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The hippocampus is a mental GPS that uses visual information to determine relative location. However, the neural pathways that convey visual information to the hippocampus are unknown. Dr. Chinmay Purandare will investigate this information transmission in [Dr. Massimo Scanziani's lab](#) at the University of California, San Francisco. Dr. Purandare will use a novel set of visual cues, developed during his graduate studies, to directly activate hippocampal neurons and determine which visual brain regions are informing the hippocampus. Furthermore, Purandare would probe if the visual information conveyed is different depending on whether the subject is moving versus externally generated visual motion. Dr. Purandare's research will further our understanding of circuit level connections between visual pathways and the hippocampus.

As a graduate student in [Dr. Mayank Mehta's lab](#) at the University of California, Los Angeles, Purandare explored the minimal set of cues necessary for driving hippocampal responses. He developed [novel visual stimuli and found that the hippocampus responds like sensory cortices when presented with these cues](#). This research led Dr. Purandare to the question of how these visual cues reach the hippocampus, which he will now explore in Dr. Scanziani's lab.

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