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Potassium Channels

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Potassium channels serve important physiological functions in the animal and plant kingdoms. Indeed, mutations of potassium channel genes have been linked to a number of human diseases of the brain, heart, muscle, pancreas, kidney and neural crest-derived tissues. We are interesting in a wide range of questions such as: How do potassium channels work? How do these channels contribute to neuronal signaling? I will describe two recent thesis studies on the biophysical and physiological functions of two different types of potassium channels, voltage-gated potassium channels and G protein-activated inwardly rectifying potassium channels.