

Trip Summary- Miya Marco

Miya Marco's travel to Rush Medical Center from September 11th to October 21st, 2024. During my trip to Chicago, I worked with the Malfait and Miller groups to develop new techniques for staining joint nerves' sprouting that may explain a potential pain related mechanism we have been observing in preclinical models of OA. I worked with Dr Jun Li to establish a modified protocol for this staining procedure, which I applied later to more than 150 samples that were transferred from the Dvir-Ginzberg Lab to Rush, through a collaboration funded by the US-Israel Binational Foundation from 2022-2026. During my time in Chicago, I learned to process, section and stain murine DRGs in order to learn if there may be differences in the structures innervating the joint, or in immune cells infiltration, possibly influencing pain related behaviors in murine models. To train on DRG handling, I worked with Dr Robin Vroman and Natalie Adamczyk.

Overall, I had an excellent learning experience and was able to bring new methods to the lab in Israel, and even help establish new methods at the Malfait and Miller labs at Rush. I want to thank both labs and teams for hosting me and extend a special thanks to OARSI who provided financial support for this fantastic research exchange and experience. I am excited to present some of our findings at the 2025 OARSI meeting in S. Korea.

