

2018 - 2019

End of Year Report



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN
NEUROSCIENCE PROGRAM





Neuroscience Program Director:
Professor **Martha Gillette** of the Department of Cell and Developmental Biology.



Neuroscience Program Coordinator:
Samuel Beshers of the Neuroscience Program and Department of Entomology.

2018 - 2019 NSP Faculty and Staff Honors / Awards

Aron Barbey, Psychology Professor
Rashid Bashir, Bioengineering Professor
Alison M. Bell, Animal Biology Professor
Aaron Benjamin, Psychology Professor

Stephen Boppart, ECE Professor

Jefferson Chan, Chemistry Assistant Professor
Aditi Das, CB Associate Professor

Ryan Dilger, Animal Sciences Associate Professor
Kara Federmeier, Psychology Associate Professor
Rebecca Fuller, Animal Biology Professor

Roberto Galvez, COM Teaching Assistant Professor

Martha Gillette, CDB Professor

Rhanor Gillette, MIP Professor

Neha Gothe, Kinesiology Assistant Professor

Mark Hauber, Animal Biology Professor
Wendy Heller, Psychology Professor
Manuel Hernandez, Kinesiology Assistant Professor

Elizabeth Hsiao-Weckler, MSE Professor

Fatima Husain, Speech & Hearing Professor
Daniel Hyde, Psychology Associate Professor
Douglas Jones, ECE Professor
Heidemarie Laurent, Psychology Assistant Professor

Deborah Leckband, CBE Professor
Nu-Chu Liang, Psychology Assistant Professor
Citlali Lopez-Ortiz, Kinesiology Professor

Steven Petruzzello, Kinesiology Professor
Justin Rhodes, Psychology Associate Professor
Gene Robinson, Director IGB
Uwe Rudolph, Comparative Bioscience Professor
Jonathan Sweedler, Chemistry Professor

Emad Tajkhorshid, Biochemistry Professor
Nien-Pei Tsai, MIP Assistant Professor
Yurii Vlasov, ECE Professor

2nd Annual Mensa Foundation Prize
Named Grainger Chair
University of Illinois - 2018 University Scholar, Getz Professorial Scholar Fellow, American Psychological Association (Division 3); Fellow, Society of Experimental Psychologists
Interim Executive Associate Dean and Chief Diversity Officer, Carle Illinois College of Medicine
SPIE Biophotonics Technology Innovator Award, 2019
2019-2020 Fellow, Center for Advance Study, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Mary Swartz Rose Young Investigator Award from the American Society for Nutrition (ASN)
List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent for VM602
Editorial Board of Frontiers in Pharmacology
Purdue University Department of Animal Sciences Mid-Career Alumni Award (May 3, 2019)
President, Society for Psychophysiological Research
2018-2019 Yerger Lectureship Award, Florida State University
University of Illinois - 2018 Teaching Professorial Scholar in Integrative Biology
Developmental Neurobiology Cover Image
Nature - Scientific Reports Editorial Board Member
NIH National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) Advisory Council, Member November 1, 2018-October 31, 2022
MultiUniversity Research Institute (MURI) Award, ONR - to a team of 7 labs across UIUC, Northwestern, and Stanford: Project: A CyberOctopus that Learns, Evolves and Adapts
Early Career Investigator Award [Complementary & Integrative Medicine SIG], Society of Behavioral Medicine, March 2019
Named Harley Jones Van Cleave Professor in Host-Parasite Interactions
Executive Officer Distinguished Leadership Award
Michael V. Colla Prize for Mathematics Related to Medicine for co-mentored Illinois Geometry Lab Research Group
Fellow in the American Society of Biomechanics
Distinguished Engineering Educator Awardee from the National Society of Women Engineers
2019-2020 Associate, Center for Advance Study, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Distinguished Early Career Contribution Award, International Congress on Infant Studies
Named William L. Everitt Distinguished Professor in Electrical and Computer Engineering
Named Helen Corley Petit Scholar for 2019-2020
Received two National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) RO1 Grants
Received Mind and Life PEACE grant "Neurobehavioral Effects of Prenatal Mindfulness Training on Maternal Presence and Compassionate Love
Names Reid T. Milner Professor
Awarded NIH R03 and R21 Grant Award
2109-2020 Fellow, Center for Advanced Study, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation Pilot Research Grant
Elected Fellow of the National Academy of Kinesiology
3rd Percentile on R21 grant In vitro platform for discovering muscle-neuron interactions
2018 Wolf Prize in Agriculture; Election to the National Academy of Medicine
Joined University of Illinois, named Head of Comparative Biosciences Department
Named James R. Eiszner Family Chair in Chemistry
2018 Visionary Award from the American Diabetes Association
2018 Torbern Bergman Medal at the National Meeting of the Swedish Chemical Society
Named J. Woodland Hastings Endowed Chair in Biochemistry
2018 NARSAD Young Investigator Award from the Brain & Behavior Research Foundation
Named Founder Professor in Electrical & Computer Engineering

Promotions 2018-19

Aditi Das	Associate Professor	Comparative Biosciences
Daniel Hyde	Associate Professor	Psychology

Student Honors, Awards, and Acknowledgments

Alexander Asilador	Fall 2018	List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by their Students
	Spring 2018	List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by their Students
Brian Baculis	Fall 2018	NSF-NRT: Understanding the Brain: Training the Next Generation of Researchers in Engineering and Deciphering of Miniature Brain Machinery (MBM) trainee
Richard Bido Medina	Spring 2019	Matched to Harvard Medical School Psychiatry Residency at Mass General Hospital
Paul Camacho	Fall 2018	Graduate College Distinguished Fellowship
Corinne Cannavale	Fall 2018	Most Prepared to Present, Neuroscience Program SfN Poster Night, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Paty Cintora	Fall 2018	Trainee Professional Development Award, Society for Neuroscience
	Fall 2018	Science, Mathematics, and Research for Transformation (SMART) Scholarship for Service Semifinalist
Kelsey Dzwilewski	Fall 2018	Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award Individual Fellowship, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
	Summer 2018	Developmental Neurotoxicology Society, Travel Award, June 2018
Joanne Fil	Summer 2018	Emerging Leaders Poster Competition Finalist, ASN 2018
Stephen Fleming	Summer 2018	Emerging Leaders Poster Competition Finalist, ASN 2018
Rachel Gonzalez	Spring 2019	ENDO 2019 Knock-out Rounds Second Place, March 2019
	Spring 2019	Women in Endocrinology Young Investigator Award, March 2019
Katya Gribkova	Spring 2019	List of Teachers Marked as Excellent by the Student for Fall 2018
Katherine Hatcher	Fall 2018	Trainee Professional Development Award (Society for Neuroscience 2018)
		Alternate for Paul D. Doolen Graduate Award for the study of Aging (University of Illinois)
Sung-Soo Jang	Summer 2018	American Epilepsy Society Predoctoral Research Fellowship
Collin Kaufman	Fall 2018	Awarded a Traineeship on the NSF Training Grant Understanding the Brain: Training the Next Generation of Researchers in Engineering and Deciphering of Miniature Brain Machinery
	Fall 2018	Finalist Research Live! Competition at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
	Fall 2018	Certificate of Achievement for Best Lightning Talk, Miniature Brain Machinery NRT Annual Retreat
Rafay Khan	Summer 2018	Travel Award - Husain, F.T., Khan, R., Tai, Y. Neuroimaging brain changes following tinnitus treatment. Lemann Institute (UIUC)-FAPESP (Brazil) Collaborative Research Grant, (total cost) \$20,000, June 1, 2018 May 31, 2020
Colin Lee	Spring 2018	List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by their Student
Young Jae Lee	Spring 2018	List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by their Student
Rose Meacham	Spring 2019	Member, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers
	Spring 2019	Member, The Computer Vision Foundation
Francheska Merced-Nieves	Fall 2018	T23 NIEHS Predoctoral Fellowship
	Fall 2018	Kinesis Foundation Scholarship
Ghazal Naseri	Fall 2018	Beckman Graduate Fellowship. Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology.
Nnamdi Nelson	Summer 2018	Research Society on Alcoholism Merit Travel Award
Lydia Nguyen	Spring 2018	List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by their Student, rated as outstanding - top 10% of all TA's
Elli Sellinger	Fall 2018	List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by their Student for PSYC 311 for Fall 2018
Megan Sieg	Fall 2018	Interdisciplinary Environmental Toxicology Scholar
Stephanie Soriano	Spring 2019	Honorable Mention for the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program
Ian Traniello	Spring 2018	Best Lightning Talk, GEEB Symposium
	Spring 2018	Elected to Full Membership in Sigma Xi, Scientific Research Honor Society
Liran Ziegelman	Spring 2019	Honorable Mention for the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program

Medical Scholars Residency Matches March 2019

Petra Majdak	Anesthesiology	Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, MA
Siyuan Christopher Liu	Neurology	Northwestern McGaw/NMH/VA, Chicago, IL
	Medicine - Preliminary	Northwestern McGaw/NMH/VA-IL, Chicago, IL

2018 Distinguished Promotions

Alison Bell	Professor	Animal Biology
Rebecca Fuller	Professor	Animal Biology

2018 - 2019 Retirements

Thomas Anastasio	Associate Professor	Molecular and Integrative Physiology
Mark Nelson	Professor	Molecular and Integrative Physiology
Susan Schantz	Professor	Comparative Biology

Funding for the Future of the Program



The "Founders of Neuroscience" Fellowship Fund is an endowed fund which will provide an annual fellowship opportunity for graduate students. This endowed fellowship may also allow a junior faculty member to recruit a new student while submitting grant proposals, or allow faculty who have been committed to the Program to have a student supported for a year in gratitude for their contributions to the NSP, and of course will allow us to recruit excellent students. We look forward to an active, successful campaign and a brilliant future for the next generation of Illinois neuroscientists.

Student Milestones and Achievements

Qualifying Exam

Brian Baculis	November 2018
Joanne Fil	July 2018
Rachel Gonzalez	September 2018
Katya Gribkova	October 2018
Zoe MacDowell Kaswan	May 2018
Coltan Parker	June 2018
Elli Sellinger	May 2018

Preliminary Exam

Richard Bido Medina	January 2019
Elizabeth Davis	July 2018
Kristen Flatt	April 2019
Stephen Fleming	September 2019
Noelle James	May 2018
Sung Soo Jang	September 2018
Grace Kim	May 2018
Debby Liu	April 2018
Francheska Merced-Nieves	June 2018
Ghazal Naseri	December 2018
Nnamdi Nelson	May 2018
Lydia Nguyen	March 2019
Ian Traniello	December 2018
Georgiy Yudintsev	December 2018

Final Exam

Richard Bido Medina	April 2019
Mariam Camacho	November 2018
Elizabeth Davis	October 2018
Adam Hamilton	May 2018
Shuo Kang	July 2018
Alexandria Lesicko	August 2018
Nnamdi Nelson	April 2019
Joey Operskalski	May 2018
Kevin Stebbings	July 2018
Emily Tillmaand	May 2018
Georgiy Yudintsev	April 2019

Dissertations Deposited

Richard Bido Medina

"Neuro-Zika: Brain structure and functional organization of adult humans with Zika virus infection and severe neurological complications"

Miriam Bonyadi Camacho

"Computational Analysis of the Response of the Monoaminergic Neurotransmitter System and Stress- and Sex-Steroid Hormone Systems to Administration of Antidepressant Drugs"

Elizabeth Davis

"Investigation of non-traditional roles of the neural gut-brain axis"

Adam Hamilton

"Endocrine, transcriptomic and social regulation of division of labor in honey bees"

Shuo Kang

"Age-dependent effects of chronic amphetamine on prelimbic-nucleus accumbens circuit function and goal-directed behavior"

Daniel Kougias

"Effects of perinatal exposure to a mixture of phthalates and a maternal high-fat diet on the neurodevelopment of male and female rats"

Alexandria Lesicko

"Modularity of the microcircuitry of the lateral cortex of the mouse inferior colliculus"

Nnamdi Nelson

"Effects of alcohol and Δ^9 -tetrahydrocannabinol on energy balance and cognitive behaviors"

Kevin Stebbings

"Quantifying effects of aging across structures of the mouse auditory system, with in-vitro brain slice preparations"

Emily Tillmaand

"Neurochemical characterization of the rodent primary sensory system"

Georgiy Yudintsev

"Connectional heterogeneity in the mouse auditory corticocollicular system"



Neuroscience Program Executive Function Manager
Business Administrative Associate, Stephanie Pugh
Booklet design and printing

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Neuroscience Program