

Kelly Monk, Ph.D., has been instrumental in establishing zebrafish as a model to study glia, and her studies demonstrated that zebrafish and mammalian glia are remarkably similar. Through genetic screens, she discovered that the adhesion G protein-coupled receptor (aGPCR) Gpr126/Adgrg6 is essential for myelination. Her work on Gpr126/Adgrg6 and other aGPCRs helped to lay the foundation for understanding biological functions of this receptor class. She and her team have discovered new roles for aGPCRs in the developing nervous system, were the first to delineate aGPCR functions in the adult nervous system during homeostasis and injury, and helped to define new activation paradigms, ligands, and downstream signaling mechanisms for these previously enigmatic receptors. Kelly is currently Professor and Co-Director of the Vollum Institute at Oregon Health and Science University in Portland, Oregon.