

SUCCESS STORY



www.bioalberta.com



www.neuraura.com

Neuraura is empowering women's reproductive and long-term health with a wearable bioelectronic device for the treatment of PCOS (Polycystic Ovary Syndrome). The company is a deep-tech spin-out from the University of Calgary focused on translating leading edge technology in the field of neural interfaces into medical devices with significant clinical impact.

For Neuraura, the ability to hire top student talent is critical to continuing momentum in its product development activities and achievement of its strategic milestones overall. The leadership at Neuraura values the technical aptitude, curiosity and creativity that interns bring to each and every challenge with which they are presented.

The BioAlberta WIL Voucher supported Neuraura in hiring two student interns during Summer 2022, one of whom is Kazim Haider.

Kazim is pursuing a Master's degree in Biomedical Engineering at the Schulich School of Engineering at the University of Calgary and is specializing in the microfabrication of microneedle arrays for painless injections. He has worked with Neuraura in a variety of project-based, part-time and full-time internships since 2019.

Kazim's responsibilities during Summer 2022 included mapping out in detail the manufacturing steps, associated equipment, labour and materials and costs for Neuraura's core product families. This was a critical input to ongoing discussions with a potential strategic partner. Kazim's prior experience with Neuraura, his existing network of relationships with specialist suppliers



Kazim Haider

combined with his advanced knowledge of the technical field meant that he was able to contribute within and beyond this scope from the first day of his internship. It speaks to the importance of talent retention, and Kazim makes note of how this is mutually beneficial: “Having previously interned at Neuraura during my undergraduate degree, I had a good understanding of the company’s mission as well as their fun, inclusive, and fast paced work culture. I knew that a summer internship at Neuraura would allow me to continue expanding my technical skillset while also gaining experience in the business and regulatory sides of the medical technology space.”

In the last four months Neuraura’s interns have driven its technology and commercialization roadmap forward on multiple fronts in a way that would not have been possible without BioAlberta’s WIL Voucher. Kazim makes note of further positives, saying “as a graduate student, the WIL funding allowed me to earn additional income to support my studies and cost of living while also being able to gain valuable work experience that can be put towards my future application for my professional engineer designation.”

Kazim remains enthusiastic about his work at Neuraura, noting the most inspiring part of his job is understanding potential positive impact he can have on people’s lives. Working at a small company gave him the ability to see his work and ideas influence the overall direction of a project. He says, “The team is highly passionate and motivated, and I feel inspired everyday to have the opportunity to learn from their expertise in this early stage of my career.”

What’s next for Kazim: “My biggest takeaway from this work term is to be a sponge and get involved in as many different projects as possible, whenever possible. After finishing my master’s in biomedical engineering, I hope to start a career in industry and continue to sharpen my technical and interpersonal skills, working on projects that have a meaningful impact on the world around me.”

