

Dr. Simon Akerman is Associate Professor and Vice Chair of the Department of Neural and Pain Sciences at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. He is an internationally recognized expert in mechanisms of headache and trigeminal pain disorders. He completed PhD studies at University College London in Neurological Sciences in 2003, investigating the pathophysiological mechanisms related to migraine, under the supervision of Dr. Peter Goadsby. He completed postdoctoral studies at UCL and UCSF. Prior to entering academia, he was a Senior Scientist at Eli Lilly in their Pain and Migraine research program. He has received various awards for his research efforts, including the 2009 AHS Wolff award and 2025 HCOP Steven Graff-Radford/Robert E. Merrill Award. Dr. Akerman's research is focused on dissecting the basic neural and molecular mechanisms related to primary headache disorders, including migraine, cluster headache, and migraine co-morbidities, such as with orofacial pain disorders, and his laboratory utilizes neurophysiological, behavioral and molecular/biochemistry techniques. The long-term goal of these research efforts is to identify novel and more efficacious targets to treat these pain conditions, and his research is currently funded by the DoD and NIH.