeting, Bethesda, MD	Apr. 2017
DeLill Nasser Award for Professional Development in Genetics , Genetics Society of America	May 2016
Schowalter Travel Award , Princeton University Chemical & Biological Engineering	Mar. 2016
Valedictorian of Class of 2008 , Baton Rouge Magnet High School	May 2008
Intel Science Talent Search Semifinalist , Society for Science and the Public	Jan. 2008

PUBLICATIONS

Postdoctoral Research (Advisor: Emma Farley)

15. Solvason JJ*, Tellez K*, Lim F*, Wang Q, Song BP, Grudzien JL, Le SH, Olson KM, **Jindal GA**, Farley EK. Exhaustive perturbation of an enhancer reveals dependency-syntax encodes tissue-specificity. *In Revision at Nature Genetics*.
14. Xian S, Sears T, Bantle AT, Solvason JJ, Slay C, Tanaka K, **Jindal GA**, Dosset M, Farley EK, Carter HK, Zanetti M. A germline variant at the TERT locus predicts intra-tumor T cell exhaustion and response to immune checkpoint blockade. *Preprint at SSRN*. Posted Mar 30, 2026. doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.6447251
13. **Jindal GA**, Lim F, Tellez K, Song BP, Bantle AT, Farley EK. Protocol to electroporate DNA plasmids into Ciona robusta embryos at the 1-cell stage. *STAR Protocols*. 5(3), 103107 (2024)
12. Lim F*, Solvason JJ*, Ryan GE*, Le SH, **Jindal GA**, Steffen P, Jandu SK, Farley EK. Affinity-optimizing enhancer variants disrupt development. *Nature*. 626, 151-159 (2024).
11. **Jindal GA**, Bantle AT, Solvason JJ, Grudzien JL, D'Antonio-Chronowska A, Lim F, Le SH, Song BP, Ragsac MF, Klie A, Larsen RO, Frazer KA, Farley EK. Single nucleotide variants within heart enhancers increase binding affinity and disrupt heart development. *Developmental Cell*. 58, 2206-2216 (2023).
10. Song BP*, Ragsac MF*, Tellez K, **Jindal GA**, Grudzien JL, Le SH, Farley EK. Diverse logics and grammar encode notochord enhancers. *Cell Reports*; 42(2):11052 (2023).
9. **Jindal GA** and Farley EK. Enhancer grammar in development, evolution, and disease: dependencies and interplay. *Developmental Cell*; 56:575-587 (2021). (Review paper)

Graduate Research (Advisors: Stanislav Shvartsman and Rebecca Burdine)

8. Marmion RA, Yang L, Goyal Y, **Jindal GA**, Wetzel JL, Singh M, Schüpbach T, Shvartsman SY. Molecular mechanisms underlying cellular effects of human MEK1 mutations. *Molecular Biology of the Cell*; 32:974-983 (2021).
7. Pelliccia JL, **Jindal GA**, Burdine RD. Gdf3 is required for robust Nodal signaling during germ layer formation and left-right patterning. *eLife*; 6:e28635 (2017).
6. **Jindal GA***, Goyal Y*, Humphreys JM, Yeung E, Tian K, Patterson VL, He H, Burdine RD, Goldsmith EJ[#], Shvartsman SY[#]. How activating mutations affect MEK1 regulation and function. *Journal of Biological Chemistry*; 292:18814-18820 (2017).
5. Goyal Y*, **Jindal GA***, Pelliccia JL, Yamaya K, Yeung E, Futran AS, Burdine RD, Schüpbach T, Shvartsman SY. Divergent effects of intrinsically active MEK variants on developmental Ras signaling. *Nature Genetics*; 49:465-469 (2017).
4. **Jindal GA***, Goyal Y*, Yamaya K, Futran AS, Kountouridis I, Balgobin CA, Schüpbach T, Burdine RD, Shvartsman SY. In vivo severity ranking of Ras pathway mutations associated with developmental disorders. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 114:510-515 (2017).
3. **Jindal GA***, Goyal Y*, Burdine RD, Rauen KA, Shvartsman SY. RASopathies: unraveling mechanisms with animal models. *Disease Models and Mechanisms*; 8:769-782 (2015). (Review paper)

Undergraduate Research (Advisor: David Tirrell)

2. Mahdavi A, Hamblin GD, **Jindal GA**, Bagert JD, Dong C, Sweredoski MJ, Hess S, Schuman EM, Tirrell DA. An engineered aminoacyl-tRNA synthetase for cell-selective analysis of mammalian protein synthesis. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 138:4278-4281 (2016).
1. Mahdavi A, Segall-Shapiro TH, Kou S, **Jindal GA**, Hoff KG, Liu S, Chitsaz M, Ismagilov RF, Silberg JJ, Tirrell DA. A Genetically Encoded AND Gate for Cell-Targeted Metabolic Labeling of Proteins. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 135:2979-2982 (2013).

(*,# Equal contribution)

TALKS

Aug 2026	Shvartsman Lab Symposium, Princeton, NJ
Aug 2025	2025 International Congress of Vertebrate Morphology (Virtual)
Jan 2025	Baylor University Department of Biology Seminar Speaker, Waco, TX
Jan 2025	Faculty Interview, Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, MO
Dec 2024	Faculty Interview, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL
Oct 2024	2024 AIChE Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA
Sep 2024	13 th Structural Birth Defects Meeting, Baltimore, MD
July 2024	12 th International Tunicate Meeting, Santa Cruz, CA
Mar 2024	Faculty Interview, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, Aurora, CO
Jan 2024	Ethel Browne Harvey Postdoctoral Seminar Series, Society for Developmental Biology (Virtual)
Jan 2024	Virtual Gastrulation Zoom Talks, VGZT (Virtual)
Sep 2023	2023 DiverseScholar Postdoctoral Conference, DiverseScholar, Irvine, CA
Jan 2023	qBio Monthly Meetings, UC San Diego, San Diego, CA
May 2022	Cardiology Fellows Research Day, UC San Diego, San Diego, CA
July 2020	Hilde Mangold Postdoctoral Symposium, Society for Developmental Biology (Virtual)
Oct 2018	Chancellor's Research Excellence Scholarship Symposium, UC San Diego, San Diego, CA
Apr 2017	BioEngineering Colloquium, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ
July 2016	The Allied Genetics Conference, Orlando, FL
May 2016	Mid-Atlantic Society for Developmental Biology Meeting, Washington, DC
May 2016	Icahn Seminar Series, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ
Nov 2015	Developmental Colloquium, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ
Oct 2014	Molecular Biology Department Retreat, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ

POSTERS

July 2026	Society for Developmental Biology Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, NV
July 2023	Society for Developmental Biology Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL
March 2022	Systems Biology: Global Regulation of Gene Expression, Laurel Hollow, NY.
May 2019	Cardiology Fellows Research Day, San Diego, CA
July 2018	Society for Developmental Biology Annual Meeting, Portland, OR
April 2017	11 th Structural Birth Defects Meeting, Bethesda, MD
July 2015	4 th International RASopathies Symposium, Seattle, WA

SERVICE AND OUTREACH

Outreach Volunteer, Feaster Charter School	2022 - Present
Poster Judge, UC Leads symposium and BUMMP Annual Student Symposium	Apr. 2023 - Present

Research Area Safety Coordinator, Farley Lab at UC San Diego	Mar. 2023 - Present
Reviewer, The Catalyst @UCSD	Jan. 2022 - Present
Moderator, The Annual Summer Research Conference UCSD, Undergrad Research Conference	Aug. 2020 - Present
Poster Judge, 2026 Society for Developmental Biology Annual Meeting	July 2026
Moderator, 2025 International Congress of Vertebrate Morphology (Virtual)	Aug. 2025
Peer reviewer for <i>Genome Biology</i> , <i>Discover Oncology</i> , <i>Biology Open</i> , <i>Human Mutation</i> , <i>Biophysical Journal</i> , <i>J. Exp. Zool. Part B</i>	
Alumni Volunteer Interviewer, Princeton University Alumni Schools Committee	Feb. 2017 – Mar. 2020
AHA Reviewer in training, American Heart Association	Sep. 2019
Member, Princeton University Graduate Engineering Council	Feb. 2016 – Jun. 2017
Co-Editor-in-Chief, Caltech Undergraduate Research Journal	Jun. 2011 – May 2012
Associate Editor, Caltech Undergraduate Research Journal	Oct. 2008 – May 2011
Caltech RISE Tutoring Program, Tutored Pasadena High School Students	Oct. 2010 – May 2012

TEACHING AND MENTORING EXPERIENCE

Mentor , Biology Undergraduate and Master's Mentorship Program	Oct. 2022 - Present
Guest Lecturer , BISP 194 undergraduate classes on enhancers	Feb 2026
Guest Lecturer , BIMM 100 undergraduate class on molecular biology	Apr 2025
Instructor of Record , BISP 194 undergraduate class on evolutionary developmental biology	July 2023 – Sep 2023
Discussion leader , Monthly journal club on evolutionary developmental biology	Jan 2018 – Dec 2019
Completion of Pathways to Scientific Teaching course, taught by Diane Ebert-May	Mar 2018
Assistant in Instruction , Introduction to Chemical Engineering Principles undergraduate course	Fall 2015
Instructor , Introduction to Biotechnology intersession course	Wintersession 2015
Research Mentor	
Mentored seven UCSD graduate rotation students	Oct. 2018 – Mar 2026
Sally Lee, '19; Summer Molecular Biology Princeton undergraduate	Jun. 2017 – Aug. 2017
Iason Kountouridis, '17; Mathematics Princeton undergraduate	Jun. 2015 – Sep. 2016
Aleena L. Patel, Chemical Engineering Princeton graduate rotation student	Dec. 2015 – Jun. 2016
Courtney Balgobin, '15; Senior Thesis Molecular Biology Princeton undergraduate	Apr. 2014 – May 2015
Hope Xu, '15; Summer Molecular Biology Princeton undergraduate	Jun. 2013 – Aug. 2013

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Emma K. Farley (Postdoctoral advisor)

Associate Professor
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Rebecca D. Burdine (Ph.D. advisor)

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Stanislav Y. Shvartsman (Ph.D. advisor)

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Scott V. Edwards (Collaborator)

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