



## Vaibhavkumar S. GAWALI

**Finishing year:** 2016

**Supervisor:** Hannes Todt,  
Medical University of Vienna

**Thesis title:** The mechanism of interaction of local anesthetic drugs with voltage-gated sodium channels.

**Current position and employer:** PostDoc in the Conforti Lab, College of Medicine, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH, USA.

**MolTag alumni page:**

[Vaibhavkumar S. Gawali \(univie.ac.at\)](https://univie.ac.at)

**Social networks:**

[Vaibhavkumar Gawali, Ph.D. | LinkedIn](#)

[Vaibhavkumar Gawali, PhD \(@vaibhavkumar\\_g\) / Twitter](#)

### How would you summarize your thesis results in 3 sentences?

Local anesthetics bind to voltage-gated sodium channels that are important for the treatment of neurological and cardiac disorders. My thesis work identified and characterized the critical interactions of local anesthetics with various inactivation states of these channels using single cell patch-clamp electrophysiology. This work laid the foundation for the discovery of new local anesthetics with prolonged effects.

### What did you do after your PhD?

I am doing translational research in immuno-oncology to discover new & safer therapies with a focus on ion channels.

### What was the impact of the MolTag program on your further career?

Training in electrophysiology & ion channels helped me lead the projects independently and become an expert in this area.

### Did you keep connections with some former colleagues?

Yes, I am glad to mention here that I got some lifetime “friends” during my MolTag endeavor.

### What did you particularly like about the MolTag program?

Great interdisciplinary training by connecting students with other labs and an opportunity to do summer internship abroad.

### What is your recommendation for current MolTag PhD students?

This is your best opportunity to get maximum out of it. **Be proactive and reach out to your colleagues, faculty, and alumni to form new collaboration**, discuss, and share your ideas.

