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Under Pressure: The Role of PIEZO ion Channels in Interoception

Dr. Kara Marshall is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Neuroscience at Baylor College of Medicine. She received her Ph.D. from Columbia University, where she studied touch receptor neurons in the Lumpkin Lab. She then worked to understand how mechanical forces are detected inside the body in the Patapoutian lab at Scripps Research. Sensing internal forces is critical for a wide variety of processes, such as blood-pressure control, feeding, digestion, and urination. Despite its importance, we know little about the sensors, cells and physiology of internal force sensing. Her lab focuses on understanding how the nervous system detects internal forces in the urinary tract and other systems, and how this impacts physiology and behavior in health and disease.