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Cell-Type Map of Pain and Non-Pain Somatosensory States in the Spinal Cord

Allan-Hermann Pool is an Assistant Professor at University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center (UTSW) where his lab studies the cellular mechanisms mediating central pain and pain relief states and develops new cell-type specific therapeutic avenues to target these circuit nodes. Dr. Pool received his PhD from UC Berkeley where he dissected food and water intake regulatory circuits in the fruit fly uncovering a pair of neurons preventing indiscriminate consumption in insects. He went on to perform postdoctoral work at California Institute of Technology where he discovered mammalian central sensory neurons detecting the need for water and minerals and orchestrate corresponding appetites. His lab at UTSW deploys high-throughput cellular methods to discover pain and pain-relief engaged neuron types, dissects their functional role in driving adaptive and mal-adaptive pain behaviors and develops antibody and viral methods to render these circuits precisely druggable.