



Helen Lai, PhD
Assistant Professor
Neuroscience | Anesthesiology & Pain
Management

*Understanding the Developmental and Molecular Function of
Prdm12, a Gene Underlying Congenital Insensitivity to Pain*

Helen Lai attended graduate school at UCSF in the laboratory of Dr. Lily Jan assessing the biophysical constraints of voltage-gated potassium channels. Having graduated with a Ph.D. in Biophysics, Helen switched fields to study transcription factor regulation in neuronal development with Dr. Jane Johnson at UT Southwestern Medical Center. As the Frank and Sara McKnight Fellow at UTSW, Helen combined her biophysics and development backgrounds to study the development of somatosensory circuits in the spinal cord. Her lab continues to focus on the development and function of nociceptive and proprioceptive circuits.