

Biography



Dr. Umrao Monani is Professor of Neurology (in Pathology & Cell Biology) at the Columbia University Medical Center and the Director of the Colleen Giblin Research Laboratory at the medical center. He is also a founding member of the Columbia University Center for Motor Neuron Biology & Disease. Dr. Monani received his PhD at the Ohio State University School of Medicine and has spent many years engaged in the study of the neuromuscular disorder, spinal muscular atrophy (SMA). He was amongst the first to develop viable SMA model mice and his work has informed SMN repletion treatments for the human disease. More recently, Dr. Monani has turned his attention to Glut1 deficiency syndrome (Glut1 DS) and shown that gene replacement strategies are highly effective in treating a mouse model of the human disease. These studies also revealed novel brain microvasculature defects resulting from Glut1 deficiency. Currently, Dr. Monani's lab is engaged in exploring the feasibility of translating the pre-clinical gene replacement findings in his into a

viable treatment for the human condition. Dr. Monani has received several awards including the American Academy of Neurology Young Investigator Award, the Sanofi Innovator Award, the 2023 Humanitarian Award from the Hope for Children Research Foundation and the Pediatric Neurology Endowed Professorship at Columbia University. His lab is dedicated to the study of rare pediatric neurological diseases with a view to eventually treating them.

Name, title and affiliation

Umrao R. Monani, PhD
Pediatric Neurology Professor
Departments of Neurology, Pathology & Cell Biology
Center for Motor Neuron Biology & Disease
Columbia University Medical Center
New York, NY 10032
Email: um2105@columbia.edu