Following completion of her PhD at Imperial College London, **Dr. Kirsty Bannister** spent 10 years as a Post-doctoral Research Fellow investigating novel disease-induced alterations in descending modulatory pathways in the Dickenson lab, University College London. Upon award of the 2017 European Pain Federation publication prize Kirsty started her own research group in King's College London where she is now an Associate Professor. Her research team bridges the gap between bench and bedside pain as they seek to functionally define descending control pathways in rodent and human. Kirsty has led multiple symposia at international meetings including the World Congress on Pain and European Pain Federation. She performs Section Editor duties for multiple pain-related journals and sits on the Scientific Programme Committee for the World Pain congress. In 2022 Kirsty was awarded the International Association for the Study of Pain's Patrick D. Wall prize, and in 2023 Kirsty was the recipient of the British Pain Society Patrick D. Wall award.