

SUCCESS STORY



www.bioalberta.com

www.pulsemedica.com

PulseMedica's story began when Nir Katchinskiy was studying laser tissue interaction as part of his Ph.D. research under the supervision of Prof. Abdul Elezzabi at the University of Alberta. Nir's findings showed the potential for using femtosecond laser pulses as a precise tool to perform surgery without causing damage to surrounding tissue. In 2020, while Nir was participating in Creative Destruction Lab - Rockies (CDL-R), he crossed paths with Eric Martin, who was pursuing his MBA. United by their commitment to reduce disease and disability for those suffering from eye diseases, Abdul, Nir and Eric co-founded PulseMedica with invaluable guidance from CDL-R mentors. Now, PulseMedica is an Edmonton-based medical device startup laser focused on improving the quality of life for millions of people by building revolutionary technology to image and treat vitreoretinal eye disease.

What makes PulseMedica unique is the team members who are dedicated to deep-technology innovation and leveraging each other's unique strengths and expertise to solve intricate challenges. PulseMedica is proudly certified as a Great Place to Work!®, a testament to the incredible workplace that nurtures the growth and fulfillment of its team members while building their careers.

Interns are an important part of PulseMedica's startup culture and scientific journey. Their diverse backgrounds and generational perspectives provide new ideas to the existing team, and, in turn, help foster a culture of knowledge-sharing, respect, and inclusion across the company. Interns often bring fresh perspectives and emerging skills, which challenge the team to adapt and stay up to date, reinforcing a culture of humility, continuous learning and innovation.



Ivana Ilic, PulseMedica intern

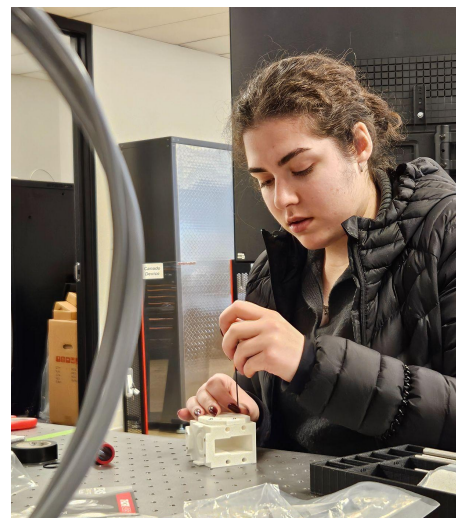
Ivana Ilic is a third-year Bachelor of Engineering student at the University of Alberta. She sought out the Optics Intern position at PulseMedica as an opportunity to “gain a unique and valuable experience beyond the scope of her engineering degree.” Recognizing the chance to apply and build on her academic knowledge and skills, she saw it as a chance to use her “classroom knowledge in a real-world setting and develop new skills along the way.”

Since the start of her internship at PulseMedica, Ivana has been involved in the design and manufacturing of 3D-printed components to support a range of tabletop optic experiments. Notably, she has played a role in aligning optical systems for laser pathways in PulseMedica’s medical device. Ivana’s contributions extended further as she seized the unique opportunity to develop a MATLAB code for analyzing captured data and constructed a user-friendly GUI using MATLAB’s App Designer.

Expressing her excitement about the internship, Ivana emphasized the “hands-on experience” she has experienced at PulseMedica.” She found this aspect particularly thrilling: “One of the most exciting aspects of working at PulseMedica is the ability to have hands-on experience with novel, in-development technology.”

Her mentor and the PulseMedica team value Ivana’s contributions, especially in designing various test apparatuses, making her an integral part of the team. PulseMedica highlighted the significant role interns like Ivana play in “easing the workload and providing additional support” across multiple areas. Her mentor further mentions that PulseMedica “has a history of providing a variety of tasks to interns that usually involve some aspects of design, manufacturing and testing of component parts.”

With the support of BioAlberta and the administration of WIL funding, PulseMedica has been able to provide a high-quality mentorship experience, positively impacting the quantity and quality of future hires. This aligns with PulseMedica’s mission to cultivate a thriving internship program, fostering a culture of learning and growth across the team while reinforcing their commitment to investing in emerging talent. Ivana remarked, “PulseMedica can onboard several interns at once, which in turn, allows for a distinctive and collaborative environment.” She emphasized the importance of shared levels in career and academic backgrounds among interns, fostering strong relationships among them and the rest of the team.



Ivana Ilic at work in the PulseMedica facilities

Ivana expressed her anticipation of “seamlessly integrating the practical insights that I have gained and to continue to integrate them into my academic pursuits and future career.” She also mentions that she is provided with “the opportunity to have unique experiences that encourage my skills development every day,” which “advances my technical mechanical engineering expertise, contributing to invaluable learning opportunities beyond the traditional scope of learning.” Motivated by the positive impact on her community, Ivana highlighted the significance of her work. She mentions, “I can see that I am having a direct positive impact on my community since many people in my community are affected by vitreoretinal eye disease.”

Find PulseMedica on LinkedIn: [@PulseMedica](#) | Find the candidate on LinkedIn: [Ivana Ilic](#)

About PulseMedica

Interns at PulseMedica bring new opportunities to tackle short-term projects and assist with workload management, which helps create a healthy balance for the team. With diverse backgrounds, they offer unique perspectives that enhance the team dynamics and foster a culture of knowledge-sharing, respect and inclusion across the company. Interns bring emerging skills, which challenge the team to adapt and stay up-to-date, reinforcing a culture of humility and continuous learning and innovation.

If you're a student interested in working with PulseMedica, be sure to watch for job openings on your university's job board or reach out to them through their website www.pulsemedica.com/contact-us. They're excited to hear from you!

WIL VOUCHER

Alberta

bio
alberta
Association for Life Sciences Industry