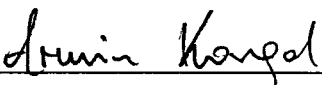


MODEL SELECTION AND OPTIMIZATION OF THE SODIUM ION CHANNEL
THROUGH THE USE OF SINGLE AND ENSEMBLE PULSE PROTOCOLS

A DISSERTATION
SUBMITTED ON THE TWENTY-SEVENTH DAY OF MARCH 2003
TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS
IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS
OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL
OF TULANE UNIVERSITY
FOR THE DEGREE OF
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
BY



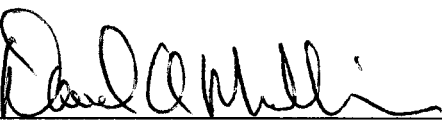
AZIDA HOSEIN-SOOKLAL

APPROVED: 

ARMIN KARGOL, PH.D.
CHAIRMAN OF DISSERTATION



JAMES MACLAREN, PH.D.



DAVID MULLIN, PH.D

Biography

Azida Hosein was born on 5th July, 1972 in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, West Indies. She is the daughter of Rosanna and the late Afzal Hosein and the second of three siblings. At the age of four she attended the Munroe Hindu Primary School until she passed the Common Entrance Examination at age 10, which earned her a place at St. Joseph's Convent, a Catholic highschool. While at St. Joseph's Convent, she was a member of the school choir, chess club and the St. Joseph's Convent's cricket team. After passing the Cambridge Advanced Level examinations in 1990, she was accepted to pursue a Bachelor of Science degree at the University of the West Indies in St. Augustine, Trinidad. At UWI, Azida majored in Physics and graduated in 1994 with First Class Honors. She was the top graduating senior in Physics and placed second to all graduating seniors of the School of Natural Sciences and Agriculture. Azida was then awarded the University of the West Indies Postgraduate Scholarship to pursue a Master of Philosophy Degree (M.Phil.) in Physics, which she earned in 1996. After graduating in 1996, Azida accepted a position as a teacher of Physics and Mathematics at St. Mary's College in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad. In 1998 she enrolled in the Ph.D. program at Tulane University in New Orleans, where she joined Tulane's Biophysics Group and earned a Master of Science degree in 2002.