

Dr. Ana Freitas has a BSc degree (2008-2013) in biology and a PhD in biochemistry (Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil, 2013-2018). During her bachelor, she got acquainted with protein quantitation, High-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) and protein detection by mass spectrometry. Her PhD thesis investigated the effect of an analgesic spider peptide on the pain signaling pathway. In addition, she gathered skills in drug discovery, mammalian adherent cell cultures, behavioral assays to assess pain behavior and molecular tests. During her PhD, she spent one year as a visiting fellow at the Arthritis Research UK Pain Centre-University of Nottingham, England (2015-2016). In the UK, she continued her research in the field of pain. She also had a short stay in the lab of Toxicology (KU Leuven). There, she focused on investigating new ligands of GPCRs and ion channels. Ana had her first post-doctoral position in Brazil (Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil, 2018-2019) where she investigated the mechanism of action of compounds for erectile dysfunction and pain treatment. In 2019, she got a post-doctoral position in the laboratory of ion channel research (VIB-KU Leuven, Belgium). In 2022 she was awarded an FWO senior post-doctoral mandate. Currently, she is mainly interested in understanding the impact of inflammation in sensory neurons and satellite glial cells. Her project involves patch clamp experiments, *in vivo* and *ex vivo* imaging, single-cell transcriptomics, and proteomics. She guides students and teaches theoretical and practical courses in molecular cell biology and physiology.