Prof. Helena Safavi

Helena Safavi, PhD, is an Associate Professor of Biochemistry at the University of Utah, USA. Her lab studies venom peptides from marine cone snails with a focus on discovering novel toxins that mimic neuropeptides and peptide hormones as potential therapeutics in pain and metabolic disorders. Current research in her group includes the study of venom peptides that target the insulin receptor as leads for diabetes and peptides that selectively activate G protein–coupled receptors to relieve pain.

Dr. Safavi received her MSc in biology from the University of Cologne, Germany and her PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from the University of Melbourne, Australia. She has published over 60 papers, holds multiple patents, and co-founded two peptide therapeutics companies. Prof. Helena Safavi was awarded her ERC Starting Grant in the 2020.