Dr. Priyanka Rana is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Physical Therapy and Movement Science at the University of Texas at El Paso, where she directs the Pain modulation and Rehabilitation Lab (PMR Lab). She earned her PhD in Rehabilitation Science with a concentration in Neuromuscular Plasticity from the University of Florida in 2024, mentored by Dr. Mark Bishop. Her dissertation examined pain modulation effectiveness, establishing foundational work that continues to shape her independent research program.

Dr. Rana's research expertise centers on understanding how the body's natural pain relief systems can be harnessed therapeutically. She specializes in conditioned pain modulation (CPM), exercise-induced hypoalgesia, quantitative sensory testing, and transcranial magnetic stimulation. Her innovative work challenges traditional paradigms by investigating repeated CPM exposure as a potential therapeutic intervention rather than simply a diagnostic tool.

Since establishing her lab at UTEP in 2024, Dr. Rana has secured competitive funding including UTEP startup funds and a $30,000 AOPT New Investigator Grant. She maintains an active publication record in leading pain journals, serves as a peer reviewer for multiple high-impact journals including Clinical Journal of Pain and Scientific Reports, and regularly presents her work at international conferences. Dr. Rana is committed to mentoring the next generation of pain researchers, currently supervising doctoral, undergraduate, and Texas Leader Scholars students. Her work bridges basic science discovery with clinical application, aiming to develop novel, non-pharmacological approaches to pain management.