

# The 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Hunter College Psychology Convention



& The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual N.E.U.R.O.N. Conference

April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Presented By

THE PSYCHOLOGY COLLECTIVE

OF HUNTER COLLEGE

**N.E.U.R.O.N.**

NorthEast Undergraduate Research Organization for Neuroscience

<http://www.albany.edu/neuron/conference/index.html>

**The Psychology Collective**

**Psi Chi    Psychology Club    Psych News**

Hunter College Psychology Department

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Program & Scheduling by Marlene Gioia

# Welcome to the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual New England Conference of **N.E.U.R.O.N.**

## **What is N.E.U.R.O.N.?**

The NorthEast Under/graduate Research Organization for Neuroscience is an organization that supports undergraduate and graduate education and research in the northeast regions of the United States.

## **The Primary Goals of N.E.U.R.O.N. are ...**

- to provide an open forum for neuroscience undergraduate and graduate students to present and discuss their work with students and faculty of similar interests.
- to provide faculty an opportunity to discuss curricular and research issues in neuroscience, biopsychology and related areas.
- to provide resources to enhance communication and collaboration among neuroscience researchers and educators.

In order to achieve these goals, **N.E.U.R.O.N.** has annual conferences that are focused on enhancing neuroscience training. The annual one-day conference provides a forum for undergraduate and graduate students to present and gain feedback from peers and faculty on the research in which they have engaged during the academic year. Students and faculty participate in workshops that discuss important topical and pipeline issues in neuroscience. Notable neuroscientists are invited to provide the keynote address. The diversity of the agenda provides a well-rounded opportunity for all attendees to engage in rigorous science, while promoting and encouraging the development of neuroscientists in training.

**For more information or to get involved, visit the website:**

<http://www.albany.edu/neuron/conference/index.html>

**~Table of Contents~**

Convention Program.....	ii
Schedule of Events by Room .....	iii-vii
Keynote .....	2
Presentation Abstracts	
Oral Presentations.....	3-19
Poster Presentations.....	20-45
SPSSI-NY Panel Discussions.....	46
Guest Lecturers.....	47-48
Workshops and Information Sessions.....	49-50
N.E.U.R.O.N. Symposia.....	51-53
Suzannah Bliss Tieman Award .....	54-55
Acknowledgements .....	56
Notes (Blank Page).....	57
Program Table .....	Inside Back Cover
Navigating in and around Hunter .....	Back Cover

## ~Convention Program~

**8:30 – 4:00**      **Registration**

**8:30 – 10:00**      **Buffet Breakfast**

**9:30 – 10:00**      **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

**Welcome:**

**Jason Young, Ph.D.**

*Department of Psychology  
Hunter College, CUNY*

*Faculty Advisor to The Psychology Collective*

**Cheryl Frye, Ph.D.**

*Department of Psychology  
University at Albany, SUNY  
Faculty Advisor to N.E.U.R.O.N.*

**10:00 – 11:00**      **Keynote Presentation**  
Room 615 Hunter West

**Dr. Eric J. Nestler**

*Mt. Sinai School of Medicine*

**"New Insight into the Neurobiology of Depression"**

**Introduced by: Cheryl Frye, Ph.D.**

*Department of Psychology  
University at Albany, SUNY*

**11:15 AM – 5:00 PM**

**Oral Presentations**

**NEURON Symposia**

**SPSSI-NY Panels**

**Hunter, Kaplan & New School**

**Workshops and Information Sessions**

**11:15 – 12:45 - Poster Presentations, Session I**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor North-West Walkway

**1:30 – 3:00 - Poster Presentations, Session II**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor North-West Walkway

**12:00 – 3:00**      **Buffet Luncheon**  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor Hunter West

**3:30 – 3:45**      **Tieman Award Presentation**

**4:45 - 6:00**      **Wine & Cheese Reception**  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor Hunter West

**Kaplan Drawing**

**Jeremy Febrill**

*Kaplan Representative*

**Psi Chi Induction Ceremony**

**Officiators:**

**Jason Young, Ph.D.**

*Faculty Advisor, Psi Chi  
Hunter College Chapter*

*Eastern Regional Vice President, Psi Chi*

**Andrea Vial**

*President, Psi Chi  
Hunter College Chapter*

## ~Schedule of Events by Room~

### Hunter West 8<sup>th</sup> Floor

8:30 to 4:00	Registration
8:30 to 10:00	Breakfast
11:30 to 3:30	Student Outreach - <b>Professor Howard Lune</b> , Hunter (CUNY) Graduate Program in Applied Social Research
12:00 to 3:00	Lunch
3:30 to 3:45	<b>Tieman Award Presentation</b>
4:45 to 6:00	Fruit and Wine Reception
	Beginning at <b>Kaplan Raffle Drawing</b>
	Approx. 5:00
	Followed By <b>Psi Chi Induction Ceremony</b>

### Hunter West 615

9:30 to 10:00	<b>Opening Remarks/Welcome</b>
10:00 to 11:00	"New Insight into the Neurobiology of Depression" <b>Keynote Speaker: Dr. Eric J. Nestler</b>
11:15 to 12:15	"Dragon Seed: Chinese Youths in New York City" <b>Guest Lecturer: Dr. Uwe Gielen</b> , St. Francis College
12:30 to 1:30	"Justice of a Different Kind: The Original Kibbutz" <b>Guest Lecturer: Dr. Salomon Rettig</b> , Hunter College (CUNY)
1:45 to 2:45	<b>Nadal Group</b> , John Jay College (CUNY)
1:45 to 2:00	"A Quantitative Measure of Racial Microaggressions" <b>Wong</b>
2:00 to 2:15	"Gender microaggressions: Perceptions, processes, and coping" <b>Hamit and Meterko</b>
2:15 to 2:30	"Processes with Sexual Orientation Microaggressions: Experiences from the LGB Perspectives" <b>Wideman and Leon</b>
2:30 to 2:45	"Processes and Struggles with Racial Microaggressions: Experiences from the White American perspective" <b>Griffin</b>
3:00 to 3:15	"Community Attitudes and Perceptions Toward Sex Offenders", <b>Cortes</b> , John Jay College of Criminal Justice (CUNY),
3:15 to 3:30	"Denial and Recidivism in a Large Sample of Convicted NJ Sex Offenders", <b>Hamilton and Loveland</b> , John Jay College of Criminal Justice,
3:30 to 3:45	"Sexual Abuse Among Children", <b>Bacayon</b> , Coppin State U,
4:00 to 4:45	<b>Diversity-based programs: Promises and Expectations</b> <b>Dr. Susan D. Croll</b> , Queens College (CUNY), <b>Carole Parent</b> , Queens College (CUNY)

### 3rd Floor N-W Bridge

11:15 to 12:45	<b>POSTER SESSION I</b> – Abbott, Bajnath, Banakos, Fiorentino, Galanopoulos, Hamilton and Loveland, Holak, Huynh, James, Kalambogias and Khan, Klein, LaClair, Lifshitz, Marganska, Mendez-Baldwin, Moses-Sommers, Padow, Pulverman, Quick, Reddan, Reich, Reichard, Satchell, Seltzer, Shand, Smiley, Sudartono, Taylor, Ullrich, Valonzo, Wong, Yakubov
1:30 to 3:00	<b>POSTER SESSION II</b> – Aiyelabowo, Amar, Baca and Ryberg, Barbieri, Byrne, Carney, Clementson, Collins, Conte, Cooper, Couzo, daCosta, Dannenberg, Danzi, Delprino, Feldman, Geronimo, Keller, Kohtz, Koonce, Lawler, Llanaeza, Mendez, Mesik, Nagai and Pace, Osborne, Paris, Salerni, Shobin, Sleezer, Sullivan, Tedeschi, Torgersen, Weston and Miller, Walf

### Hunter West 215

- 11:15 to 12:15 "Promoting student excellence in psychology", **SPSSI Panel**, Chair: **Kaufman** (Fordham), **Doran, Kriss** (New School), **Landi** (NYU), **Hutson-Ellenberg, Graham** (Fordham), **Voronov** (Moscow), **DeLacy, Mulholland, Vasquez** (Fordham)
- 12:30 to 1:30 "Psychology in New York City: Its fascinating history", **SPSSI Panel**, Chair: **Rieber** (Fordham), **Young** (Hunter), **Wojtkowski** (Jungian Psychoanalytic Assn), **Solomon** (Marymount), **Takooshian** (Fordham), **Denmark** (Pace)
- 1:45 to 2:00 "The Relationship between Social Support and Perceived Feeling of Control over Life", **Pena**, York College (CUNY)
- 2:00 to 2:15 "Self-Structure and Role Enhancement: Structural and Functional Dimensions of Life Satisfaction", **Kessel**, Hunter College (CUNY)
- 2:15 to 2:30 "Individual Differences in Helping Behavior", **Gagerie**, Hunter College (CUNY)
- 2:45 to 3:45 "Symposium on International Psychology", **SPSSI Panel**, Chair: **Jeshmaridian** (CUNY), **Denmark** (Pace), **Kiregian** (TCI), **Pipinelli** (CUNY), **Ovanesyan, Petrosyan, Jeshmaridian** (CUNY), **Meir** (CUNY)
- 4:00 to 5:00 "The Real psychoanalyst Wilhelm Reich: Myth and Reality", **SPSSI Panel**, Chair: **Morris** (Adelphi), **Gergerian** (Psychiatrist), **Crist** (American College of Orgonomy)

### Hunter West 217

- 11:15 to 12:15 **Harding Group**, Hunter College (CUNY)
- 11:15 to 11:30 "Black mold: a foil to memory?", **Sapio**, Hunter College (CUNY)
- 11:30 to 11:45 "Effects of Stachybotrys Mold Spores on Activation of Hippocampal Microglia", **Agoli**, Hunter College (CUNY)
- 11:45 to 12:00 "The Effects of Mold Exposure on Brain and Behavior", **Remigio**, Hunter College (CUNY)
- 12:30 to 12:45 "Use dependent regulation of adult neuronal turnover in the basal ganglia", **Parent**, Queens College
- 12:45 to 1:00 "Neuronal Reward Contingencies in the Posterior Parietal Cortex", **Fabiszak**, New York University
- 1:15 to 1:45 "Preliminary evidence for structural and functional brain complication in obese adolescents", **Kang**, New York University"
- 2:00 to 3:00 "Internships - A Key to Your Career", **Hunter Workshop**, Paula A. **Wicklow**, Internship Coordinator, Hunter College - Career Development Services
- 3:15 to 4:45 FREE - **Kaplan Test Prep** Preview Class

### Hunter West 603

- 11:15 to 11:30 "Transethnic Foster Placement: The Role of Ethnic Identity in Moderating Internalizing Behaviors", **Anderson**, New York University
- 11:30 to 11:45 "Biracial Black/White Women and Self-Perception Pertaining to Racial Identity", **Ackerman**, Hunter College (CUNY)
- 11:45 to 12:00 "How Ethnicity and its Degree of Importance Affects Attitudes Towards Women", **Henriquez**, Hunter College (CUNY)
- 12:15 to 12:30 "Effects of Ethnic Identity on Perceptions of Discrimination and Stress", **Goel**, Hunter College (CUNY)
- 12:30 to 12:45 "The Relationship between Race/Ethnicity and Perceived Discrimination", **Rahaman**, York College (CUNY)
- 12:45 to 1:00 "Ethnic and Gender Differences in College Students' Perceptions of Poverty", **Beltran** and **Palishchuk**, Hunter College (CUNY)
- 1:15 to 1:30 "Rap Music: To Kill or Create Identity?", **Washington**, College at Old Westbury (SUNY)
- 1:30 to 1:45 "Culturally-Related Variables Associated with Self-Harm among Young Adults", **Yanis**, Hunter College (CUNY)
- 1:45 to 2:00 "Loss in Adolescence", **Reynolds**, Mitchell College
- 2:15 to 2:30 "Rumination: Future Oriented Cognitive Schemas and Hopelessness", **Wheeler**, Hunter College (CUNY)
- 2:30 to 2:45 "The Self-Efficacy Levels of High School Students with Learning Disabilities", **Moore**, Coppin State U
- 2:45 to 3:00 "Using Facebook to Recruit Hard-to-Reach Samples", **Vial**, Hunter College (CUNY)
- 3:00 to 3:15 "Effects of Religious Discrimination on Projection of One's Religiosity on Facebook", **Prokhovnik**, Hunter College (CUNY)
- 3:30 to 4:00 "Attitudes Toward the Homeless and the Poor: Potential Determinants, and Generational Comparisons (1992-2009)", **Koltko-Rivera**, Fordham University
- 4:00 to 4:30 "A Qualitative Investigation of Dual-Diagnosis Homeless Women: The Unexpected Finding of Colorism", **Koltko-Rivera**, Fordham University
- 4:30 to 5:00 **Workshop** on the Alliance Negotiation Scale, I Want to Create a Measure: Now What? A Preliminary Guide to Test Construction, **Doran, Bolger and Somerville**, The New School for Social Research

## Hunter West 706

- 11:15 to 11:45 "The Role of Oxytocin in Facilitating Social Behavior in Rats with Amygdala Lesions", **Alfieri**, Westminster College
- 11:45 to 12:00 "Measuring Social Initiation of Children with Autism", **Moreano**, Hunter College (CUNY)
- 12:15 to 12:30 "The Longitudinal Relationship Between Drug Craving, Psychopathology, and Mandated Treatment Status", **Gajary**, Centenary College
- 12:30 to 12:45 "The Rate of Change in Drug Craving During the Course of Successful Substance Abuse Treatment", **Kimble**, Centenary College
- 12:45 to 1:00 "The Modified Cocaine Craving Questionnaire as a Tool for Evaluating Substance Craving in an Outpatient Substance Abuse Treatment Population", **Lass**, Centenary College
- 1:00 to 1:15 "Wheel running exercise delays extinction of conditioned place preference for cocaine in male C57BL/6J mice in association with impaired exercise-induced adult hippocampal neurogenesis", **Miller**, University of Illinois: Champaign-Urbana
- 1:30 to 1:45 "Perceived Relevance and Efficacy of a Student-Run Academic Journal Among Psychology Faculty", **Kriss**, New School for Social Research
- 1:45 to 2:00 "Efficacy of Teacher Child Interaction Therapy: Assessing Teacher Levels of Stress", **Firpo**, Hunter College (CUNY)
- 2:15 to 2:30 "The Relationship between Perceived Discrimination and Posttraumatic Stress Symptoms", **Vega**, York College (CUNY)
- 2:30 to 2:45 "The Late Positive Potential Varies with Observed Behavioral Inhibition in School-Aged Children", **Powers**, Hunter College (CUNY)
- 2:45 to 3:00 "The Impact of Math Anxiety on Financial Decision-making", **Alhonte**, Hunter College (CUNY)
- 3:00 to 3:15 "How do task demands affect gender differences in memory and organization? A comparative study of the California Verbal Learning Test (CVLT-II) and the Philadelphia (repeatable) Verbal Learning Test (PrVLT)", **Sunderaraman**, Taub Institute
- 3:30 to 3:45 "Associations between Homonegativity and Mental Health", **Elkady**, Hunter College (CUNY)
- 3:45 to 4:00 "The Role of Powerless Speech Markers in Safer Sex Decisions", **Heyward**, Hunter College (CUNY)
- 4:00 to 4:30 "Behaviorally inhibited temperament and sex as anxiety vulnerability factors in an animal model of avoidance", **Ricart**, UMDNJ

## Hunter West 8<sup>th</sup> Floor Presentation Area

### N.E.U.R.O.N. Research and Educational Symposia

#### **Impact of environmental stressors on autonomic, neuroendocrine, and affective responding in rats, mice, and people: Implications of epigenetics**

Walf, Kohtz, Osborne, Paris, Frye

#### **Metabolic and genetic factors Influencing cognition**

"Effects of recurrent hypoglycemia on cognition", **Jahagirdar**, Albany College (SUNY)

"Effect of intrahippocampal fatty acids with varied saturations on spatial memory in adult Sprague-Dawley Rats", **Cotero**, State University of New York

"Strain differences in prefrontal functioning: A model system for understanding emotional learning vulnerabilities", **Jiao**, UMDNJ

#### **Brain Awareness and Other Educational Outreach Opportunities**

Gittis, Osborne, Kohtz, Paris, Van Dam, Frye

**~Keynote Speaker~**

615W 10:00 to 11:00

**Eric Nestler**

*Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, New York*  
MD and PhD from Yale medical school  
Professor and Chair of Neuroscience  
Director Brain Institute  
Professor of Psychiatry  
Professor of Pharmacology and System Therapeutics

**Topic:**

**“New insight into the neurobiology of depression”**

Unraveling the pathophysiology of depression represents a unique challenge. In addition to the heterogeneity of depressive syndromes and their diverse etiologies, symptoms like guilt and suicidality are impossible to recapitulate in animal models. Nevertheless, other symptoms can be accurately modeled, which, along with growing clinical data, are beginning to provide new insight into the neurobiology of depression. Recent studies, which combine behavioral, molecular, and electrophysiological techniques, reveal that certain aspects of depression result from maladaptive stress-induced changes in reward circuits of the brain. We are currently investigating the detailed molecular mechanisms underlying these changes, including a role for chromatin remodeling. This work has highlighted that understanding mechanisms of resilience to stress offers an important new dimension for the development of fundamentally novel antidepressant treatments.

Dr. Nestler studies molecular neurobiological mechanisms of drug addiction and depression in animal models; transcriptional and epigenetic regulation of the brain.

Selected Publications:

Renthal, W., Nestler, E.J., (2009). Histone acetylation in drug addiction. *Semin Cell Dev Biol.* 20(4), 387-94

Feder, A., Nestler, E.J., Charney, D.S., (2009). Psychobiology and molecular genetics of resilience. *Nat Rev Neurosci.* 10(6), 446-57.

Nestler, E.J., (2009). Epigenetic mechanisms in psychiatry. *Biol Psychiatry.* 65(3), 189-90.

**~Presentation Abstracts~**

Listed Alphabetically by Presenter's Last Name

**~Oral Presentations~**

603W 11:30 to 11:45

**Exploring Biracial Women's Self Perceptions**

**Ena Ackerman**

Department of Psychology, *Hunter College (CUNY)*, New York, NY

Authors: Ackerman RE and DeFour D

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The purpose of this study is to exam the impact that having biracial Black/White, parentage may have on female adults' self-perceived attractiveness, and self esteem. I will collect data from 80-120 biracial women. Participants will complete an online set of surveys. Surveys will include demographic information, measures of racial identity, self esteem, and self perceived physical attractiveness. In addition, demographic information will also be collected. I plan to conduct a within group comparison. Participants will be biracial women who have one parent who is Black and the other parent is White. No other groups of biracial women will be included. I will be comparing self esteem and self perception scores of biracial women who identify as black, those who identify as neither black nor white or biracial, and biracial women who identify as white.

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217W 11:30 to 11:45

**Effects of Stachybotrys Mold Spores on Activation of Hippocampal Microglia**

**Jonila Agoli**

Department of Psychology, *Hunter College (CUNY)*, New York, NY

Author: Agoli J and Harding CF

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Up to 40% of buildings in America contain significant amounts of mold. Many residents in these buildings exhibit cognitive deficits. We hypothesize long-term peripheral immune activation due to mold, leads to CNS immune activation, eventually causing cognitive deficits. To determine if mold caused immune activation, we quantified the number and size of microglia, the resident immune cells in the brain. Ten C57/Bl/J mice went through baseline cognitive testing, followed by 6.5 weeks of nasal instillations (intact spores, extracted spores, or saline vehicle) and cognitive re-testing. Hippocampal tissue was stained with Iba-1, a specific microglial marker. Exposure to intact spores impaired hippocampal task performance more than exposure to extracted spores and saline. Iba-1 staining is expected to show an increase in the number of microglia and a change in glial morphology (ameboid/enlarged cell body, retracted processes), in mice treated with intact spores, compared to those treated with extracted spores or saline.

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706W 11:15 to 11:45

**The Role of Oxytocin in Facilitating Social Behavior in Rats with Amygdala Lesions**

**Alexandra M. Alfieri**

Department of Neuroscience, *Westminster College*, Smethport, PA

Author: Alfieri AM

alfieram@westminster.edu

Research suggests that amygdala functionality and oxytocin signaling may play an important role in autism. This study used a rat model to examine whether oxytocin could help rats with amygdala lesions recover from a social deficit. Rats received amygdala or sham lesions on postnatal day seven, and their social contact was assessed from post natal day 25 to 29. Using an ABAB design, pairs of rats with amygdala lesions and normal littermates received either a vehicle or oxytocin injection on alternating days. The study determined that social contact time was significantly reduced in the amygdala lesion group compared to

control subjects. Furthermore, oxytocin significantly increased the amount of social contact time compared to trials without oxytocin administration in all subjects. This study determined that the social deficit induced by lesions of the amygdala could be counteracted with oxytocin, and this design may be a useful animal model in autism research.

\* \* \* \* \*

706W 2:45 to 3:00

**The Impact of Math Anxiety on Financial Decision-making**

**Mathew Alhonte**

Department of Psychology, *Hunter College (CUNY)*, New York, New York

Authors: Young J and Alhonte A

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This study examined how math anxiety interacts with financial thoughts and decisions at the individual level. Math Anxiety was measured using a standard scale. The participants also took a short assessment of their math skills. The financial behaviors were measured in four areas: Propensity to Spend, Financial Anxiety, Planning and Monitoring. The research team predicted that participants with high math anxiety will have extreme spending habits (either very unwilling to spend or very inclined to spend), lower Monitoring, higher Financial Anxiety and fewer instances of sound Planning. This is based on the idea that people avoid stimuli they find unpleasant. It would then follow that people who are made anxious by math will avoid mathematical materials such as bills and bank statements as much as they can.

\* \* \* \* \*

603W 11:15 to 11:30

**"Is the Degree of Ethnic Matching Between Foster Child and Caregiver Related to the Incidence of Loneliness and Depression Among Foster Children?"**

**Maurice Anderson**

Department of Psychology, *New York University*, New York, NY

Author: Anderson M

maurice.anderson@nyu.edu

Today, over 100,000 children are transethnically placed (with ethnically dissimilar families) in foster care. This study investigates whether transethnic foster placement is associated with variation in mental health outcomes of foster children. It is hypothesized that ethnic matching between foster child and caregiver, and the incidence of internalizing behaviors (e.g. depression, loneliness), are negatively correlated. A secondary analysis was conducted on a sample of children (N=106) ages 7-15 (M=10.47; SD=1.89) in foster care. A continuous measure of ethnic match, Total Match Index (TMI), was created (based on ethnic self-identification, country of origin, and language), and regressed on internalizing symptoms, controlling for several confounding covariates. TMI predicted depression after controlling for potential confounds ( $t=-2.63$ ;  $p<.01$ ;  $R^2=.063$ ). Analyses of Covariance (ANCOVAs) specified factors that may have moderated the influence of ethnic match on the mental health outcomes of transethnically placed foster children. Suggestions for future research and potential policy implications are discussed.

\* \* \* \* \*

615W 3:30 to 3:45

**Sexual Abuse Among Children**

**Faith R. Bacayon**

Department of Applied Psychology, *Coppin State University*, Baltimore, MD

Author: Bacayon FB

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Sexual abuse is a wide spread occurrence and is one form of child abuse. It is a criminal and civil offense in which an adult engages in sexual activity with a minor or exploits a minor for the purpose of sexual gratification. Often these involve body contact, but not always. Using a child for pornography is also sexual abuse. Any abuse has tremendous effects in psychological and emotional health because of their feeling of helplessness and hopelessness. Any kind of abuse can result in disturbing behaviors directed towards

anyone who come into contact with the victim including family members and other caregivers. Along with the diagnosis, precedent or current sexual abused children are more prone than their non-abused confederate to partake in deviant deeds.

\* \* \* \* \*

603W 12:45 to 1:00

### **Ethnic and Gender Differences in College Students' Perceptions of Poverty**

**Alma D. Beltran and Kseniya Palishchuk**

Department of Psychology, *Hunter College*, New York, NY

Authors: Beltran AD, Palishchuk K, Flores RL, and DeFour DC

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With the present economy, unemployment rates are increasing. Growing numbers of people are facing financial difficulties which can lead to increased rates of poverty. Different ethnic groups have been more impacted than others by this economic crisis as evidenced by varying rates of unemployment. The current political climate suggests that there are diverse views on the nature and causes of the current economic situation. The purpose of this study is to investigate college students' perceptions of causes of poverty and how these perceptions may vary across gender and ethnic background. In addition, how this may be related to their personal financial status was assessed. A diverse sample of 107 college students completed surveys which measured these perceptions. Implications of the findings to current events will be discussed.

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615W 3:00 to 3:15

### **Community Attitudes and Perceptions Toward Sex Offenders.**

**Susann A. Cortes**

Department of Psychology, *John Jay College of Criminal Justice (CUNY)*, New York, NY

Author: Cortes SA

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Sex offenders evoke strong sentiments from the community who influence the development of public policy and legislation. However, attitudes toward sex offenders differ depending upon the characteristics of the victim and the type of sexual offense. In an effort to better understand this phenomenon; this study will examine public attitudes and perceptions toward sex offenders. Undergraduate students will complete an online survey assessing attitudes toward sex offender sentencing and treatment and how a history of sexual victimization can influence those attitudes. These results will be discussed as they pertain to sex offender legislation and supervision.

\* \* \* \* \*

706W 3:30 to 3:45

### **The Relationship Between Homonegativity and Depression**

**Adham S. Elkady**

Department of Psychology, *Hunter College (CUNY)*, New York, NY

Authors: Elkady AS and Shoptaw SJ

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Internalized homonegativity may impact mental health and sexual health. This study examined the associations between internalized homonegativity (IHNI) and depression, along with associations evaluated in previous studies. The study used data from The National Institute on Drug Abuse's (NIDA) for 722 men who have sex with men (MSM) to compare their sexual identity to their sexual behavior, and then used a linear regression to analyze the relation between the IHNI score, and a depression scale (the Brief Symptom Inventory depression subscale). Participants were recruited in Los Angeles County using respondent-driven sampling (RDS) and completed the Internalized Homonegativity Inventory (IHNI). Lower depression score was associated with lower IHNI score, compared to higher depression score ( $b = -0.3$ ,  $se = 0.1$ ,  $p < .01$ ), consistent with predictions. The results from this study could help mental health providers to focus on mental health issues related to sexuality and its potentially negative implications.

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217W 12:45 to 1:00

**Neuronal Reward Contingencies in the Posterior Parietal Cortex**

**Margaret M. Fabiszak**

Department of Neural Science, *New York University*, New York, NY

Authors: Fabiszak MM, Wong YT, and Pesaran B

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The posterior parietal cortex (PPC) forms a crucial link between sensory input and motor output. Within the PPC, properties of the lateral intraparietal (LIP) region and the parietal reach region (PRR) are well known to mediate certain motor processes, particularly saccades and reaches, respectively. To better understand how sensory information is transformed into motor output, it is crucial to understand the mechanisms by which areas LIP and PRR interact. By recording from single cells during a decision making task in which reaches and saccades are dissociated or paired, we show that area LIP initiates movement decisions faster than PRR, indicating a potential interaction between the areas in which LIP may drive action within PRR. Additionally, we find that PRR also displays a reward effect, although, not as strongly as in LIP. This also may be indicative of the interaction between LIP and PRR. To further show the interaction between LIP and PRR, local field potentials (LFPs) measured while planning a coordinated movement within LIP and PRR exhibit higher coherency across the two areas at the onset of planning than within the areas. These findings suggest that LIP and PRR interact to integrate timing information, reward effects, and LFPs across areas in order to effect a unique decision toward motor output.

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706W 1:45 to 2:00

**Efficacy of Teacher Child Interaction Therapy: Assessing Teacher Levels of Stress**

**Yudelki M. Firpo**

Department of Psychology, *Hunter College (CUNY)*, New York, NY

Authors: Firpo YF, Kurtz SMS and Madigan RJ

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A child's disruptive behavior in the classroom has a negative influence on the educational achievement of both the child and his/her peers, while also disrupting his/her relationship with the teacher (Wentzel, 2002). Previous research has found that there is a strong correlation between negative affect, teacher stress and negative teacher-child relationships (Yoon, 2002). In addition, students' misbehavior in the classroom has also been found to be associated with teachers' occupational stress (Borg & Riding, 1991). The goal of the current study is to investigate whether teachers who utilize Teacher Child Interaction Therapy (TCIT) skills will report decreases in student conduct problems in the classroom and in turn will also report lower levels of occupational stress compared to their levels of stress before treatment. The study involved 48 participants, five of which are head teachers in a New York City Day Treatment, 12 of which are female preschool children and 32 of which are male preschool children. By training teachers to use good classroom management strategies, teachers' levels of stress may be reduced and would therefore not have a negative influence on the student-teacher relationship and children's educational experience.

\* \* \* \* \*

215W 2:15 to 2:30

**Individual Differences in Helping Behavior**

**Wesley Gagerie**

Department of Psychology, *Hunter College (CUNY)*, New York, NY

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Kin selection, reciprocal altruism and indirect reciprocity have been suggested to explain pro-social behavior. However, human display more prosocial behavior toward non related individuals than do other species. The present research investigates the relation between empathy-related psychological tendencies and prosocial behavior; focusing on helping behavior. Provided that behaviors are contextual and therefore

are likely to change with the environment, to examine these variations, we have designed our study as a factorial research study, with three factors: Personality, where we measure the trait of agreeableness (which is an indication of the degree of empathy): high agreeableness and low agreeableness; degree of relatedness: siblings, friends and strangers; and cost of helping behavior: high cost or low cost. We hypothesized that there will be an interaction effect such that participants who score high in agreeableness will show great empathy toward others regardless of degree of relatedness and the cost of helping.

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706W 12:15 to 12:30

**The Longitudinal Relationship Between Drug Craving, Psychopathology, and Mandated Treatment Status**

**Megan G. Gajary**

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An autoregressive-cross lagged model (N=328) examined the relationship between drug craving, general psychopathology, and mandated treatment status for residential substance treatment clients. Data were collected at treatment entry and treatment day 90. The model fit the data (chi-square = 5.67, df = 2, p = .06, CFI = .99, RMSEA = .07). In addition, constraining the mandated treatment status effect to zero produced a good fitting model (chi-square = 6.88, df=3, p=.08, CFI=.99, RMSEA=.06) and did not significantly erode model fit, change chi-square (df) = 1.2 (1), p=.27. Consequently, though drug craving and general psychopathology distress demonstrate a strong relationship, the effects do not seem influenced by mandated substance abuse treatment status. Results will be discussed in the context of treatment matching and program policy issues.

\* \* \* \* \*

603W 12:15 to 12:30

**Effects of Ethnic Identity on Perceptions of Discrimination and Stress**

**Megha Goel**

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Ethnic identity is a multidimensional facet of an individual's social identity. Considering the increasing rates of migration, changing demographics and heightening ethnic discrimination around the world, the issue of ethnic identity has become of increasing importance to members of minority groups as well as for dominant social groups. The present study was designed to explore the role of ethnic identity in perceptions of discrimination among diverse ethnic groups. Using a sample of 107 diverse students attending a public university, we examined whether individuals with a weak ethnic identity are more likely than their strong-ethnic identity counterparts to perceive events and behaviors as discriminatory. Additionally, the study aimed to analyze whether ethnic-group identity plays a significantly greater role for members of minority groups as compared to members of dominant groups. Implications of this study for physical well-being and mental health will be discussed.

\* \* \* \* \*

615W 3:15 to 3:30

**Denial and Recidivism in a Large Sample of Convicted NJ Sex Offenders**

**Amy A. Hamilton and Jennifer Loveland**

Department of Psychology, *John Jay College of Criminal Justice (CUNY)*, New York, NY

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The current study uses a large (N = 2,500) sample of treated and untreated NJ sex offenders to examine the relationship between denial and recidivism. The limited and conflicting prior literature on this relationship has been beset by small sample sizes and binary characterizations of denial. The current study examines

five-year recidivism rates for convicted male sex offenders of varying levels of denial of index offense (none, partial or total). Moderating variables, such as offenders' intellectual functioning, actuarially assessed risk level, and treatment status, are discussed.

\* \* \* \* \*

603 HW 11:45 to 12:00

### **How Ethnicity and its Degree of Importance Affects Attitudes Towards Women**

**Marjorie Henriquez**

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Ethnicity is a label used by society to categorize people with similar heritage, traditions and cultural customs. However, the degree to which a person self identifies with the ethnic group designated by society vary. The effects of belonging to an ethnic group and its relationship to attitudes towards women have been assessed in previous studies. These studies primarily focus on how a person's ethnicity affects perceptions of women, but do not assess how significance and ethnic self identification relate to such perceptions. It is important to analyze this relationship because ethnic identity is a multidimensional construct that can have complex links with social attitudes. The goal of this study is to investigate how self designated ethnicity and its perceived importance, relate to attitudes toward women's roles in a sample of 107 ethnically diverse college students. Study findings and implications will be discussed.

\* \* \* \* \*

706 HW 3:45 to 4:00

### **The Role of Powerless Speech Markers in Safer Sex Decisions**

**Devin A. Heyward**

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Social Exchange Theory states that power is an interpersonal dynamic that can be expressed via decision - making dominance, or the ability to engage in behaviors against a partner's wishes. Prior studies have found that adolescents who scored low on a measure of perceived ability to negotiate condom use and those having fear of this exchange were less likely to use condoms when having sex with their partners (Crosby et al., 2002). Among couples between the age of 17.5 and 30 years, men had more power than women in their romantic relationships, and only half discussed HIV and protection measures (Bruhin, 2003). These power structures can be manifested in different ways, including language. The primary interest of the current study is to examine powerless speech markers and how it may predict safer sex practices. The study examined conversations between 55 heterosexual couples (110 total participants, 55 men, 55 women). Conversations focused on a series of questions related to safer sex practices in three conditions (positive, negative, and aroused). It is predicted that individuals who use fewer powerless speech markers will also use fewer codes related to safer sex, suggesting that they are in a less powerful position than their partner.

\* \* \* \* \*

217W 1:15 to 1:45

### **Preliminary evidence for structural and functional brain complication in obese adolescents**

**Esther H. Kang**

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Obesity is increasing at alarming rates among adolescents. Previous studies in adults have associated the medical consequences of obesity (type 2 diabetes and hypertension) with structural and functional brain impairments, but such findings are often confounded by co-morbidities and age. Studying obesity during adolescence while there is overt vascular disease minimizes these confounding effects. We contrasted 27 obese adolescents and 27 well-matched lean controls. Diffusion tensor imaging showed that relative to

controls, obese adolescents exhibited reductions in white matter microstructural integrity in regions such as the temporal stem and dorsolateral prefrontal cortex. They also performed more poorly on 13 of the 16 cognitive measures assessed, with significant reductions in working memory and trends in arithmetic achievement and frontal disinhibition. To our knowledge, this is the first report of brain and cognitive abnormalities in obese adolescents. Future studies should elucidate the underlying mechanisms and ways to protect the brain.

\* \* \* \* \*

215W 2:00 to 2:15

**Self-Structure and Role Enactment: Structural and Functional Dimensions of Life Satisfaction**  
**Ellen M. Kessel**

Department of Psychology, *Hunter College (CUNY)*, New York, NY

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Eighty participants described themselves generally and in 14 roles. Participants rated commitment and time spent in each role, and overall life satisfaction. We examined one general self-congruence and 14 role-specific self-role congruence scores, computed from idiographic hierarchical classes analysis, as predictors of life satisfaction and role commitment. General self-congruence predicted life satisfaction, but not for those with highly negative self-conceptions, and commitment to only one role. Self-role congruence was correlated with role commitment to the target role but not to other roles very consistently, and proved to be a weak predictor of general life satisfaction. This pattern suggests that people judge satisfaction or commitment according to general (self-congruence) or specific (self-role congruence) standards, which are partly independent of one another. Life satisfaction was also correlated with satisfying amounts of time spent in roles, implying life satisfaction depends on how people conceive of themselves and how they act on these conceptions.

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706W 12:30 to 12:45

**The Rate of Change in Drug Craving During the Course of Successful Substance Abuse Treatment**  
**Ashley W. Kimble**

Department of Behavioral & Historical Studies, *Centenary College*, Hackettstown, NJ

Authors: Kimble AW and Morgen K

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Substance abuse treatment clients (N=2,742) in residential (n=788) and outpatient (n=1,954) facilities were evaluated on drug craving at four time points (treatment entry, days 90, 150, 210). The analysis used a linear latent growth curve model with treatment modality (residential /outpatient) as a covariate predictor of both the intercept and slope of drug craving change over time. The model fit the data (chi-square = 13.47, df=7, p=.06, CFI=.99, RMSEA=.02) but treatment modality only significantly predicted initial drug craving. The model was re-analyzed with the treatment modality parameter for slope constrained to zero.

The model fit the data (chi-square = 13.78, df=8, p=.09, CFI=.99, RMSEA=.02). This constraint did not significantly erode model fit (change chi-square = 0.31, df = 1, p=.58). Also tested were the added covariate effects of primary drug. Results suggest that drug craving diminishes significantly over time at a linear rate and this change is not influenced by treatment modality or primary drug.

\* \* \* \* \*

603W 3:30 to 4:00

**Attitudes Toward the Homeless and the Poor: Potential Determinants, and Generational Comparisons (1992 - 2009)**

**Kathleen S. Koltko–Rivera**

Department of Psychology and Educational Services, *Fordham University: Graduate School of Education at Lincoln Center*, New York, NY

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This study extends research conducted by Guzewicz and Takooshian (1992, 1992-1993) and examines changes in attitudes toward the homeless and the poor between 1992 and 2009. Adults (N = 177) in New York City completed an instrument assessing attitudes toward the homeless, attitudes toward the poor, authoritarianism, and endorsement of the Protestant ethic. Multiple regression indicates four significant predictors of attitudes toward the homeless: attitude toward the poor ( $\beta = .405$ ,  $p < .001$ ); gender ( $\beta = .320$ ,  $p < .001$ ); endorsement of the Protestant ethic ( $\beta = -.204$ ,  $p = .008$ ); and race ( $\beta = -.231$ ,  $p = .002$ ). The multiple regression model accounted for over 35% of total variance. I describe differences between the 1992 and 2009 samples in terms of the variables of interest and their inter-relationships. I consider implications of our data for addressing the societal problem of homelessness.

\* \* \* \* \*

603W 4:00 to 4:30

**A Qualitative Investigation of Dual-Diagnosis Homeless Women: The Unexpected Finding of Colorism**

**Kathleen S. Koltko–Rivera**

Department of Psychology and Educational Services, *Fordham University: Graduate School of Education at Lincoln Center*, New York, NY

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A qualitative study was conducted with seven homeless, dual-diagnosis women living in shelter in New York City area. A combined phenomenological/grounded theory approach was used. Six Theme Categories were identified, ranked from the most frequent to least frequent mention of the theme, the categories are Worldview (n=140, 36.1%); Drug Abuse Related (n=79, 20.4%), Motivational Factors (n=71, 18.3%); Colorism, Parental Acceptance-Rejection, Racial Prejudice (n=47, 12.1%) Other Violence, Traumatic Death, Suicide or Suicide Attempt (n=26, 6.7%) and Sexual Trauma or Violence (n=25, 6.4%). In addition, thirty sub-themes were identified within these theme categories. The unexpected finding of Colorism, intra-group, often within-family, racial prejudice, emerged during interviews with all of the women of color. Two of the women of color identified their experience of Colorism prejudice as being the most painful, difficult experience of their lives, and being the root cause issue or catalyst for their early drug use (e.g, heroin at age 12).

\* \* \* \* \*

706W 1:30 to 1:45

**Perceived Relevance and Efficacy of a Student-Run Academic Journal Among Psychology Faculty**  
**Alexander Kriss**

New School Psychology Bulletin, *New School for Social Research*, New York, NY

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The New School Psychology Bulletin (NSPB) is a peer-reviewed academic journal operated by graduate students with a focus on publishing student research. Interest in and support for NSPB among students and faculty members has increased steadily since its inception, evident in both editorial board application and article submission rates. Evidence suggests that students consider the NSPB relevant for supplementing gaps in their graduate school training, which often fall short of the scientist-practitioner ideal (Brown, Antonius, & Hirst, 2009). The degree to which students participate in journals like the NSPB may be

largely dependent on the endorsement of professors, advisors, and program directors. In the present study, 38 psychology department faculty members from 21 universities were surveyed on the perceived relevance and usefulness of the NSPB in their students' training. Results suggest that the opportunities afforded by the journal, such as improving peer-reviewing and scientific writing skills, are seen as valuable in advancing the scientist-practitioner training model. Implications and future research directions are discussed.

\* \* \* \* \*

706HW 12:45 to 1:00

**The Modified Cocaine Craving Questionnaire as a Tool for Evaluating Substance Craving in an Outpatient Substance Abuse Treatment Population**

**Alexa R. Lass**

Department of Behavioral and Historical Studies, *Centenary College*, Hackettstown, NJ

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Craving is strongly related to substance use, treatment attrition, and relapse (Tavares et al., 2005). However, there is a lack of consensus on how best to measure craving. A recent study (Lass & Morgen, 2010) found that a modified version of the Cocaine Craving Questionnaire (CCQ; Weiss et al., 1995), where the term cocaine is changed to a generic drug/alcohol prompt, is a reliable measure of craving across various substances (cocaine, heroin and alcohol) within a residential substance abuse treatment population. This study (N=175) extends Lass and Morgen (2010) to see if the CCQ is reliable for evaluating craving for cocaine, heroin, and alcohol in an outpatient substance abuse treatment population. The modified CCQ was reliable for evaluating craving in heroin (Cronbach's  $\alpha = .79$ ; 73.8% of variance explained), alcohol (Cronbach's  $\alpha = .89$ ; 77.5% of variance explained), and cocaine (Cronbach's  $\alpha = .87$ , 86.5% of variance explained).

\* \* \* \* \*

706W 1:00 to 1:15

**Wheel running exercise delays extinction of conditioned place preference for cocaine in male C57BL/6J mice in association with impaired exercise-induced adult hippocampal neurogenesis**

**Daniel S. Miller**

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The interaction between aerobic exercise and drug abuse is relatively unexplored. It deserves attention because recent data suggest that neuroadaptations from exercise promote learning in circuits that overlap with drug abuse. The hippocampus is an important point of intersection because it is a major locus for change from aerobic exercise and it plays a central role in contextual conditioning. Specifically, contextual cues paired with drugs trigger emotional responses related to craving and relapse. Growing evidence suggests that exercise can enhance plasticity in the hippocampus in part by growing new nerve cells in the dentate gyrus. This could promote brain health and could potentially be useful in treatment of drug abuse. On the other hand, drug exposure is known to decrease neurogenesis and the outcome when combined with exercise is not known.

\* \* \* \* \*

603W 2:30 to 2:45

### **The Self-Efficacy Levels of High School Students with Learning Disabilities**

**John S. Moore**

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The purpose of this study was to determine if there is a statistically significant difference in self-efficacy levels between high school students with and without learning disabilities. Data were collected from 30 high school students with learning disabilities and 30 high school students without learning disabilities. Mode of measurement consisted of the General Self-Efficacy Scale (GSE). Data for this study were coded numerically and analyzed using an independent t test. Results revealed that there was a statistically significant difference in the self-efficacy levels between high school students with and without learning disabilities. Recommendations for future research are discussed.

\* \* \* \* \*

706W 11:45 to 12:00

### **Measuring Social Initiation of Children with Autism**

**Ginna M. Moreano**

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Previous research in autism has shown that responsive parental behaviors predict children's subsequent gains in nonverbal and linguistic communication (Siller & Sigman, 2002, 2008). The current study is based on data from a clinical trial of an experimental intervention designed to increase responsive parental behaviors (N = 70 children with autism). Children's social initiation was measured during a brief episode where parents were asked to ignore their children for two minutes. Observational coding focused on children's bids for attention, proximity to mother, and self-stimulatory/stereotypical behaviors. Inter-observer agreement was evaluated based on twenty interactions, demonstrating excellent agreement, ICC > .94. First, we anticipate baseline correlations between global child characteristics and children's social initiation. Second, we anticipate that children in the experimental group will show significantly more improvements in social initiation than children in the control group.

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615W 1:45 to 2:00

### **A Quantitative Measure of Racial Microaggressions**

**Kevin L. Nadal**

Presented by Yinglee Wong

Department of Psychology, *John Jay College (CUNY)*, New York, NY

Authors: Nadal KL, Griffin K, and Wong Y

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Research has supported that racism, sexism, heterosexism, and other forms of discrimination have become more covert than overt. This form of subtle discrimination is known as microaggressions. Microaggressions can occur between any two parties; typically between privileged/dominant groups and oppressed groups. There are studies on racial microaggressions; however, because these studies are qualitative in nature, there is a need for quantitative data to support the existence of microaggressions. This study investigated multifaceted experiences of racial and ethnic microaggressions. Participants (N=506) were undergraduate students and from a community sample. They were asked to complete a questionnaire consisted of 137 items measuring the perception of microaggressions due to one's race. The results indicated that the existence of racial and ethnic microaggressions occurs in different forms. The items yield six subscales of microaggressions (e.g., assumptions of inferiority, second-class citizen, and environmental microaggressions). Implications between microaggressions and health issues, preventable diseases, preventable psychological disorders, and mental health will be discussed.

\* \* \* \* \*

615W 2:00 to 2:15

**Gender microaggressions: Perceptions, processes, and coping**

**Kevin L. Nadal**

Presented by Sahran Hamit and Vanessa Meterko

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The purpose of the current study is to examine the impact that gender microaggressions have on women. Gender microaggressions are often unconscious in that perpetrators may not realize their statements/behaviors and the negative impacts these messages have on women. Previous literature on everyday sexism and sexist experiences, sexual harassment, objectification theory, and racial microaggressions, have proposed eight categories of gender microaggressions including: Sexual Objectification, Invisibility, Assumptions of Inferiority, Denial of Reality of Sexism, Assumptions of Traditional Gender Roles, Denial of Individual Sexism, Dehumanizing and Belittling of Women through Language, and Environmental Invalidations. Focus groups were conducted to gain descriptions of personal experiences with microaggressions. Domains, themes and examples were established, and results align closely with the conceptual framework of gender microaggressions. Finally, implications for women's mental health and well being will be discussed and recommendations for preventing gender microaggressions in counseling and therapy will be suggested.

\* \* \* \* \*

615W 2:15 to 2:30

**Processes with Sexual Orientation Microaggressions: Experiences from the LGB Perspectives**

**Kevin L. Nadal**

Presented by Michelle Wideman and Jayleen Leon

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Sexual orientation microaggressions can be defined as brief and commonplace daily verbal, behavioral, and environmental indignities (whether intentional or unintentional) that communicate hostile, derogatory, or negative heterosexist and homophobic slights and insults toward LGBT individuals. Sexual orientation microaggressions are both conscious and unconscious and perpetrators may not realize the negative impacts that these messages may have. The purpose of the current study is to understand how LGBT individuals process sexual minority microaggressions and the impact of these subtle discriminations on their well being, societal progress, and counseling relationships. A qualitative method of research was used to obtain information from the perspective of LGBT individuals. Focus groups of sexual minority participants were asked a list of standard, open-ended questions to gain descriptions of personal experiences with microaggressions. Implications for sexual minority mental health and well being are discussed and recommendations for preventing sexual minority microaggressions in counseling and therapy are established.

\* \* \* \* \*

615W 2:30 to 2:45

**Processes and Struggles with Racial Microaggressions: Experiences from the White American perspective**

**Kevin L Nadal**

Presented by Katie Griffin

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Previous research on racial microaggressions has focused on the experiences of people of color, whom are often the recipients of such subtle discrimination. However, there has been little research to examine the processes, reactions, or perspectives of Whites, whom are often enactors or witnesses of microaggressions. This paper presents a qualitative exploration of the experiences of Whites and racial microaggressions. The results were subsequently categorized into five domains: 1) Defense Mechanisms and other Cognitive Reactions Regarding Racial Microaggressions, 2) Emotional Reactions Regarding Racial Microaggressions, 3) Influences of Racial Bias, 4) Microaggressions towards People of Color, and 5) Microaggressions towards White People. The themes were categorized under each domain, with samples including rationalization, humor, and passive attitudes toward racism. These themes align closely with the existing conceptual framework of racial microaggressions (see Sue et al., 2007). Finally, implications for racial identity theory, future research, multicultural competence training, and policy are discussed.

\* \* \* \* \*

217W 12:30 to 12:45

**Use dependent regulation of adult neuronal turnover in the basal ganglia.**

**Carole Parent**

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Authors: Pytte CL, Parent C, Wildstein S, Chacko S, and Varghese C

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New neurons formed in the adult brain incorporate into existing circuits. However, recruitment into a given region depends on experience. An emerging general principle is that recruitment and early neuronal survival may be correlated with activity or use of the brain region. We tested the effects of altered sensory feedback on new neuron survival in the song system and song related areas. In one treatment, we produced aberrant sensorimotor and auditory feedback during singing by partially paralyzing the syringeal muscles with botox injections. In a second treatment, we blocked auditory feedback with deafening using cochlea removal. We found decreased neuron survival in HVC of the song motor pathway and increased survival in Area X of the basal ganglia with botox treatment. No effects were seen in NCM, a song-related auditory processing area. Deafening resulted in decreased survival of new neurons in NCM. No effects of deafening on new neuron survival were seen in HVC or Area X.

\* \* \* \* \*

215W 1:45 to 2:00

**The Relationship between Social Support and Perceived Feeling of Control over Life**

**Jesenia A. Pena**

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Evidence indicates that there is a relationship between an individual's feeling of control over his/her life and behavioral and psychological outcomes. This study examines one potential correlate of feeling of control over life and tests the hypothesis that among adolescents, the presence of adult emotional support leads to a feeling of control. The sample consists of 1113 ethnically diverse students (mean age=18years) in an urban college. Data were collected between 2006 and 2008 through the use of self-administered questionnaires. Data on Presence of Adult Emotional Support were collected using a 6-item additive scale (Cronbach's  $\alpha=.85$ ). Feeling of Control over One's Life was measured using an 11-item additive scale

( $\alpha=.82$ ). Data were analyzed with the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient. Findings indicate a statistically significant relationship between the presence of adult emotional support and feeling of control over one's life. Implications for adolescent mental health will be discussed.

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706W 2:30 to 2:45

**The Late Positive Potential Varies with Observed Behavioral Inhibition in School-Aged Children**  
**Alisa Powers**

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If behaviorally inhibited children are at increased risk for anxiety, then they should evidence anxiety-related attentional biases for unpleasant stimuli. The late positive potential (LPP) can index attentional biases because it reflects increased attention to emotional stimuli. This study (N = 40; 19 females) examined whether behaviorally inhibited children showed enhanced LPPs in response to unpleasant stimuli. EEG was recorded from 64 Ag/AgCl scalp electrodes while participants passively viewed emotional stimuli from the International Affective Picture System (IAPS; Lang, et al, 2005). The LPP was calculated as the mean amplitude in posterior electrodes from 300-2000 ms after stimulus onset. Behavioral inhibition was measured as observed behavior in a fearful context. Children with high versus low behavioral inhibition showed enhanced attention (increased LPP amplitudes) to unpleasant emotional stimuli. Results indicate that the LPP is a potential biomarker for attentional biases related to behavioral inhibition and risk for anxiety in children.

\* \* \* \* \*

603W 3:00 to 3:15

**Effects of Religious Discrimination on Projection of One's Religiosity on Facebook**  
**Alla Prokhovnik**

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Given the exponential growth of technology in the past ten years people no longer have to limit themselves to face-to-face interactions in order to present detailed information about themselves. The purpose of this study is to test whether people who have experienced religious discrimination report stronger religious identification in self-report measures and whether they have more religious content on Facebook. A diverse sample of 152 students from a public New York City university completed computerized survey measures in the lab and had certain aspects of their Facebook profile copied for later coding. As predicted, social identities were stronger within stigmatized or non-majority religious groups. A personal history of religious discrimination, i.e., able to list examples of mistreatment, predicted both stronger religious identity and more religious content on Facebook. However, intrinsic religiosity was the most powerful predictor of Facebook religious content in multiple regression analyses including demographics and personal discrimination experiences.

\* \* \* \* \*

603W 12:30 to 12:45

**The Relationship between Race/Ethnicity and Perceived Discrimination**  
**Ayishetu Rahaman**

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Authors: Bradshaw SL, Jenkins KT, and Rahaman A

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Discrimination plays a major role in the lives of people of color; discrimination may lead to negative outcomes throughout life. This study examines the relationship between race/ethnicity and perceived racial discrimination among older adolescents. Data were collected from 725 first year students (aged 18 to 21) in an urban college by means of self-administered questionnaires. The sample is ethnically diverse:

Black/African American (49%), Latino (21%), Asian (11%), White (5%), and other (14%). Race/ethnicity was measured using a single-item scale. Perceived racial discrimination was measured using a 12-item additive scale (Cronbach's  $\alpha = .92$ ). Data were analyzed using analysis of variance because the antecedent variable (race/ethnicity) is nominal with more than two categories and the consequent variable (perceived racial discrimination) is interval. Results indicate that there is a statistically significant difference among the ethnic groups in terms of perceived discrimination. Implications for addressing racial discrimination in the United States will be discussed.

\* \* \* \* \*

217W 11:45 to 12:00

### **The Effects of Mold Exposure on Brain and Behavior**

**Gregory J Remigio**

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Mold exposure in humans has been shown to cause serious deficits in learning and memory. We hypothesize that mold activates an immune response that alters brain function for tasks relying on the hippocampus. The dentate gyrus (DG), part of the hippocampus, exhibits high levels of neurogenesis essential to some types of spatial memory formation. Spatial memory impairment commonly experienced by mold-exposed individuals may be due to the inhibition of hippocampal neurogenesis in the DG. By injecting BrdU, a marker of cell division, we quantify neurogenesis in the DG of 3 groups of mice, those exposed to mold spores, extracted spores, and vehicle controls. BrdU is incorporated into the DNA of dividing cells during proliferation. The BrdU labeled nuclei are visualized with a fluorescent marker that binds specifically to the marked cells. We expect to find a significant loss of neurogenesis in the DG of mice exposed to mold.

\* \* \* \* \*

603W 1:45 to 2:00

### **Loss in Adolescence**

**Kelly M Reynolds**

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This paper evaluates divorce of parents, moving, loss of a friendship or romantic relationship, and the death of a parent, relative, or close friend as types of loss that can occur in adolescence. Using Bowlby's attachment theory and Doka's disenfranchised grief, the paper examines how the detachment caused by the loss impacts the onset of disenfranchised grief in adolescence. A survey was given to 144 Mitchell College students to analyze the factors that impacted their loss and grieving process. It was an undeniable realization that a majority of adolescents have experienced a loss and that they felt attached to the person they lost, as validated by the data. The data did not support the belief that a detachment during adolescence causes the onset of disenfranchised grief, but gave many insights to how a loss impacts an adolescent.

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706W 4:00 to 4:30

### **Behaviorally inhibited temperament and sex as anxiety vulnerability factors in an animal model of avoidance.**

**Thomas M. Ricart**

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Avoidance and arousal are both core features of anxiety disorders. While clinical work would suggest that increased avoidance could potentiate arousal, previous animal data suggests the exact opposite; as avoidance is acquired in animals, arousal decreases. Therefore, outbred Sprague Dawley (SD) and

behaviorally inhibited inbred Wistar Kyoto (WKY) rats underwent avoidance learning with arousal, as measured by the acoustic startle response, measured before, during and after training. While only transient elevations in startle are observed in SD males, WKY males demonstrate a consistent elevation in startle after avoidant behavior was acquired. SD females demonstrated no changes in startle, but WKY females demonstrated startle suppression after avoidant behavior was acquired. Although initially unexpected, this finding is consistent with humans as females may demonstrate suppressed startle subsequent to the development of anxiety disorders. Thus, sexually dimorphic alterations in arousal were observed in WKY rats subsequent to avoidance acquisition, which are consistent with clinical anxiety.

\* \* \* \* \*

217W 11:15 to 11:30

**Black mold: a foil to memory?**

**Matthew R. Sapio**

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As many as 40% of American buildings are estimated to be moldy. Recent studies show that mold-exposed individuals score below the tenth percentile in tests of visual-spatial memory, an effect linked by related studies to neurogenesis in the dentate gyrus. Other studies have shown that inhaled mold robustly activates the innate immune system, and that prolonged activation of microglia, the resident immune cells of the brain, can result in cell death and damage to the hippocampus via release of pro-inflammatory cytokines and reactive oxygen species. The present study looks at the effects of mold exposure on neurogenesis in the dentate gyrus of C57Bl/6 mice. We expect, based on previous related studies, that mold exposure will decrease neurogenesis in the dentate gyrus as indicated by incorporation of bromodeoxyuridine (BrdU) into new cells and that this decrease leads to impaired performance on hippocampal tasks such as the Morris water maze.

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706W 3:00 to 3:15

**How do task demands affect gender differences in memory and organization? A comparative study of the California Verbal Learning Test (CVLT-II) and the Philadelphia (repeatable) Verbal Learning Test (PrVLT).**

**Preeti Sunderaraman**

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Verbal memory is often assessed with word-list learning tests such as the 16-word California Verbal Learning Test (CVLT-II). The current study compared the performance of cognitively-healthy older adults on the CVLT-II and the Philadelphia (repeatable) Verbal Learning Test (PrVLT), a shorter 9-word list learning test. We were interested in understanding the extent to which previously reported gender effects on recall performance and organizational strategies (semantic versus serial) vary under different task demands. 62 participants (27 males and 35 females) completed the CVLT-II and 44 participants (22 males and 22 females) completed the PrVLT. Findings indicate that semantic clustering was used more often than serial clustering on both the CVLT-II and the PrVLT, and was associated with higher recall performance in all participants. Previously reported effects of gender on recall performance and clustering scores were present on the CVLT, but not on the PrVLT. Specifically, females recalled more words and used more semantic clustering on the CVLT-II, but this was not the case on the PrVLT where performance and clustering strategies were comparable between males and females. These findings affirm that there is a female advantage for performance on longer word-list learning tests seemingly secondary to semantic organization; however, this gender-based dissociation is not universal across different task demands. These findings raise several questions regarding the relationship between verbal memory, efficiency of

organizational strategies, and nature of the tests. Such issues become especially relevant while interpreting performance on neuropsychological tests and for understanding verbal memory capabilities in cognitively-healthy older adults. Thus, our findings have implications for test developers, researchers and clinicians.

\* \* \* \* \*

706W 2:15 to 2:30

### **The Relationship between Perceived Discrimination and Posttraumatic Stress Symptoms**

**Adrienne A Vega**

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Discrimination plays a major role in the lives of people of color-including youth. Minority groups are often exposed to discrimination which may compromise their mental health (Clark et al., 1999). This study examines perceived discrimination and how it is related to Posttraumatic Stress Symptoms (PTSS). Data were collected from a sample of 725 first-year urban college students (ages 18-20) using self-administered questionnaires. Perceived discrimination were measured by a 12-item additive scale with a theoretical range of 12-60 (Cronbach's  $\alpha=.92$ ). PTSS was measured by a 24-item additive scale with a theoretical range of 24-96 ( $\alpha = .95$ ). Data were analyzed using Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient because both variables are at the interval level of measurement. Results indicate that there is a statistically significant relationship between perceived discrimination and PTSS ( $r = .30$ ). Implications for adolescent mental health will be addressed.

\* \* \* \* \*

603W 2:45 to 3:00

### **Using Facebook to Recruit Hard-to-Reach Samples**

**Andrea C. Vial**

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Recruiting hard-to-reach samples presents a challenge for researchers. Traditional recruitment strategies to reach men who have sex with men (MSM) have been expanded to include online recruitment, but focusing mostly on dating sites. Social Networks like Facebook are typically not part of these efforts. This study compared MSM recruited via Facebook to those recruited via dating sites in terms of race, age, HIV prevalence, condom use, and drug and alcohol use. Facebook resulted in a sample more racially varied than dating sites, with significantly more Latinos. Also, Facebook respondents were significantly younger; more likely to report using Cocaine, Ecstasy, and Ketamine; more likely to report moderate and heavy alcohol use; and more likely to report using condoms almost every time. Respondents from dating sites were significantly more likely to be HIV positive, and to report never using condoms. These results suggest the viability of using Facebook to recruit hard-to-reach samples.

\* \* \* \* \*

603W 1:15 to 1:30

### **Rap Music: To Kill or Create Identity?**

**Eric M Washington**

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Music is a powerful medium. At a critical time in their identity formation, African American youth are subjected to a barrage of negative values, images and lifestyles through rap music. Although some rap music includes positive messages, it damages the development of the adolescent's personality and moral fiber. When rap music was first introduced, it focused on the amelioration of one's current situation and on overcoming the struggles of life in the ghetto. The lyrical themes have transformed from the development of one's character to the measurement of one's masculinity and material wealth. Rap glorifies violence,

misogyny, and the subservience and objectification of women. Using personal experience, music excerpts and psychological literature, the author will argue that the deterioration of the identity and ideological foundation of African American adolescents can be attributed primarily to rap music.

\* \* \* \* \*

603W 2:15 to 2:30

**Rumination: Future Oriented Cognitive Schemas and Hopelessness**

**Alyssa K Wheeler**

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Hopelessness is an often-studied cognitive predictor of depression (Abramson, Seligman, & Teasdale, 1978; Beck, 1967) but the thought processes leading to its development are not well understood. Previous research has suggested that rumination about the future may be one way individuals develop cognitive fluency in making pessimistic future-event predictions, and ultimately hopelessness (Andersen & Limpert, 2001). The objective of this study was to examine the relationship between a new measure of rumination about the future and cognitive fluency in making predictions about the occurrence of future positive and negative events. College undergraduates (N = 106; 78% female) between 18 and 55 years of age (M = 22.92, SD = 7.39) completed a battery of questionnaires that included a measure of rumination about the future during a prescreening session. Participants then appeared in person and were administered a structured interview using a modified future-event fluency task in which they were given a set time to generate positive and negative events that they thought might happen to them at three different time periods in the future (see MacLeod, Pankhania, Lee, & Mitchell, 1997). They also completed self-report measures of depression, self-focused rumination, and hopelessness. It was expected that pessimistic rumination about the future would be associated with increased fluency in anticipating negative future outcomes and decreased fluency in anticipating positive outcomes.

\* \* \* \* \*

603W 1:30 to 1:45

**Culturally-Related Variables Associated with Self-Harm among Young Adults**

**Heriberto Yanis, Jr.**

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Authors: Yanis, Jr. H and Miranda, R.

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This study examined differences in culturally-related variables among suicide attempters, suicide ideators and non-attempters/non-ideators in an ethnically diverse sample of undergraduate college students, along with differences in patterns of self-harm among suicide attempters of different racio-ethnic groups. 1,011 college undergraduates were screened for a history of suicidal ideation or attempts and completed a number of self-report measures, including measures of acculturative stress, perceived discrimination, and negative life events. Of these, a subsample of 96 students were selected for a second session and completed a battery of cognitive measures, a structured diagnostic interview to assess for mood or anxiety disorder diagnosis, and self-report measures of hopelessness, depression, suicidal ideation and a history of self-harm. We expect the results of this study to provide additional information that further clarifies risk factors for suicidal thinking and behavior among young adults from ethnically diverse backgrounds. Keywords: acculturative stress, perceived discrimination, suicide attempt, suicide ideation.

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~Poster Presentations~

Poster Session I - AM

**Homosexuality on Television: A Comparison of The L word and Noah's Arc**

**Cheryl A Abbott**

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In recent years, there has been a surge of homosexuality appearing on television. Yet little research has been done with these shows to see if they are fundamentally different from predominantly heterosexual shows or even each other. In this study, the researchers watched the episodes from the second seasons of the television shows The L word and Noah's Arc, which main characters are homosexual. During each episode, researchers coded for slang words, innuendos, and sexual content. Other topics including sexual safety messages, homophobic actions, gay related violence, family issues, and coming out were monitored as well. Some of the most interesting findings were these other topics that were consistently seen as an underlying thread of the two shows. The focus of the poster presentation will be on what these other topics are and how these two shows deal with the topics at hand.

\* \* \* \* \*

Poster Session II - PM

**Effects of Mold on Learning and Memory**

**Bisi Aiyelabowo**

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In recent years, it has become clear that exposure to mold, especially in water-damaged buildings, may cause serious effects on human health including chronic fatigue, pain, increased anxiety, depression, and cognitive problems. We are interested in studying the effects of mold on cognitive function using a mouse model. To help us with this study of learning and memory we use the object-recognition task. Mice are tested for their ability to remember recently seen objects before and after being exposed to mold. Our data demonstrate that mold exposure decreases the mouse's ability to remember objects.

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Poster Session II - PM

**Effects of mold exposure on cognition: Stachybotrys, a potential cause of hippocampal-dependent memory impairment**

**Fatou Amar**

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Many health problems have been linked to mold exposure, from chronic fatigue to memory impairment. About 40% of American homes are moldy. The focus of our lab is to determine the extent to which mold affects learning and memory. We measured spatial memory in mice before and after mold treatment using the Morris Water Maze (MWM). We used three treatments: 1) vehicle controls which received saline; 2) intact spores which contain endogenous chemicals, some of which are known toxins; 3) extracted spores are spore skeletons with endogenous chemicals removed. Treatment with intact mold spores impairs memory, more than extracted mold spores. Both short and long term memory problems have been noted. The implication is that mold caused memory impairment in mice. Toxins and other endogenous chemicals appear to play an important role in developing memory problems.

\* \* \* \* \*

Poster Session II - PM

**It's all in a nose**

**Arthur Baca and Kelly Ryberg**

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People who live or work in moldy environments often display sickness behavior, a suite of symptoms including fatigue and impairments in hippocampal memory. The spores of *Stachybotrys*, a common household mold, contain many toxins, including satrotoxin G, which caused brain inflammation in previous studies. We developed a mouse model of chronic mold exposure to investigate possible neurological and cognitive effects of *Stachybotrys*. Human exposure is usually through inhalation, a route of exposure that is difficult to control. To provide consistent, measurable levels of mold, a solution of mold spores suspended in saline with 0.1% Tween detergent is instilled directly into the nostrils thrice weekly. There are three treatment groups: 1) intact spores, 2) spores with toxins removed (leaving cell walls intact), and 3) controls receiving only vehicle. Spore groups receive 4,000 spores per gram body weight. As the nasal cavity only holds about 25ul, spores are delivered in 5ul to each nostril to avoid discomfort.

\* \* \* \* \*

Poster Session I - AM

**Spine Density is Influenced by the Orientation of the Parent Dendrite**

**Adesh A. Bajnath**

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An important morphological property of a neocortical neuron is the inherent axonal and dendritic polarization which underlies the neuron's ability to communicate and integrate signals from a variety of brain regions. At present, much is known about the cellular and molecular mechanisms that govern the polarization process of neuronal dendrites. However, little is known of the distribution and density of dendritic spines as a function of the different spatial orientations of polarized dendrites. Gaining the knowledge of spine arrangement in regards to its host dendritic spatial orientations may provide a clue as to the intrinsic blueprint of the microcircuitry in the neocortex. Here, we utilized the Golgi staining technique to label the neurons in their entirety, and analyzed the relative distribution and density of dendritic spines in respect to the orientation of the parent dendrite with the aid of the NeuroLucida software. Our finding suggests that even within a same neuron, the density of dendritic spines varies depending on the spatial orientation of the host dendritic shaft. Specifically, it was found in layer IV of mouse barrel cortex that dendritic shafts projecting radially (orthogonal to the pial surface) exhibited less dendritic spines than dendrites projecting horizontally (parallel to the pial surface). Furthermore, our data indicated that this phenomenon is robustly observed in animals with prolonged sensory deprivation (one month of whisker trimming). The results suggest that these differences in spine density are potentially preprogrammed and are not influenced by sensory activity.

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Poster Session I - AM

**Differential dopamine D1 and D2 receptor modulation in the medial prefrontal perilimbic and orbitofrontal cortex of expression of fructose-conditioned flavor preferences in rats**

**Theodore Banakos**

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Innate flavor preference as well as learning plays a major role in sugar appetite. This study examined whether bilateral OFC or MPFC infusions of SCH or RAC differentially altered the expression of fructose-CFP. Rats with bilateral OFC or MPFC cannulae were trained to drink a preferred fructose-saccharin

solution mixed with one flavor, and a less-preferred saccharin solution mixed with another. Unlimited two-bottle tests with the two flavors mixed with only saccharin 10 min following bilateral SCH or RAC (0,12,24,48 nmol) microinjections indicate that in the OFC there is a robust D2 relative to D1 antagonist effects on fructose-CFP and in the MPFC a marginal D1, but not D2 antagonist effects on Fructose- CFP. These data demonstrate differential roles for DA receptor subtypes in the frontal cortex, suggestive of possible double-dissociation between DA antagonists in these frontal sites.

\* \* \* \* \*

Poster Session II - PM

**Contributions of Working Memory and Inhibition to Aural and Reading Comprehension**  
**Christina Barbieri**

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Students learn from several modalities including visual (reading) and aural(listening). Research into factors underlying reading comprehension is widespread but little research has concerned non-language based cognitive abilities and aural comprehension. The purpose of the reported study was to assess the role of general working memory (both storage and manipulation of information in memory) and inhibition (resistance of cognitive intrusions) in aural and reading comprehension. Undergraduates completed aural and visual reverse digit spans and a flanker task as measures of working memory and inhibition, respectively. Passages and associated questions from standardized exams measured aural and reading comprehension. Results indicated that reading and aural comprehension scores were not significantly different. Aural digit spans were predictive of reading comprehension. This suggests a role of general working memory on reading comprehension, although there were limitations to the study. Further research using more sensitive measures of comprehension is suggested to determine contributors to aural comprehension.

\* \* \* \* \*

Poster Session II - PM

**The Effects of Amyloid Derived Diffusible Ligands on Anxiety, Fear Motivated Learning, and Insulin Signaling in the Amygdala.**

**Andrew Byrne**

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My project studies the effects of Amyloid Derived Diffusible Ligands (ADDLs) on emotional behavior, specifically fear and anxiety. ADDLs are an oligomeric species of the amyloid protein which is widely associated with the pathogenesis of Alzheimer's Disease. The method by which they impair neuron function is by interfering with insulin signaling resulting in decreased glucose metabolism. ADDLs thus cause cells to require more insulin to maintain normal metabolism suggesting Alzheimer's Disease is a form of insulin resistance in the central nervous system, not unlike Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus. ADDLs effects on spatial and declarative memory have been explored extensively but its effects on emotion and affective learning are not fully understood. To study ADDLs effects on emotion I used a rodent model targeting the amygdala both because of its association with emotional states but also because of its role in memory formation. By utilizing both behavioral and biochemical techniques I was able to better characterize the effects of Alzheimer's Disease on emotion.

\* \* \* \* \*

Poster Session II - PM

### **The Influence of Coaching Behaviors on Anxiety and Performance of Athletes**

**Dana E. Carney**

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This study investigated the relations among coaching behaviors, anxiety and athletic performance. A sample of 60 college athletes and their coaches participated. Athletes reports of anxiety were measured two weeks before a scheduled competition (baseline) and immediately prior to the competition.

Perceptions of coaches were measured two weeks before competition. Immediately following the athletic competition, both athletes and coaches evaluated athletes' performance (inter-rater  $r = .84$ ). Baseline anxiety was not related to competition day anxiety but was related to anxiety coaching behaviors, and was strongly predictive of performance. Game day anxiety was a better predictor of athletes' self-evaluation than coaches' evaluations. Finally, perceptions of coaching behaviors were weakly related to pre-competition anxiety and not related to evaluations of performance by coaches or athletes. Preliminary results suggest that baseline anxiety may be more meaningful than competition anxiety in predicting performance. Further analyses on the total sample will address the mediating role of anxiety between coaching and performance.

\* \* \* \* \*

Poster Session II - PM

### **Neurological Functioning Among Pre-Term and Full-Term Children**

**Tamika Clementson**

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Several aspects of neurological functioning were examined among pre-term ( $\leq 37$  weeks) children and full-term ( $> 37$  weeks) children. We attempted to demonstrate that preterm children have lower neurological functioning than full-term children in various areas. The study used data from the Collaborative Perinatal Project (CPP) from Johns Hopkins University, consisting of a representative sample of pregnant women who received prenatal care and delivered their babies during 1960-1966. We evaluated mean scores of neurological abnormalities at age 1, speech, language and hearing at age 3, and Stanford-Binet IQ at age 4, using analysis of variance. At age 1, preterm children had significantly greater number of neurological abnormalities ( $M = .87$  vs.  $.51$ ,  $p < .001$ ) and lower overall neurological functioning ( $M = 1.80$  vs.  $1.29$ ,  $p < .001$ ) than normal term children. At age 3, comprehensive assessment of speech, hearing and language found that only hearing was significantly different between preterm and normal term children ( $M = .30$  vs.  $.23$ ,  $p = .041$ ). At age 4 preterm children had significantly lower IQ than normal term children ( $M = 91.76$  vs.  $94.03$ ,  $p = .02$ ). These findings suggest that obstetricians should be aware that various areas of neurological functioning abilities of preterm children are greatly affected among preterm babies. Collaboration between obstetricians and pediatricians could benefit children born preterm to receive appropriate early interventions to remedy the potential impairment. Neuropsychological education provided to obstetricians may provide optimal services for families with children who may have mild neuropsychological impairment due to pre-term birth.

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Poster Session II - PM

**Dopamine and Adenosine Receptor Interactions in the Rodent Striatum: Implications for the Treatment of Parkinsonism**

**Lyndsey E. Collins**

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Parkinson's disease, the second most common neurodegenerative disorder, affects 1% of the population over 60 years of age. Depletion of striatal dopamine (DA) is recognized as the primary condition leading to motor symptom development in idiopathic Parkinson's disease, and the blockade of DA transmission produced by antipsychotic drugs has been shown to lead to drug-induced parkinsonism. Striatal dopamine has been shown to interact with several other neurotransmitter systems, including the neuromodulator adenosine. The adenosine A2A receptor has been shown to be co-expressed with the DA D2 receptor on enkephalin-positive striatopallidal neurons, while the adenosine A1 receptor has been shown to be co-localized with the DA D1 receptor on Substance-P expressing striatonigral neurons. The present studies sought to better characterize the behavioural implications of these DA-adenosine receptor co-localizations. The findings of these studies support the use of adenosine A2A antagonists as a novel, non-dopaminergic therapy for the treatment of parkinsonism.

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Poster Session II - PM

**Gene dosing and maternal behavior: Is there a heterozygous phenotype in the serotonin-deficient Pet-1 mouse strain?**

**Samantha N. Conte**

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Pet-1 is a transcription factor that is required for development of a full complement of serotonin neurons in the mammalian brainstem. Knockout of the Pet-1 gene in mice results in a severe reduction of brainstem serotonin neurons, postnatal breathing abnormalities and an increased incidence of neonatal mortality, possibly due to compromised cardiorespiratory control. Recent studies of Pet-1 homozygous dams have shown them to provide no effective maternal care (100% pup mortality) while wild-type mice of this background strain are effective mothers (nearly 100% pup survival). Although Pet-1 heterozygous mice appear to be similar to wild-type in all behavioral assays performed to date, maternal behavior has not been tested in the intermediate genotype. This raises the question of whether the 25-30% early mortality we have observed in newborn Pet-1 knockouts can be accounted for by suboptimal maternal care. This poster presents current data in a continuing effort to address this question.

\* \* \* \* \*

Poster Session II - PM

**Extraversion and Visual Attention to Affective Information**

**Samuel E. Cooper**

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Extraversion has been shown to influence visual attention to affective stimuli. Specifically, people high in extraversion attend more efficiently to positive social stimuli compared to people lower in extraversion. Furthermore, previous research links extraversion to aptitude in social situations that require shifts of attention to multiple people. This enhanced efficiency in shifting of attention from social stimuli to other social stimuli suggests that extroverts might also show superior spatial disengagement of attention from generally (i.e., non-social) affective information. 26 college students completed a personality questionnaire

and a spatial disengagement task that measured visual disengagement of attention from affective (positive or negative) and neutral images. Contrary to our hypothesis, there was no significant relationship between extraversion and disengagement from affect. This suggests that efficient disengagement might not underlie enhanced social processing in extraverts, and/or that the effect of extraversion on attention is restricted to social stimuli rather than generally affective stimuli.

\* \* \* \* \*

Poster Session II - PM

**Does Odd-Paired play a role in the formation of posterior commissures in the *Drosophila* ventral nerve cord through regulation of Engrailed?**

**Anthony Couzo**

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The *Drosophila* ventral nerve cord is formed by neuroblasts whose fate is specified by a number of transcription factors, among them is the segment polarity gene Engrailed. Posterior commissures fail to develop properly in engrailed mutants. Engrailed is thought to effect development by regulating the expression of the netrin receptor frazzled. Odd-Paired (opa) has long been known to play an important role in establishing the proper expression of engrailed during segmentation. We have previously shown that the ventral nerve cord does not form properly in opa mutants but have not looked specifically at posterior commissure formation. It is our hypothesis that opa, working in conjunction with tenascin-m, regulates engrailed during ventral nerve cord development and that opa mutants should display the same phenotype as engrailed mutants. To test this hypothesis we have designed a series of experiments to assess posterior commissure formation in opa mutants and analyze the expression pattern of engrailed and frazzled in opa mutants as well. Here we present preliminary results from a pilot study, our experimental design and our progress in troubleshooting methods.

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Poster Session II - PM

**Testosterones 5 $\alpha$ -Reduction May be of Importance to its Beneficial Effects on Behavior**

**Daniel J. daCosta**

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Testosterone (T) can exert effects in brain regions that mediate sexual, anxiety-like, and/or cognitive behavior of male rodents, and peripheral reproductive tissues. Whether these effects are due to actions of T, or its metabolites, is of interest. T is readily metabolized in periphery and brain by actions of 5 $\alpha$ -reductase into 5 $\alpha$ -dihydrotestosterone, or by aromatase into estradiol. Rats were either sham surgerized, gonadectomized (GDX), or GDX and T-replaced, and administered silastic capsules containing finasteride (a 5 $\alpha$ -reductase inhibitor) or formestane (an aromatase inhibitor), or placebo vehicle. Rats were tested tasks that are sensitive to sexual, anxiety-like or cognitive behavior. After behavioral testing, rats' prostates were weighed. Finasteride administration decreased prostate weights sexual behavior in the standard mating paradigm, and spatial cognition in the water maze. Formestane administration improved spatial cognition in the object placement task, and tended to decrease anxiety like behavior in the open field. Thus 5 $\alpha$ -reduction may be important for male behaviors.

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Poster Session II - PM

**Stachybotrys: The silent oxygen thief?**

**Samantha B. Dannenberg**

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The question being explored is whether inhalation of mold affects lung function. The hypothesis is that mold exposure decreases blood oxygenation. The ultimate question is whether cognitive deficits displayed by people who live or work in moldy buildings is related to decreased blood oxygenation. To investigate this hypothesis in an animal model, an experimenter administered either saline, intact *Stachybotrys* mold spores, or extracted *Stachybotrys* mold spores to C-57B1/6 mice intranasally. Blood oxygen saturation, breath rate, pulse, and heart rate were measured for each mouse three times: before mold spore administration, after the first nine administrations, and then again, after five more administrations. Before data collection, mice were acclimated over several days to wearing the collars used to measure these parameters. The experimenters who collected and analyzed the data were blind to the treatment of each mouse.

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Poster Session II - PM

**Determining Components of the Dopamine Signaling Pathway in *C. elegans***

**Bryan M. Danzi**

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Dopamine is a neurotransmitter used in both mammals and the nematode *C. elegans* to modulate movement. Dopamine decreases movement in adult *C. elegans* in response to food, presumably to increase the amount of time spent feeding. However, dopamine increases movement during the dauer stage of development. Dauer is a quiescent developmental stage *C. elegans* enter during starvation and exit in the presence of a new source of food. It is thought that during dauer, dopamine may signal the presence of food and thus increase movement in order for feeding to resume. Therefore, while dopamine signals the presence of food, it has the different effects on behavior during different stages of development. The gene *egl-30*, which encodes a Galpha protein subunit, is necessary for the dopamine-mediated food response in adult *C. elegans*. I am investigating whether EGL-30 is required to transduce dopamine in the dauer stage of development. I will be testing whether *egl-30* mutant dauer *C. elegans* respond abnormally to exogenous dopamine.

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Poster Session II - PM

**Abnormal affective behaviors of autistic-like mice may be related to differences in progesterone levels when compared to controls**

**Allyson M. Delprino**

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Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) includes a wide array of neurodevelopmental disorders identified by impairments in affective, social, cognitive, and/or motor behaviors. These behaviors are sexually-differentiated and hormone sensitive. BTBR T(+) tf/J (BTBR) mice appear to exhibit a behavioral phenotype for ASD-like behavior (Moy et al., 2007). Our lab has recently demonstrated that male BTBR mice have higher circulating progesterone ( $P_4$ ) levels compared to controls. We have also found progestogens improve behavioral responding in female controls, but not in males. We hypothesized that  $P_4$  administration will positively influence the behavioral phenotype of BTBR and C57BL/6J (C57/J) mice, and that sex differences may have a role in behavioral and neuroendocrine sequelae. Adult male and female

BTBR and C57/J mice were administered P<sub>4</sub> or vehicle, and behaviorally tested for affective behavior. Results indicate that BTBR mice may have abnormal affective behavior compared to controls. Thus, P<sub>4</sub> may have an impact on the expression of ASD-like behaviors.

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Poster Session II - PM

**A Correlational Study on the Effects of Exercise and Healthy eating on Body Image**

**Danielle K. Feldman**

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The purpose of this study was to study and analyze the correlation between exercise and healthy eating on a body image scale. Participants were chosen by a sample of convenience, most being friends and peers.

Half of the participants were male and the other was female, all over the age of 18. Participants gave age, gender, and answered three separate questionnaires based on a physical activity scale, which was adapted from the Add Health study, a healthy eating questionnaire and a body image assessment. Results found that there was not a significant affect of exercise on body image but that there was a significant affect of healthy eating on body image.

\* \* \* \* \*

Poster Session I - AM

**Society Creates the Issue of Prostitution**

**Keara L. Fiorentino**

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Child prostitution, a commercialized system that exploits children sexually for financial benefit, is a global problem. For example, in South Africa, according to Pierce and Bozalak (2004), child prostitution is found to be even more serious than housing issues. Willis and Levy (2002) found that in parts of Southeast Asia, up to 90% of children rescued from brothels were infected with HIV. In Thailand, prostitution serves as a major industry (Moore, 2010); in Cambodia, about 50,000 young girls are subject to sexual exploitation every day ("Child prostitution in Cambodia", 2009); in India, over 100 million persons are involved in trafficking people (Beeler, 2009). This paper compares and contrasts the commonalities of cause for child prostitution (e.g., parental involvement, social influence, economic forces, and gender) among these four countries and concludes with an examination of the ramifications for lasting psychological harm.

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Poster Session I – AM

**Expression of fat conditioned flavor preferences in rats: role of D1 and D2 Dopamine and Opioid Receptors.**

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Orosensory and post-ingestive signals by sugars and fats elicit both innate and learned taste preferences. Dopamine D1 (SCH23390: SCH) and D2 (raclopride: RAC), but not opioid (naltrexone: NTX) antagonists blocked expression of sugar-conditioned flavor preferences (CFP). The present study examined systemic D1, D2 and opioid antagonist effects upon CFP induced by 3.5% as compared to 0.9% corn oil (fat) solutions. Food-restricted rats, trained (10 days, 2h) to drink either flavored 3.5% (e.g., cherry) and 0.9% (e.g., grape) corn oil solutions on alternate days. Two-bottle tests with the two flavors mixed in the 0.9% solution occurred following systemic injection of vehicle, SCH, RAC or NTX. Intake of 3.5% solution significantly exceeded the 0.9% intake during training. The robust vehicle preferences (87-88%) for the flavor paired with the 3.5% solution were significantly reduced by SCH [200 (56%), 400 (67%) nmol/kg],

RAC [200 (61%) nmol/kg], but not NTX. These data implicate D1, and to a lesser degree D2, but not opioid receptor signaling in the full expression of fat-induced CFP.

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Poster Session II – PM

**The Effect of Parenting Styles on Depressive Symptoms**

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Many studies have shown that parenting styles have an effect on the psychological development of a child.

The parenting styles were determined according to Diane Baumrind's (1981) 3 parenting styles: permissive, authoritative, and authoritarian. Symptoms and severity of depression were assessed through the Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale (CES-D). Participants that reported their parents parenting style as authoritarian also reported a significant incidence of depressive symptoms. On the contrary, participants that were raised in an authoritative household reported little to no depressive symptoms. The findings depict that each parenting style has a significant effect on the social views and psychological development of an individual. Whether it remarkably impacts the psychological development of an individual or not is dependent upon the intensity and consistency of the parenting style that is inflicted on the individual.

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Poster Session I - AM

**Denial and Recidivism in a Large Sample of Convicted NJ Sex Offenders**

**Amy A. Hamilton and Jennifer Loveland**

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The current study uses a large (N = 2,500) sample of treated and untreated NJ sex offenders to examine the relationship between denial and recidivism. The limited and conflicting prior literature on this relationship has been beset by small sample sizes and binary characterizations of denial. The current study examines five-year recidivism rates for convicted male sex offenders of varying levels of denial of index offense (none, partial or total). Moderating variables, such as offenders' intellectual functioning, actuarially assessed risk level, and treatment status, are discussed.

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Poster Session I – AM

**Do Athletes Respond Differently to Academic and Social Stress? An Examination of Cortisol and Perceived Stress Throughout a Semester in College Students Athletes and Typical College Students**

**Rita A. Holak**

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Salivary cortisol is known to be a biomarker for stress. The present study investigates the impact of exercise on salivary cortisol and perceived stress in college students. Cortisol was sampled throughout a semester as well as before and after a laboratory-based stress test during the final exam period. It was found that athletes had the largest increase in cortisol between baseline and the final exam period and the students who did not work out had the smallest increase. Also, cortisol levels and perceived stress were correlated in the athlete group and in a second group of students who work out regularly. These findings suggest that perhaps since athletes are often in competitive situations they are able to raise their cortisol to the optimal level in order to achieve the best possible results.

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Poster Session I – AM

**Prenatal Exposure to Maternal Smoking on Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorders Symptoms and Diagnosis in Offspring**

**Nancy Huynh**

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We examined the effects of maternal smoking during pregnancy on children's inattention, hyperactivity/impulsivity symptoms, risk for Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Oppositional Defiant Disorder (ODD). Data was collected from parents to evaluate a child's levels of ADHD by measuring amount of exposure to maternal smoking (none, ½ pack a day, 1 or more packs a day). The no smoking group received a lower measure score than those who smoked ½ pack a day and 1+ packs in inattention ( $p=.002$ ), hyperactivity/impulsivity ( $p=.005$ ) and total ADHD symptoms ( $p=.002$ ) in children, with those who smoked 1+ packs receiving the highest measure scores. In children with ODD versus no ODD, there was a significant increase in children's scores as the level of maternal smoking increased only among children without comorbid ODD with similar results. A clear dose-response relationship was found between the levels of prenatal maternal smoking and child's attention deficit hyperactivity symptoms.

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Poster Session I – AM

**Effects of Microinjections of Thyroid Hormone to the Median Preoptic Nucleus of Euthyroid Adult Male Rats on Sleep**

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Dysthyroidism is commonly associated with disturbed sleep. We recently showed that microinjections of 3- $\beta$ -5-L-triiodothyronine (T3) into the median preoptic nucleus (MePO) have significant biphasic dose effects on sleep in adult rats made hypothyroid with n\*propylthiouracil (PTU) treatment (Soc. Neurosci. #376.27, 2009). To study the euthyroid condition, 0.3, 1.0, 3.0, or 10  $\mu$ g T3 was microinjected into the MePO of adult male rats without PTU treatment. Rats exhibited a significant decrease from control levels of EEG-defined total sleep when injected with 1.0 ( $P<0.01$ ; 2-way ANOVA) or 3.0  $\mu$ g T3 ( $P<0.0001$ ). Decreased slow-wave sleep was shown in rats injected with 1.0 ( $P<0.03$ ), 3.0 ( $P<0.0001$ ), or 10 ( $P<0.03$ )  $\mu$ g T3. Microinjection of 0.3 ( $P<0.0008$ ), 1.0 ( $P<0.0005$ ), or 3.0 ( $P<0.0001$ )  $\mu$ g T3 increased REM. The results in euthyroid rats closely resemble the previous findings in hypothyroid rats. Chronic hypothyroidism therefore has little effect on the results of acute administration of T3 in the MePO.

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Poster Session I – AM

**Microglia Within the Mouse Somatosensory Barrel Cortex: Development and Sensory Experience Dependent Reorganization**

**John Kalambogias and Safraz Khan**

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The barrel cortex is the region of the adult mouse in the somatosensory cortex which processes signals from the animal's whiskers. Each barrel is an aggregation of neurons in layer IV that represent in a one-to-one fashion the whiskers on the contralateral side of the animal's face. We investigated the normal development of microglia in the barrel cortex of mice, as well as the effects of sensory deprivation on this pattern. Microglia are the macrophages of the central nervous system and are the main line of defense in the nervous system. Microglia constantly monitor the central nervous system for signs of damage or

infections and carry out the appropriate response. The role that sensory experience has on their development was assayed by depriving the animals of their normal experience by unilaterally trimming the whiskers every other day starting from birth. Animals were sacrificed at various postnatal days, and the brains were post-fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde for one week. The fixed tissue was sectioned at 70  $\mu$ m on a Vibratome. Brain slices were then washed with 0.01M PBS, quenched for endogenous peroxidase activity, permeabilized with 0.7% Triton X-100 and blocked with 5% normal rabbit serum at room temperature for 1 h. Primary Antibodies specific to microglia (Iba-1, 1:1000) were administered to floating brain sections for approximately 70 h at 4oC. Slices were washed, treated with appropriate biotinylated secondary antibodies for 2.5 h, incubated in ABC solution for 30 minutes and then incubated in DAB for 5 minutes. Sections were mounted and dehydrated prior to cover slipping. The immunohistochemical staining revealed that microglia cells were present in the barrel cortex.

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Poster Session I – AM

**Knocking Down Pregnane Xenobiotic Receptor in the Midbrain Decreases Anti-anxiety Behavior of Proestrous Rats**

**Ryan Keller**

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In the Ventral Tegmental Area (VTA), progesterone is converted to 3 $\alpha$ -hydroxy-5 $\alpha$ -pregnan-20-one (3 $\alpha$ , 5 $\alpha$ -THP), which mediates affective and social behavior of rats. We investigated the role of the pregnane xenobiotic receptor (PXR), a nuclear receptor expressed in the midbrain that may be required for 3 $\alpha$  5 $\alpha$ -THP synthesis, for anxiety-like behaviors of female rats. To test the hypothesis that PXR in the midbrain may be required for progestins' anti-anxiety-like effects, proestrous and diestrous rats were infused with PXR anti-sense, PXR scramble oligodeoxynucleotides (ODNs) or saline vehicle, to the VTA.

Rats were then tested in the open field and elevated plus maze. Vehicle- and scramble ODN-infused proestrous rats had increased central entries and significantly increased open arm time compared to proestrous rats infused with PXR antisense ODNs, which were similar to diestrous rats. Thus, these data suggest PXR in the midbrain may be an important modulator for progestins anti-anxiety effects.

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Poster Session I – AM

**Does the Pubertal Rise in Gonadal Hormones Organize the Stress Response?**

**Zoe A. Klein**

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In response to an acute stressor, prepubertal rats (25-28 days of age) display a protracted hormonal stress response compared to adults. The purpose of this study was to determine whether the pubertal rise in gonadal hormones contributes to this differential stress response. Thus, male rats were exposed to a 30 min session of restraint stress either before puberty (28 days of age) or after puberty (66 days of age) as well as in rats castrated or sham-castrated prior to or after puberty and tested in adulthood. Blood samples were collected before (basal), immediately following, or 35 min after the termination of the stressor and corticosterone (CORT) levels were measured. Although peak CORT levels were affected by castration, recovery remained unaffected, leading to the conclusion that the recovery of the stress response is age-dependent and that the peak output response is molded by the pubertal rise in gonadal hormones.

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Poster Session II – PM

**Androgenic Neurosteroids Mediate Sexual Proclivity and Aggression In Response to Cocaine Among Intact Female Rats.**

**Amy S. Kohtz**

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There is a growing body of literature suggesting that drug use may influence sexual behavior. In people, use of cocaine has been associated with increased sexual risk-taking. Androgens, such as Testosterone (T), and its metabolite 3 $\alpha$ -androstenediol (3 $\alpha$ -diol) may influence proclivity to engage in sexual behavior, among rodents. As such, we were interested in interactions between endogenous androgens and cocaine. Female and male rats, were acutely administered cocaine (0, 5, 10, or 20mg/kg, IP) and observed for sexual responses. Cocaine enhanced sexual proclivity among non-sexually receptive females and decreased sexual proclivity among sexual-receptive females and males. Differences in androgen milieu accounted for behavior. Cocaine dose-dependently altered 3 $\alpha$ -diol in brain concomitant with changes in male and female sexual behavior. Brain T predicted aggression among female rats, and initiation of social contacts among males, in response to cocaine. Thus, androgens action in the brain may mediate cocaine responses involving sexual and social behavior.

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Poster Session II – PM

**Knocking down Pregnane Xenobiotic Receptor in the Ventral Tegmental Area decreases socio-sexual behavior**

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Progesterone is converted to 3 $\alpha$ -hydroxy-5 $\alpha$ -pregnan-20-one (3 $\alpha$ , 5 $\alpha$ -THP) in the Ventral Tegmental Area (VTA). Actions of 3 $\alpha$ , 5 $\alpha$ -THP are known to mediate sexual behavior of female rodents. The role of the pregnane xenobiotic receptor (PXR), which modulates enzymes important for steroid metabolism, in the midbrain for progestins effects on sexual behavior is of interest. In the present study, proestrous and diestrous rats were infused with PXR anti-sense oligonucleotides (ODNs), scrambled ODNs or saline vehicle to the VTA. Rats were then tested for socio-sexual responding in the social interaction and paced mating tasks. Our hypothesis that proestrous rats infused with PXR anti-sense would have decreased sexual responding (i.e. decreased lordosis quotients) compared to proestrous rats administered vehicle or scrambled ODN was supported. Modest effects of manipulating PXR were observed for social interaction. Thus, PXR in the midbrain VTA may be important for progestin-facilitated sexual behavior.

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Poster Session I – AM

**Analysis of Mitochondrial Dynamics in a Cell Culture Model of Alzheimer's disease and Evaluation of the Mechanism of Action of Methylene Blue as a Potential Treatment**

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Alzheimer's disease (AD) is a progressive neurodegenerative disease characterized by memory loss, slowed responsiveness and behavioral changes. The biochemistry and physiology of mitochondria are abnormal in the AD brain, and both amyloid- $\beta$  and its precursor APP have been shown to bind to the mitochondrial membrane. Mitochondrial damage results in energy hypometabolism, production of reactive oxygen species (ROS), and disruption of metabolic products such as heme, all key cytopathologies of AD. Over 5 million people in the U.S. are currently diagnosed with AD, and without the development of an

effective treatment that halts or reverses cognitive decline, the number of AD patients is expected to increase to over 13 million by 2050. Methylene blue is currently entering Phase III clinical trials as a potential treatment for AD, and has shown efficacy in reducing cognitive decline in humans. This study evaluates changes in mitochondrial dynamics, including membrane potential, motility, and production of ROS in a cell culture model of AD. In addition, methylene blue is evaluated for its efficacy in reversing imbalances in these conditions as an investigation of its mechanism of action.

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Poster Session II - PM

**Retrieval of Stressful Memories in Rodents: Implications for the Emergence and Treatment of PTSD**  
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Persistent memories resulting from an emotional trauma are a defining feature of PTSD. We investigated whether a novel restraint-stress conditioning paradigm can alter strong memories. Our study examined the  $\alpha$ -adrenoceptor antagonist propranolol (PROP) to reduce physical memories. Rats were exposed to 3 tone-shock pairings followed by a fear-memory reactivation and test session in a different context over consecutive days. Rats were given a post-reactivation PROP or saline. We found that PROP did not alter freezing. Based on evidence from both human and animal studies suggesting that PROP impairs consolidation and reconsolidation of fear memories we expected a decrease in expression of fear. These data combined with our biochemical data suggest that PROP may differentially affect the retrieval of a memory related to physical rather than emotional trauma. These findings have important implications for the therapeutic use of PROP and the type of memory that is retrieved in a clinical

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Poster Session I – AM

**Emotional Health Among Ethnically Diverse Students Based on Weekly Hours Spent on Campus**  
**Rachel Lifshitz**

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As students, maintaining a healthy lifestyle is challenging. This study examines physical health (PH) and emotional health (EH) of 74 randomly selected ethnically diverse Queens College students, based on weekly hours spent on campus (time). White (n=23), Black (n=18), Asian (n=19), and Hispanic (n=14) students completed a questionnaire, through which PH (measured by dietary intake and physical activity) and EH (measured by sadness, loneliness, depression, and stress) were estimated. We performed a 2-Way Factorial ANOVA test using SPSS to examine effects of ethnicity and time on PH and EH. Additionally, regression analysis examined the relationships between ethnicity and time, and between PH and EH. We tested three hypotheses: 1) Health differs based on ethnicity; 2) Health differs based on time; and 3) EH and PH are related. We found that Blacks had the highest PH scores, followed by Whites, Hispanics, and Asians ( $p=.039$ ). Those spending 25-35 hours on campus had top PH scores, followed by 10-20 hours, 40+ hours, and <10 hours, which did not reach significance ( $p=.16$ ). Interaction between ethnicity and time is significant ( $p=.025$ ), indicating that time effected health differently, depending on ethnicity. Interaction between ethnicity and EH was marginally significant ( $p=.063$ ). Specifically, regarding depression, Asians and Blacks are less vulnerable, while Hispanics and Whites are more vulnerable. A single link between PH and EH is found amongst Blacks, in which 67.5% of PH is explained by time, stress, and depression. Our findings suggest that effective strategies for promoting health on campus may differ based on ethnicity.

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Poster Session II – PM

**Autistic-like BTBR T+tf/J Male Mice Demonstrate Strain Differences in Stress Hormone and Progesterone Levels Compared to Control Mice**

**Danielle C. Llaneza**

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Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is characterized by alterations in social, cognitive and/or affective behaviors, and boys are diagnosed four times more often than are girls. Recently, our lab demonstrated that male mice inbred to express an ASD-like phenotype (BTBR T+tf/J; Moy et al., 2007) have differential stress hormone responding. Progesterone (P<sub>4</sub>) and its metabolites in the brain are precursors for and modulate production of glucocorticoids (e.g. corticosterone). We hypothesized that male BTBR and control mice (C57BL/6J and 129S1/SvImJ) may demonstrate endogenous differences in P<sub>4</sub> and its metabolites. Results indicate that male BTBR mice have higher circulating levels of progestogens compared to control mice. Thus, there are strain differences in progestogen levels, which may be related to strain differences in stress-responding. Currently, we are investigating sex and strain differences to assess the relationship between behavioral phenotypes and endogenous glucocorticoid and progestogen levels.

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Poster Session II – PM

**Facilitation of Visual Attention to Affect**

**Anna Marganska**

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Affect has been shown to influence the spatial allocation of visual attention. Some studies also suggest that temporal visual processing might be influenced by affect (e.g., Reinecke, Rinck, & Becker, 2008). Accordingly, we hypothesized that positive and negative affective images will be detected temporally with greater accuracy than neutral images. Twenty-six participants completed a rapid serial visual presentation (RSVP) task that measured temporal facilitation of attention to valenced (positive and negative) and neutral picture stimuli. The results showed that positive images were detected more accurately than negative or neutral images. However, counter to hypothesis, negative images were not detected more accurately than neutral images. Additional analyses also revealed that gender moderated the accuracy of affective stimulus detection. These findings suggest that the influence of affect on attention is pervasive; in addition to enhanced allocation of attention spatially, affect drives enhanced temporal allocation of attention.

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Poster Session II – PM

**Mendez Positive trends in a Medication Adherence Intervention: Cultural and Personal Importance**

**Stephanie Mendez**

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The present analysis examined laboratory-reported CD4 and viral load from archival records before and after participation in a HIV medication adherence intervention. The intervention used electronic pill bottles to provide tailored HIV medication adherence feedback, focusing attention to circumstances surrounding missed doses and problem-solving around these issues. Thirty-three participants in this intervention were compared with 58 HIV-positive non-participants in terms of immune system strength (CD4) and viral blood HIV level (viral load). Models adjusting for CD4-pre and a propensity score showed that CD4-post was higher for participants than for non-participants, who significantly declined over time. Participants were also less likely to have a detectable viral load-post. This intervention might benefit even those who frequently miss HIV medication doses. Future research should be done to place emphasis on the way

individuals render their adherence as personally meaningful, both in terms of the medical plan, personal identities, and cultural background.

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Poster Session II – PM

**Sports and Self-Esteem: Basketball, Dance, and Horseback Riding**

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Empirical evidence has suggested that participation in organized sports is related to various positive psychosocial outcomes including enhanced self-control, positive affect and higher levels of self-esteem (Findlay & Coplan 2008). A recent study however, argues that these benefits may be found in children who participate in a team sport, but that children, who participate in an individual sport, may not experience higher self-concept (Goldberg, 2010). The purpose of the study was to examine the characteristics of children who participate in different sports, individual and team sports. The researchers were also interested in examining changes in self-esteem as a result of participating in a three different sports, basketball, dance, and horseback riding. The parents of 78 children, who participate in one of these sports, were surveyed. Parents were asked to evaluate their child’s level of self-esteem prior to and after participating in the sport using a scale similar to the Rosenberg Scale of Self-Esteem. Results indicate that self-esteem scores for all the children were significantly higher after participating in the sports.

Comparisons between the three sports were made. Implications for parents and schools are discussed.

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Poster Session II - PM

**High temporal resolution decoding of object position using MEG**

**Juraj Mesik**

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The purpose of the present study was to test the popular belief that the visual system retains information about the position of an object only during early stages of visual processing. Participants were presented with pictures of objects appearing at different locations in the visual field while their brain activity was recorded using Magnetoencephalography (MEG). A linear classifier was trained to decode the stimulus position from the recorded data. The classifier was able to accurately recover the position of objects starting 65 ms post stimulus onset. Classification performance peaked at 115 ms and then decayed as a function of time, but remained significantly above chance until 1000ms. During this interval, the classifier's performance correlated with the distance between the locations of the stimuli tested. This indicates a topographic representation of space. These results suggest that the object position is represented for a longer time period than was previously believed.

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Poster Session I – AM

**Response development to noxious stimuli in groups of *Mormyrus rume***

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Animals can be distributed along a social spectrum, from the markedly social human or electric fish to the asocial tiger or great white shark. As possible dangers present themselves, an animal’s sociality can change. These responses may also be characteristic of the individual’s developmental stage. Thus, depending on an organism’s age, its sociality may change drastically in the presence of a threat. This study will examine these changes in selected developmental stages of an African freshwater weakly electric fish,

*Mormyrus rume*. The fish's response to four potentially noxious stimuli will be investigated. We predict that at younger stages of development, fish will tend to disperse, while at older stages, the fish will tend to aggregate. The findings will demonstrate a relationship between sociality and development. The results will contribute to understanding how organisms are socially adapted as they develop to respond to survival threats in their environment.

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Poster Session II – PM

**Hippocampal learning task deficits: Perspectives from brain labeling**

**Miki Nagai and Karen Pace**

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Our laboratory investigates whether mold-induced deficits in learning and memory are caused by immune system activation which then decreases hippocampal neurogenesis. Lower levels of hippocampal neurogenesis are positively correlated with the types of cognitive deficits seen in mold-exposed animals.

We use BrdU to label newly-born cells. We use other stains such as Hu and Iba-1 to double label cells and tell us whether the cells have become neurons or glia. Cells labeled with both Hu and BrdU are newly-born neurons. Double labeling with BrdU and Iba-1 tells us that the newly-born cells are microglia. We can then determine how mold treatment affects the number of newborn neurons and microglia. It is important to look at microglia because they are the resident immune cells in the brain and may be activated by mold exposure. Immunohistochemistry allows us to determine how brain tissue is affected by mold exposure.

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Poster Session II – PM

**Phenytoin increased latencies to PTZ induced death but reduced anogenital investigation among wildtype but not 5 $\alpha$ -reductase mice**

**Danielle M. Osborne**

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Phenytoin, a traditional anti-epileptic drug, can effectively control seizures, however, it may also influence hormone metabolism. Phenytoin can increase metabolism of testosterone, to its 5 $\alpha$ -reduced metabolite 3 $\alpha$ -Androstanediol. We hypothesized that enzyme-inducing effects of phenytoin may underlie some of its anti-seizure and/or hormonally-relevant, side-effects on sexual, cognitive, and affective processes. We used 5 $\alpha$ -reductase knockout (perturbed 3 $\alpha$ -Androstanediol levels) or wildtype control male mice and administered phenytoin (30mg/kg) or saline twice a day for 21 days. Mice were tested for performance in the open field, object recognition, and sexual response tasks before receiving pentylenetetrazol (PTZ; 85 mg/kg). 5 $\alpha$ -reductase mice had shorter terminal latencies, regardless of PTZ administration, compared to Wildtype mice. Phenytoin administered 5 $\alpha$ -reductase mice had increased latencies to, and decreased frequency of, anogenital investigations. There were no effects on cognitive or affective behaviors. These findings are consistent with phenytoin influencing seizure effects and sexual responses through actions of 5 $\alpha$ -reduced metabolism.

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Poster Session I – AM

**Pubertal- and experience-dependent changes in stress reactivity**

**Victoria A. Padow**

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Age and experience are factors that modulate hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) reactivity. Prepubertal rats produce a prolonged hormonal response to acute stress compared to adults, while repeated exposure to

the same stressor (homotypic stress) leads to a facilitated response in prepubertals, but a habituated one in adults. A heterotypic stressor (homotypic followed by novel stress) produces sensitization in adults, but has not been examined in prepubertals. Therefore, in this study, we exposed prepubertal (28d) and adult (70d) male rats to acute or homotypic restraint stress, or heterotypic cold room and restraint stress and measured resulting levels of corticosterone (CORT). We replicated our previous results regarding the HPA responses to acute and homotypic stress in adults and prepubertals. We also found that heterotypic stress in prepubertal rats produces a sensitization of their CORT response similar to that observed in adults. These data indicate that stress experience shapes the HPA axis differently before and after puberty.

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Poster Session II – PM

**Androgens and dominance hierarchies interact with alcohol's modulation of anti-social behavior**

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Over 80% of all violent crimes are associated with alcohol (EtOH) and alcohol-promoted aggression is more prevalent in men than women. We aimed to assess the androgenic mechanisms that may contribute to the male propensity for EtOH-enhanced aggression. The androgen, testosterone, can be reduced by the 5 $\alpha$ -reductase enzyme to form active metabolites, dihydrotestosterone (which acts at androgen receptors) and 3 $\alpha$ -androstane-20-one (3 $\alpha$ -diol; which acts at non-traditional receptor sites). Paradigm: Male mice are trained in a social dominance paradigm wherein they compete for neutral territory. Mice are categorized as dominant (having won the majority of 3 prior trials), subordinate (having lost the majority of trials), or neutral (having tied). Control mice, mutant mice that were androgen-receptor-insensitive, mice that had the 5 $\alpha$ -reductase enzyme knocked-out, or mice that had estrogen-receptor  $\alpha$  (a non-traditional androgen target) knocked-out, were administered saline or EtOH (1.0 g/kg, IP) in the social dominance task. Results: In control mice, or androgen-receptor-insensitive mice (but not 5 $\alpha$ -reductase knockouts), EtOH increased aggression in dominant (but not subordinate) mice compared to saline. As well, estrogen receptor  $\alpha$  may be a target for androgens' effects for EtOH-promoted aggression. EtOH's modulation of the 5 $\alpha$ -reduced androgen, 3 $\alpha$ -diol (which acts at novel androgen targets) may promote aggression in mice.

\* \* \* \* \*

Poster Session I – AM

**The Influence of Affect on Normative Visual Orienting and Disengagement**

**Carey S Pulverman**

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Affect can influence attentional orienting and disengagement. Whereas affect is not expected to modulate initial orienting (Fox et al., 2001), affective stimuli have been shown to slow disengagement. Anxious people disengage more slowly from negative stimuli (e.g., Mogg et al., 2008). We examined affective influences on orienting and disengagement in non-anxious participants. Participants completed behavioral tasks that measured orienting to and disengagement from affective (positive, negative, neutral) stimuli. Counter to hypotheses, participants oriented faster to negative and neutral versus positive stimuli. Participants also disengaged more slowly from positive versus negative stimuli. Additional exploratory analyses revealed that the disengagement effect was moderated by gender; women disengaged more slowly from positive versus negative stimuli, whereas men disengaged equally efficiently from positive and negative. This suggests that healthy adults orient attention most efficiently to potentially threatening (i.e., negative or neutral) information, and that women in particular maintain attention to positive information.

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Poster Session I – AM

**The glutamate transporter activator ceftriaxone enhances nicotine analgesia**

**Katrina F. Quick**

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Authors: Quick KF, Landry PM, and Schroeder JA

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The purpose of this experiment was to study the effects of the glutamate transporter activator, ceftriaxone, on nicotine analgesia measured using the tail flick method for evaluation of nociception. Evidence indicates that increasing glutamatergic tone enhances opioid analgesia and its tolerance. In addition ceftriaxone enhances nicotine analgesia measured via a hot plate method. Rats received daily injections of ceftriaxone (200 mg/kg, ip) beginning five days before seven consecutive days of nicotine tail-flick analgesia testing. Analgesic responses were measured every two minutes for the first ten minutes and every ten minutes for the following thirty minutes following nicotine administration. Ceftriaxone significantly enhanced analgesia to 2.5 mg/kg, sc nicotine but did not affect tolerance to nicotine analgesia. A nicotine dose of 1.0 mg/kg and ceftriaxone alone did not produce analgesia. Taken together with previous evidence, this data indicates that increasing extracellular glutamate levels significantly enhances both spinal and supraspinal nicotine analgesia.

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Poster Session I – AM

**Experiences of behavioral control affect fear expression in humans**

**Marianne C. Reddan**

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Authors: Hartley C, Phelps EA, Reddan MC, Gorun A, and Hersh A

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Controllability, the degree of behavioral control a person can exert over a stressor, determines the impact of an aversive event. The present study investigates how experiences of controllability versus uncontrollability affect one's fear response in subsequent situations. Participants were randomly assigned to an escapable task, so that correct responses terminated shocks; an inescapable, where shocks were administered regardless of performance; or to a control condition involving no shock exposure nor experience of control. One week later, participants underwent fear conditioning, in which a neutral stimulus was sometimes followed by a shock, generating a conditioned fear response. This was followed by extinction, during which the stimulus is never followed by shock, and the fear response typically diminishes. Extinction retention was tested 24 hours after conditioning to examine whether the fear response returns after a delay. We found that participants in the escapable condition had lower levels of arousal during fear conditioning and better extinction retention than participants in a control condition. Participants in the inescapable condition showed a greater fear response than controls, and a greater tendency to recover fear after extinction. These results demonstrate that experiences of behavioral control may foster better coping abilities, reduce stress, and create resilience in anxiety-provoking situations.

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Poster Session I - AM

**Effects of Chronic Mild Stress on Trace and Contextual Fear Conditioning**

**Christian G. Reich**

Department of Psychology, *Ramapo College of New Jersey*, Mahwah, NJ

Authors: Iskander A, Goldman M, Meilands S, Swanson A, Siochi C, Mihalik G, Mitchell C, Weisharr I, and Reich CG

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Mood disorders such as major depressive disorder and PTSD are serious mental illnesses that affect over 20 million Americans. Recent studies from our lab demonstrate that Chronic-Mild-Unpredictable-Stress (CMUS), an animal model of depression, regulates the endocannabinoid system in the rodent hippocampus. Specifically, CMUS down-regulates cannabinoid type 1 (CB1) receptors in male rats and up-regulates CB1

in female rats (Reich et al, 2009). In addition, acute and chronic restraint stress enhances fear conditioning in male rats (Rau, 2005). We, therefore, tested the hypothesis that CMUS would differentially affect the acquisition, recall and extinction of hippocampal-dependent trace fear conditioning. Our findings indicate that the CMUS enhances fear responses in both male and female Sprague-Dawley rats. The effects of stress are observed in all stages of conditioning and extinction and are ameliorated by administration of a CB1 receptor agonist.

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Poster Session I – AM

**Autoresuscitation responses to hypoxia-induced apnea in newborn serotonin-deficient Pet-1 knockout mice: Effects of prenatal nicotine exposure.**

**Emily E. Reichard**

Department of Biology, New Jersey College, Ewing, NJ

Authors: Reichard EE, Mecker SV, and Erickson JT

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Prenatal nicotine exposure is a major risk factor for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) in humans. Moreover, SIDS has been associated with abnormal development of brainstem serotonin neurons and is widely thought to result from failure of cardiorespiratory control mechanisms. Although specific factors that precipitate SIDS are unknown, an inability to autoresuscitate via gasping following hypoxia-induced apnea has often been suggested as a proximate cause of death. We have shown previously that Pet-1 gene deletion in mice results in a severe loss of brainstem serotonin neurons that is associated with baseline breathing abnormalities, inefficient autoresuscitation responses to primary apnea, and increased neonatal mortality. These similarities to SIDS have prompted us to explore the Pet-1 mouse as a potential animal model for SIDS. This poster describes our experiments to date that are aimed at assessing the effects of prenatal nicotine exposure on breathing behavior and survival in newborn Pet-1 mutant mice.

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Poster Session II - PM

**Inhibition of VEGFR2 protects against status epilepticus-induced hippocampal neuronal loss**

**Elisa A. Salerni**

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Authors: Salerni EA, Hao T, Lenzer J, Edelstein J, Olivares G, Feldman E, Rockwell P, Croll SD

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Vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) is an angiogenic factor with known neuroprotective effects. Previous research in our lab has shown that intrahippocampal infusions of VEGF protects hippocampal pyramidal neurons from death 24 hours after pilocarpine-induced status epilepticus (SE). VEGF's known signal-transducing receptors are VEGFR1 and VEGFR2. In vitro studies suggest that VEGF's neuroprotective effects are mediated by VEGFR2. The current experiments were conducted to determine whether VEGFR2 activation also mediates its in vivo protective effects. Bicannulae were implanted into dorsal hippocampus and animals received continuous infusion of VEGF or inactivated VEGF control through one cannula, and either the VEGFR2-selective tyrosine kinase inhibitor SU1498 or 75% DMSO vehicle through the other cannula during pilocarpine-induced SE. Hippocampal tissue was taken 24 hours after SE and prepared for histological analysis. Brain sections were stained with cresyl violet and assessed for neuronal loss using previously published methods. Results showed that VEGFR2 inhibition not only failed to prevent VEGF's neuroprotective effects, but also was neuroprotective on its own. These data suggest not only that VEGFR2 does not mediate VEGF's protective effects in this in vivo model, but that it might actually produce a harmful effect in this context. Future studies will explore the possibility that it is VEGFR1, not VEGFR2, which mediates VEGF's protective effects against SE-induced neuronal death.

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Poster Session I – AM

**Retention: Instruction, Academic Advising and Student Satisfaction**

**Gail V. Satchell**

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Research findings indicate that student satisfaction has emerged as a means of improving retention rates (Strayhorn & Terrell, 2007) and is an important retention variable for nontraditional students. Several researchers (Einarson & Matier, 2005; Minnick, 2006) have found significant race, age, and gender differences in student satisfaction with instruction and academic advising (Giancola, Munz & Trares, 2008). Student satisfaction with quality of instruction proved to be the strongest predictor of satisfaction with the undergraduate experiences (Geehan, 2005). In addition, academic advising is a major aspect of the university that influences student satisfaction and a critical supportive resource for assisting in the retention and satisfaction of minority students (Mottarella, Fritzche, & Cerebino, 2004). The aim of this study is to determine the predictors of student satisfaction (dependent variable) from among independent variables (quality of educational experience, quality of instruction, quality of academic advising, and demographic characteristics such as age, gender, and generation status).

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Poster Session I – AM

**Head Size at Birth on Neurological Abnormality During Childhood**

**Talia E. Seltzer**

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Authors: Seltzer T, Nomura Y

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This study examines the effect of neurological development during childhood among children with normal (>34cm) and with small (<34cm) head size at birth. Children's mental, motor, sensory and physical development was assessed at 8 months, 3 years and 4 years of age by research psychologists blind to head size. It was found that at 8 months those with normal head size at birth did significantly better on the comprehensive evaluation test than those with small head size at birth, both in terms of physical development (mean: .06 vs. .20,  $p=.001$ ) and mental development (mean: .05 vs. .30,  $p<.0001$ ). It was found that at 3 years of age, those with normal head size at birth did significantly better on the perception exam than those with small head size at birth (mean: .85 vs. .60,  $p<.0001$ ). At age 4, it was recorded that those with normal head size at birth scored significantly higher on the Stanford Binet IQ test than those with small head size at birth (mean: 94.0 vs. 90.69,  $p=.008$ ). The study found consistent differences in neuropsychological functioning between children born with normal head size and those born with small head size. Currently, as the field focuses on low birth weight and preterm birth as potential risk factors for suboptimal neuropsychological development in children, it may be beneficial for practitioners and policy makers to include small head size as another risk factor for neuropsychological development in children.

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Poster Session I – AM

**A Study of the Relationship between Mindfulness and Perceived Stress**

**Andrew Shand**

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This project was a study which concentrated on the relationship between mindfulness and stress level. I asked a convenient sample (N=50) to take a survey which addressed this relationship. Inconsistent with my first hypothesis, female participants did not score higher on the mindfulness test than male participants. Inconsistent with my second hypothesis, male participants did not score higher on the perceived stress scale than female participants. Consistent with my third hypothesis, there was a significant negative relationship

between mindfulness scores and perceived stress scores. These findings lend support to the notion that cultivating a mindful demeanor can improve a person's well-being.

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Poster Session II - PM

**Effects of CB2 receptor activation on variable chronic mild stress-induced depression, spatial learning and hippocampal microglial cell activation.**

**Eli Shobin**

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Prolonged exposure to stress results in a depressive state that is associated with hippocampal damage mediated by inflammatory cytokines produced by activated microglia. Activation of central nervous system type 2 cannabinoid receptors (CB2) inhibits activated microglia inflammation and promotes neuron survival and proliferation. In this study, rats were exposed to a 3 week variable chronic mild stress (CMS) paradigm followed by behavioral assessment of depressive-like behavior and spatial navigation. Compared to untreated stress-exposed controls, rats that received daily injections of the CB2 agonist GW-405883 during CMS displayed less depressive-like behavior and performed significantly better in Morris water maze evaluation of spatial learning and memory. Immunohistochemical evaluation of hippocampal activated microglia is also reported. Results suggest that the endogenous cannabinoid system may play a role in controlling stress-induced depression and the hippocampal damage associated with it.

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Poster Session II - PM

**Comparison of Techniques Used to Measure Digit Ratio (2D:4D) in Mice**

**Brianna Sleezer**

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Digit ratio (most commonly the relative lengths of the second to fourth fingers) is accepted as a marker of prenatal androgen exposure in humans and is sexually dimorphic, though differences are subtle. In order to develop an animal model for digit ratio, researchers have measured digits in mice, with conflicting results. To determine whether the use of different techniques contributes to varying findings, we compared the repeatability of digit measurements from two of the most commonly used techniques: digital photographs of live animals and images of severed paws taken from a microscope. Intra-class correlation coefficients for repeated measures using both techniques were above 0.98. A new technique using a small sample of images of paw impressions was found to have nearly as high repeatability. However, the various techniques yielded differences in digit ratio. We conclude that each technique permits reliable repeatability but techniques should not be combined within a study.

\* \* \* \* \*

Poster Session I – AM

**The effect of progesterone on female mating behavior in zebra finches.**

**Kristina O. Smiley**

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Authors: Smiley K, Vahaba D, and Tomaszycski M

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This study was designed to investigate the effects of progesterone on mating behaviors in female zebra finches. The hypothesis was that an increased level of progesterone, a key hormone in pair-bonding, in female zebra finches will increase the amount of receptive and proceptive mating behaviors. The subjects included a total of sixteen zebra finches divided into two cohorts across a four-week period. Each cohort consisted of four females and four males, each lasting for two weeks. Day one of the experiment consisted of blind injections of either .05mg of progesterone or .05mg of saline to the four females. Mating behaviors

with the four males were observed for one hour and then separated overnight. To test the effects of progesterone on the strength of partner preference formation, the animals were then reintroduced the next day and their behavior was observed for an hour. The following week the females were given the opposite drug and again followed the same two-day procedure. It is anticipated that there will be a significant increase of mating/pair-bonding activity behaviors on days that females were injected with progesterone. The results will contribute to our knowledge of the mechanisms of pairing in female animals.

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Poster Session I – AM

**Transgressor's and Victim's Intentions on the Victim's Level of Injury.**

**Cherry J Sudartono**

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Research has found a relationship between the transgressor's intention to harm and perceptions of the victim's level of injury and it suggests that the inverse relationship between a victim's intent to avoid harm and her perceived injury. In this study, 198 female participants read a scenario which manipulated the intentionality of the transgressor to harm (intentionally/accidentally) and the victim to avoid harm (unaware of danger/aware but unconcerned/aware and intentionally seeking harm). Support was found for most predictions.

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Poster Session II - PM

**The Effects of Acute Nicotine Administration on Cued and Spatial Learning**

**Katherine A. Sullivan**

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Nicotine has been examined with respect to different learning and memory tasks. The effects of acute administration of nicotine on cued and spatial memory in 60 adult male Sprague-Dawley rats were studied. Rats were given either saline or a 0.3 mg/kg dose of nicotine via an intraperitoneal injection prior to 10 trials each of a hippocampus- or striatum-dependent learning task in a Morris water maze, or a time period of no behavioral task. Rats were perfused and brains were stained for c-Fos expression in the prefrontal cortex, striatum, hippocampus and amygdala. Preliminary behavioral analysis suggests that rats did not show enhanced learning with administration of nicotine. Rats that received nicotine in the cued group had increased trial times compared to the saline-injected rats. Rats exposed to nicotine in the spatial group learned marginally slower than rats exposed to saline. C-Fos activation analysis is currently pending immunohistochemistry.

\* \* \* \* \*

Poster Session I – AM

**The Stigma of Mental Illness: Perceptions of Individuals Diagnosed with Depression or Obsessive Compulsive Disorder**

**Christina J. Taylor**

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Undergraduate students from a private university participated in two studies designed to explore views of individuals with clinical depression or obsessive-compulsive disorder. It was hypothesized that people would view depressed individuals more negatively than non-depressed individuals and that depressed men would be viewed more negatively than depressed women. Participants responded to one of six different vignettes about a male or female stimulus person suffering from severe, moderate, or no depression. Results showed that participants did not view depressed men any differently than depressed women.

Partial support was obtained for the hypothesis that depressed individuals would be perceived less favorably than the non-depressed. In the second study, participants responded to one of ten vignettes about a male or female stimulus person described as having either mild or severe depression or OCD, or no psychiatric diagnosis at all.

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Poster Session II – PM

**Altered social preference behaviors of autistic-like mice compared to controls may be related to progesterone levels**

**David J. Tedeschi**

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Autism is a common neuropsychiatric developmental disorder that impairs social behaviors; such as interaction and communication; cognitive and/or affective behaviors, motor skills and brain morphology. These incidences occur four times more in males than females, which may be due to the hormone progesterone, a steroid hormone in females which mediates the above mentioned processes. The goal of this project focuses on the cognitive aspect of social novelty in a social recognition task, which is a modified type of object recognition that is based on signals appropriate to social situations (Frye et al., 2006b; Delville et al., 2000). Male and female BTBR mice, that show ASD-like behavior, and control group, C57 mice, will be administered progesterone, or vehicle two to four hours before testing. If the BTBR mice have lower progesterone mediated behavioral phenotypes, administering progesterone may reverse behavioral phenotype effects on the BTBR mice. We predict sex and strain differences in P4 and social recognition performance may be causally linked to the etiology and/or expression of ASD-like phenotypes.

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Poster Session II – PM

**Pregnane Xenobiotic Receptor Expression varies across the Estrous Cycle and following Infusions of Targeted Antisense Oligodeoxynucleotides to the Midbrain**

**Jennifer Torgersen**

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Allopregnanolone (3 $\alpha$ , 5 $\alpha$ -THP) is a metabolite of progesterone that acts in the ventral tegmental area (VTA) to alter anxiety and social behaviors. PXR is a nuclear receptor that regulates the transcription of enzymes needed for the production of neurosteroids like 3 $\alpha$ , 5 $\alpha$ -THP. Microarray, RT-PCR, and protein dotblots show that PXR gene, RNA and protein is expressed in the midbrain of proestrous rats. Knocking down PXR in the midbrain alters affective and social responding of proestrous rats. We investigated the extent to which PXR varies with hormonal status and following infusions of PXR antisense oligodeoxynucleotides (ODNs) into the midbrain of proestrous and diestrous rats with western blots. Proestrous rats had greater PXR expression than diestrous rats. Compared to infusions of vehicle or scrambled (ODNs), PXR expression was reduced in rats infused with antisense ODNs. Thus, PXR expression in the midbrain may vary with hormone status of female rats.

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Poster Session I – AM

**Cognition Performance as a Function of Patterns of Sleep**

**Nicholas J. Ullrich III**

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The purpose of the present study was to examine the effect of sleep pattern variation (e.g., sleeping the same amount of hours each night as compared to having varied nightly sleep hours) and chronic sleep deprivation on cognitive functioning. A sample of 74 undergraduates from a small private college was asked to keep a daily sleep log for one week. At the end of the week, they performed a series of cognitive computer tasks measuring their ability to sustain attention and memory. Results from multiple regression analyses suggest that the interaction of sleep pattern and deprivation was the most useful at predicting cognitive deficits. Specifically, (1) individuals who reported little variability in sleep patterns and sleep deprivation and (2) individuals who reported high variability but no sleep deprivation were more likely to have increased memory scores.

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Poster Session I – AM

**Toddlers' Perseveration During Difficult Locomotor Tasks**

**Maria A. Valonzo**

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The cognitive capacity theory, states that inhibition is contingent on the ability to perform multiple tasks while simultaneously balancing several cognitive demands (Sirois & Shultz, 2006). The inability to inhibit repeated behaviors is perseveration. In the locomotor A not B task, infants perseverated during difficult locomotor tasks because motor demands taxed infants' attentional resources (Berger, 2004; 2010). The trade-off for completing a motorically difficult task was a cognitive error--perseveration. The aim of this study was to examine the cognitive capacity theory in older children by quantifying the range of toddlers' perseveration during difficult locomotor tasks. Toddlers ages 18, 24 and 30 months old participated in a low demand, goal directed task (walking on flat pathway) that served as a control to two high demand goal-directed tasks (walking on balance beams; descending staircases). Conditions required toddlers to reach the goal, location (A) for several trials, and then the goal was moved to location (B). The primary outcome measure was whether toddlers took a new direct path to the goal or perseverated by taking the old path.

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Poster Session II – PM

**Trophic Effects of SERMs may be modulated by Cyclin D1 Expression in the Hippocampus, Tumors, and Uterus of Rats**

**Alicia A. Walf**

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Specific actions of estrogens at one of the two forms of the estrogen receptor (ER; ER $\alpha$ , ER $\beta$ ) may underlie trophic actions in the brain versus body. In support, estradiol (E<sub>2</sub>; which has actions at ER $\alpha$  and ER $\beta$ ) to ovariectomized rats increases carcinogen-induced tumorigenesis, uterine growth, and anti-anxiety behavior. An ER $\alpha$ -SERM (PPT) increases tumorigenesis and uterine growth, but not anti-anxiety behavior. An ER $\beta$ -SERM (DPN) decreases anxiety-like behavior, but not tumorigenesis or uterine growth. To investigate whether these trophic effects of E<sub>2</sub> and SERMs involve changes in the cell cycle, cyclin D1 expression in the uterus, tumors, and hippocampus was assessed. Cyclin D1 expression was increased in tumors of rats administered E<sub>2</sub> or PPT, in uteri of rats administered E<sub>2</sub>, and in the hippocampus of rats administered PPT

or DPN, compared to vehicle administration. Thus, the effects of SERMs in the brain and body for cyclin D1 expression can be dissociated.

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Poster Session II – PM

**The effect of HFE mutations on lead toxicity in neurons**

**Nicole Weston and Jared Miller**

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Oxidative stress and cellular death in the brain is positively correlated with exposure to heavy metals such as iron and lead. The HFE protein influences cellular iron concentration by modulating the affinity of the major physiological iron carrier in the body, transferrin, for its receptor. While the C282Y and H63D variants of HFE are associated with hereditary hemochromatosis, the most common form of iron overload disease, aged individuals who express these variants also have increased levels of lead accumulation and cognitive decline. There is no known mechanism for this association. Our results demonstrate that human neuroblastoma cells transfected with the C282Y variant of the HFE protein have decreased levels of viability after lead treatment compared to cells that express the wild type variant of HFE, as measured by the MTT assay. These results correlate well with the decreased lead-mediated cognition associated with the C282Y variant in humans.

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Poster Session I – AM

**Witness descriptions: Is there a cross-race effect for hair?**

**Yinglee Wong**

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Previous literature on eyewitness descriptions has affirmed that eyewitness descriptions represent a critical role in the investigation of any crime. Empirical studies investigating perpetrator descriptions primarily focuses on general features (e.g., gender, age, height, and physical build), but there are no studies examining witness accuracy in labeling and describing hair and hairstyles. This study investigated how people from different racial groups (White, Black, Hispanic, and Asian) label, describe, and recognize hair and hairstyles. Participants (N=104) viewed 50 photos of common White, Black, and Hispanic hairstyles and provided a label and description for each. Results showed significant differences in accuracy of labeling between groups. Black and Hispanic participants were more accurate at labeling and describing Caesar hairstyles from their own group. White, Black, Hispanic, and Asian participants were less accurate at labeling Caesar, shaggy/layered, faux hawk and buzz cut hairstyles worn by White individuals. Implications for eyewitness accuracy and police procedures are discussed.

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Poster Session I – AM

**Fructose-Conditioned Flavor Preferences In Inbred Mouse Strains: Effects of Dopamine and Opioid Receptor Antagonists**

**Yakov Yakubov**

Department of Psychology, *Queens College, City University of New York*, Queens, NY

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In addition to innate factors, learning modulates sugar appetite through orosensory and postingestive processes in rats. Expression of fructose-conditioned flavor preferences (CFP), activating only orosensory mechanisms, is blocked by systemic dopamine D1 (SCH23390: SCH), but not opioid (naltrexone: NTX) receptor antagonism in rats. Both antagonists reduce expression of sucrose-CFP in BALB/c and SWR mice. The present study examined whether SCH and NTX altered fructose-CFP expression in BALB/c and SWR

mice. Food-restricted mice, trained (10 one-bottle 1h trials) to drink a fructose (8%) solution mixed with one flavor (CS+, e.g., 0.05% cherry) on odd days, and a (0.05%) solution mixed with another flavor (CS-, e.g., grape) on even days, subsequently received two-bottle tests (1h) with the two flavors mixed in saccharin (0.2%) following vehicle, SCH (200, 800 nmol/kg) or NTX (1, 5 mg/kg) injections. The significant CS+ preferences following vehicle were dose-dependently reduced by SCH in BALB/c (85% to 71 and 63%) and SWR (85 to 59 and 42%) mice; NTX failed to affect preferences in either strain, demonstrating that D1 but not opioid receptor signaling modulate expression of fructose-CFP in inbred mice.

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**~Panel Discussions~**

The Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues  
(SPSSI-NY - www.SPSSI.org)

**215W 11:15 to 12:15**

***Promoting student excellence in psychology***

For academic and career success, what are some diverse ways psychology students today can develop excellence in their work?

Chair: **Jake Kaufman** (Fordham)

**Jennifer Doran** and **Alex Kriss** (New School Psychology Bulletin). Publishing student research  
**Giulia Landi** (NYU). International students entering U.S. graduate psychology programs.

**Delilah Hutson-Ellenberg** and **Christine Graham** (Fordham) and **Alexander Voronov** (Moscow). Doing cross-cultural research across nations and ethnicities.

**Rachel DeLacy, Kelly Mulholland, Devin**

**Vasquez** (Fordham). How good is this school: Assessing students' attitudes toward their college.

\* \* \* \* \*

**215W 12:30 to 1:30**

***Psychology in New York City: Its fascinating history***

For psychology, no city on earth has a more fascinating history than New York. Here, experts convene to describe a few parts of this remarkable history.

Chair: **Robert W. Rieber** (Fordham)

**Jason R. Young** (Hunter CUNY), 38 years hosting a student psychology conference.

**Sylvester Wojtkowski** (Jungian Psychoanalytic Assn), Jung's view of fantasy in Fordham Lectures of 1912

**Henry Solomon** (Marymount Manhattan), Psychology at the City University of New York

**Harold Takooshian** (Fordham), SPSSI and the history of psychology and social issues in New York City

Discussants: **Florence L. Denmark** (Pace) and **Robert W. Rieber** (Fordham)

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**215W 2:45 to 3:45**

***Symposium on International psychology***

How are psychologists today increasingly involved in diverse international and cross-cultural activities?

Chair: **Samvel S. Jeshmaridian**, CUNY

**Florence L. Denmark** (Pace), Psychologists at the United Nations

**Elise Kiregian** (TCI), I-O Psychology in Russia

**Artemis Pipinelli** (CUNY), Axioprepria in Traditional Greek Thought.

**Olga Ovanesyan, Kristine Petrosyan, Samvel Jeshmaridian** (CUNY), The Rivka Method across cultures: How to get what you want out of life.

Discussant: **Rivka B. Meir** (CUNY)

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**215W 4:00 to 5:00**

***Panel Discussion: The real psychoanalyst Wilhelm Reich: Myth and Reality***

Far more revolutionary than Sigmund Freud himself was his student Wilhelm Reich (1897-1957), who died in a NYS prison. Today Reich's "orgone" and other work is too easily dismissed by historians and psychoanalysts--except for a select group of therapists in the American College of Orgonomy, [www.orgonomy.org](http://www.orgonomy.org). Reich was prescient to recognize that "talking" therapies are actually a distraction from truly effective mind-body methods of stress reduction, which are increasingly popular today.

Chair: **Cory H. Morris** (Adelphi)

**Cory H. Morris** (Adelphi), The controversial theories of Wilhelm Reich: History and scientific investigation

**Edmund Gergerian** (psychiatrist), Modern energy therapy, EMDR, and mind-body methods.

**Peter Crist** (American College of Orgonomy), Orgone therapy today

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~Guest Lecturers~

**Uwe Gielen**

Professor Education, *St. Francis College*, Brooklyn, NY  
MA, Wake Forest University -- Ph.D., Harvard University

615W – 11:15 – 12:15

**Dragon Seed: Chinese Youths in New York City**

**Uwe P. Gielen**

Department of Psychology, *St. Francis College*, Brooklyn, NY

Authors: Gielen, U.P. & Lei, T.

ugielen@hotmail.com

During the past four decades New York City has developed into the largest conglomeration of Chinese in the Western hemisphere, with approximately 500,000 persons of Chinese descent now residing in Queens, Brooklyn, Manhattan, and the other areas of the city. Based on our ongoing study of 230 adolescents and emerging adults as well as a review of the available scientific literature we will discuss the psychosocial and psychocultural adaptation of Chinese Americans in New York. Special attention will be given to family functioning, self conceptions, peer relationships, perceptions of educational institutions, educational attainment, and the experience of immigrating to the US. The results of our study will be presented in the context of a broadly conceived theoretical framework that seeks to integrate cultural, sociological, economic and psychological perspectives on Chinese immigrant adaptation. The presentation will be accompanied by a series of slides depicting life in Chinatown.

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Dr. Uwe P. Gielen (Ph.D. Harvard University) joined the faculty of St. Francis College as Chairman of the Psychology Department (1980-1990). Presently he is Professor of Psychology and Director of the Institute for International and Cross-Cultural Psychology, which he founded in 1998 as a unique research and teaching center dedicated to the internationalization of psychology. He has lectured in 32 countries. His more than 160 publications include 18 edited or co-edited books in the areas of moral development, international and cross-cultural psychology, family studies and family therapy, and migration. At St. Francis College, Dr. Gielen teaches in the Psychology Department, the International Cultural Studies Program, and the college-wide Honors Program. His courses include Developmental Psychology, History and Systems in Psychology, Theories of Personality, Cross-Cultural Psychology and Communication, and various specialized seminars. For his teaching and research activities, he received five Faculty Recognition Awards, the Faculty Member of the Year Award, the Franciscan Spirit Award, more than 30 Faculty Development and Research Awards, induction as member of Duns Scotus Society, and the St. Francis College Alumni Association's Distinguished Faculty Award. A Dr. Uwe P. Gielen Scholarship Fund was established in 2002. In 2008, he is serving as the President of the American Psychological Association (APA)'s International Psychology Division. When not teaching, Dr. Gielen loves to visit the opera and watch soccer matches.

**Other Awards/Honors:**

- Wilhelm Wundt Award, New York State Psychological State Association, 1999
- Fellow, American Psychological Society, 2000
- Fellow, American Psychological Association (Division 1, 52), 2000, 2003
- Helmut E. Adler Distinguished Address Award, Psychology Section, NY Academy of Sciences, 2003
- Ambassador, International Council of Psychologists, 2003
- Distinguished International Psychology Award, APA Division of International Psychology, 2005
- Fellow, New York Academy of Sciences, 2007

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**Salomon Rettig**  
Professor Social Psychology, *Hunter College (CUNY)*, New York  
Ph.D, Ohio State University

615HW – 12:30 – 1:30

**Justice of a Different Kind: The Original Kibbutz**

**Salomon Rettig**

Department of Psychology, *Hunter College, City University of New York*, New York, NY  
srettig@Hunter.cuny.edu

The aim of this article is to compare and contrast basic principles of justice, as articulated by Rawls (1999) and by a presumably utopian society (the original Israeli Kibbutz) that purposefully attempted to design a community that was just and free, by collectivizing it. The psychological and moral principles I experienced as a former member were noble but its outcome was doomed to failure because by making social justice the dominant goal it did not allow for sufficient equal liberty on which social justice is based.

Selected Publications:

Rettig, Salomon, (1990). *The discursive social psychology of evidence: Creating symbolic reality*. New York: Plenum Press.

Rettig, S. Editor, (2001) Special Issue: Discursive inquiries into social issues and social distress. *Journal of Social Distress and the Homeless*, Vol. 11, 1, January 2002.

Rettig, S. (2006). Human inquiry systems: Understanding everyday social life and its stresses. *Journal of Social Distress and the Homeless*, Vol. 15, (3), 141-206.

Rettig, S. (2005). Discursive Psychology: A Human Foible? *Ethical Human Psychology and Psychiatry*, 7, Number 1, pp.85-99.

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~Workshops and Information Sessions~

603W 4:30 to 5:00

**Alliance Negotiation Scale Workshop**

**I Want to Create a Measure: Now What? A Preliminary Guide to Test Construction.**

**Jennifer Doran, Kelly Bolger, Billy Somerville, *The New School for Social Research*, New York**

Interested in psychometrics or in creating your own measure? Come learn about the test construction process!

Psychometric testing is a fundamental aspect of empirical psychology. Reliable and valid assessment tools allow us to substantiate theoretical claims, measure behavior, and conduct empirical research. While there are a plethora of scales currently available, there are many constructs yet to be measured and an ongoing need to update or improve on existing tools. While test construction can be a daunting and intimidating task, there are several key principles that help elucidate the psychometric process. The Alliance Negotiation Scale (Doran, Waizmann, Bolger, & Safran, 2010) is presented and used as an example for how one approaches test construction. The ANS, currently in its pilot investigation phase, aims to measure both independent and combined patient and therapist contributions to the ongoing process of negotiation in therapy. The construct of negotiation is discussed, with a focus on psychometric considerations and evaluation.

The Alliance Negotiation Scale (ANS, a work-in-progress measure co-authored by the presenters, is used to demonstrate theoretical and empirical considerations in psychometric construction. Questions welcome.

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8<sup>th</sup> Floor Dining Room 11:30 to 3:30

**Applied Social Research Graduate Program**

**Student Outreach and Information Session**

**Professor Howard Lune, Department of Sociology, *Hunter College (CUNY)*, NY**

The Department of Sociology offers an intensive program in social research leading to the Master of Science degree. The program is designed for individuals with a background in the social sciences who wish to pursue a career in research and related areas, as well as for those who wish to upgrade their research skills. All courses are scheduled in the evening. Students wishing to learn more about the program are encouraged to talk to Professor Howard Lune, who can be reached in the program office in 1601 Hunter West or by phone at (212) 772-5641. Link to Howard Lune <http://maxweber.hunter.cuny.edu/socio/contact.html#grad>

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615W 4:00 to 4:45

**Diversity-based programs: Promises and Expectations**

Susan D. Croll, PhD, Director, Undergraduate Neuroscience Major, *Queens College (CUNY)*

Carole Parent, *Queens College (CUNY)*

A panel of students and faculty from diversity-based science scholarship programs will share their insights about the role of these programs in encouraging diversity in science. Students will share stories about ways in which the programs helped them develop as young scientists, and faculty will share insights about running these programs successfully. After brief introductory thoughts from each panelist, there will be ample time for attendees to ask questions about the programs.

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217W 2:00 - 3:00

**Internships- A Key to Your Career**

**Paula A. Wicklow, LMHC, NCC**

Internship Coordinator, *Hunter College (CUNY)*, Career Development Services

Whether you plan on pursuing a Masters or Doctoral degree in preparation for your intended career, prior relevant experience will be instrumental not only in exploring and defining your specific goals in the many fields of psychology but in acceptance into top programs. This session will cover internship resources, range of experimental options and successful application strategies.

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217W 3:15 – 4:45

**Kaplan Test Prep Preview Class**

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~**N.E.U.R.O.N. Research and Educational Symposia**~  
in Presentation Area of 8<sup>th</sup> Floor HW Dining Room

**Impact of environmental stressors on autonomic, neuroendocrine, and affective responding in rats, mice, and people: Implications of epigenetics**

**Alicia Walf, Amy Kohtz, Danielle Osborne, Jason Paris, Cheryl Frye**

Acute and chronic stress may act via different mechanisms to effect autonomic, endocrine, and behavioral function. A cross-species approach was utilized to investigate the role of environmental stressors. We examined rats, mice, and people for sex differences in stress-response via physiological (heart rate, blood pressure), endocrine (glucocorticoid, glucose), and/or behavioral (depression, anxiety) measures under different environmental stressor, and no stressor, conditions. We found that environmental challenges produced conserved stress responses, which may be modulated by the sex/gender of subjects as well as prior stressor exposure. These negative effects may be partially ameliorated with positive environmental interventions (enrichment via novel objects, novel environments, and music). The possible epigenetic implications, behavioral outcomes, and the potential molecular mechanisms for these effects are discussed.

Specific actions of estrogens at one of the two forms of the estrogen receptor (ER; ER $\alpha$ , ER $\beta$ ) may underlie trophic actions in the brain versus body. In support, estradiol (E<sub>2</sub>; which has actions at ER $\alpha$  and ER $\beta$ ) to ovariectomized rats increases carcinogen-induced tumorigenesis, uterine growth, and anti-anxiety behavior. An ER $\alpha$ -SERM (PPT) increases tumorigenesis and uterine growth, but not anti-anxiety behavior. An ER $\beta$ -SERM (DPN) decreases anxiety-like behavior, but not tumorigenesis or uterine growth. To investigate whether these trophic effects of E<sub>2</sub> and SERMs involve changes in the cell cycle, cyclin D1 expression in the uterus, tumors, and hippocampus was assessed. Cyclin D1 expression was increased in tumors of rats administered E<sub>2</sub> or PPT, in uteri of rats administered E<sub>2</sub>, and in the hippocampus of rats administered PPT or DPN, compared to vehicle administration. Thus, the effects of SERMs in the brain and body for cyclin D1 expression can be dissociated.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Metabolic and genetic factors Influencing cognition**

The symposium highlights varied factors that may influence cognitive processes within our brains. Metabolic factors in diabetics such as, lowered blood glucose levels, consequent to insulin treatment, and increased plasma free fatty acid levels may have a critical effect on brain areas commonly associated with cognition. Dr. Vaishali Jahagirdar, a postdoctoral researcher in Dr. Ewan McNay's lab at University at Albany SUNY, will be presenting some data on effects of recurrent hypoglycemia on hippocampally-mediated memory tasks. Interesting findings from these studies have set-stage to explore effects of recurrent hypoglycemia on brain areas (i.e. prefrontal cortex) associated with executive functions like mental flexibility and decision-making ability. Dr. Vickie Cotero, also a postdoctoral researcher in Dr. McNay's lab, will be presenting data on effects of varying saturations of free fatty acids on hippocampally-mediated cognitive tasks. In addition to metabolic factors, Dr. Xilu Jiao, a postdoctoral researcher in Dr. Kevin Beck's lab at UMDNJ, will talk about genetic factors such as, strain differences in prefrontal functioning which may underlie differences observed in processing of emotional information.

\* \* \* \* \*

## **Effects of Recurrent Hypoglycemia on Cognition**

**Vaishali Jahagirdar**

Department of Psychology, *University at Albany (SUNY)*

Authors: Jahagirdar V, McNay, EC

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The major complication of insulin treatment of diabetes mellitus is recurrent hypoglycemia (RH). Of concern to diabetic patients is its perceived potential for long-term impact on brain and cognition. Using a rat model of short term RH we evaluated its impact on brain areas associated with cognition. Thus, it was recently shown by our lab that RH markedly affects hippocampal function, metabolism, and spatial working memory. Moreover, RH induced changes were strongly dependent on the acute glycemic status of the animal, with improved performance observed in acutely euglycemic animals. We are currently investigating the effects of RH on medial prefrontal cortex-mediated executive functions, such as mental flexibility and judgment (also clinically observed to be impaired in diabetics). Using the Set-Shift task, preliminary findings suggest that past history of RH impairs mental flexibility. These studies seem to suggest that RH may have varying effects depending on the brain region examined.

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## **Effect of intrahippocampal fatty acids with varied saturations on spatial memory in adult Sprague-Dawley rats**

**Victoria E. Cotero**

Department of Psychology, *State University of New York*

Authors: Cotero VE, Jorge C, McNay EC

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An increase in peripheral adiposity is associated with an increase in plasma free fatty acid (FFA) levels. Interestingly, there appears to be a strong linear correlation with insulin resistance (Boden et al., 2001, Wyne, K.L., 2003). This is supported by results demonstrating that a decrease in plasma free fatty acid levels with administration of thiazolidinedione significantly improves insulin sensitivity (Oakes et al., 2001). Furthermore, a dietary increase in omega-3 and -6 fatty acids as well as medium chain triglycerides have been reported to improve cognitive development and memory related learning (Page et al., 2009; Yehuda et al., 1994). In contrast, a dietary increase in saturated fatty acids has been associated with cognitive decline (Greenwood et al., 1996). We hypothesize that the effects of fatty acids on cognitive behavior are dependent on the level of saturation, and may possibly occur within the hippocampus. To test this hypothesis, we administered fatty acids with varying levels of saturation to the left hippocampus of adult male Sprague-Dawley rats prior to testing on a spatial memory task (Figure 1). Animals receiving saturated fatty acid showed impaired performance, consistent with our hypothesis; no effects on motor activity were observed, supporting an effect on cognitive processes rather than a nonspecific effect. In separate groups of animals, *in vivo* microdialysis was used to assess the impact of FA administration on hippocampal metabolism, both at baseline and during task performance.

\* \* \* \* \*

## **Strain differences in prefrontal functioning: A model system for understanding emotional learning vulnerabilities**

**Xilu Jiao**

Department of Neuroscience, *University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey*, Newark, NJ

Authors: Jiao X, Beck K, Furst S, Pang K, and Servatius R

xilu.jiao@va.gov

Individual differences in cognitive coping strategies can determine whether people faced with stress in their life befall patterns of behavior that are maladaptive. For instance, a rigid pattern of avoidance is a common feature of most anxiety disorders. We have shown behaviorally-inhibited Wistar Kyoto (WKY) rats exhibit a paradoxical rapid ability to acquire active avoidance behaviors that are resistant to extinction. An analysis of the WKY medial prefrontal cortex (mPFC) suggests there is less activation occurring in response to their emitting avoidance responses, compared to outbred Sprague Dalwey rats. Subsequent lesion studies dissociate the contribution of this brain area to emotional learning in these 2 strains, an effect that is likely tied to the processing of safety signals. These data support our theory that rapid acquisition of avoidant behavior, as a vulnerability factor for anxiety disorders, occurs through differences in how the mPFC processes information in different individuals.

\* \* \* \* \*

## **Brain Awareness and Other Educational Outreach Opportunities**

**Alan Gittis, Danielle Osborne, Amy Kohtz, Jason Paris, Nicholas Van Dam, and Cheryl Frye**

Department of Psychology, *Westminster College* and *Albany College (SUNY)*

The Brain Awareness Week campaign was launched by the Society for Neuroscience and The Dana Alliance in order to unite over 1,200 scientists and educators to expand public awareness of brain and nervous system research. As a member of this initiative, we hosted the Capital District Brain Bee, a competition on brain facts for high school students. Our Brain Bee takes the format of a game show, where our questions are on a large projector, and read by a moderator. Our winner this year, Jared Reed, received a \$750 travel award to participate in the international Brain Bee in Baltimore. Student attendees also had the opportunity to meet with experts in the neuroscience field, and have open dialogues with neuroscience trainees on how they were able to enter in this field. We administered a survey at the end to all attendees assessing their interest in science, and their demographic backgrounds.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Suzannah Bliss Tieman Award**  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor HW Dining Room 3:30 to 3:45

In memory of Dr. Suzannah Bliss Tieman, an extraordinary neuroscientist, teacher, colleague, wife, and friend, N.E.U.R.O.N. will be presenting research awards to students who exhibit high quality presentations of their projects.

Dr. Tieman had very specific ideas about how research should be presented so that an audience could most readily take in and consolidate the ‘take-home’ message. The criteria that are used to judge presentations are those that Dr. Tieman valued most and include:

1. Format and organization of the presentation
2. Use of color, font, figures, pictures
3. Clear, succinct methodology
4. Ability to thoughtfully answer questions
5. Enthusiasm about project

Posters are judged based on the above criteria by former students and colleagues of Dr. Su Tieman, as well as other members of the NEURON Steering and/or Local Organizing Committee, and former recipients of the prize.

Presenters must be present at the Award Ceremony to be eligible to win.

\* \* \* \* \*

## **The Life of Suzannah Bliss Tieman**

Su was a Psychology major at Cornell University, where she worked with Julian Hochberg on the perception of faces. In 1965, she began graduate school at MIT in what is now the Neuroscience department, studying the effects of experience on the development of visual control of motor behavior with Alan Hein. After a year as a graduate student, she decided to take a break and became a technician in Hein's lab. In 1967, she moved to Stanford, California and became a technician, splitting her time between working with Charles Hamilton on interhemispheric transfer in "split-brain" monkeys and Leo Ganz on visual deprivation in cats.

In 1969, Su wanted more control of her work and applied for the Stanford Psychology Department's graduate program just five days before registration. She was accepted and, in 1974, she completed her thesis which addressed the interhemispheric transfer of problems involving expansion and contraction patterns in monkeys. She then began a NSF postdoctoral fellowship with H.J. Ralston in the Anatomy Department at the University of California at San Francisco. Her project was an attempt to identify, at the electron microscopic level, cellular structures that were affected by monocular deprivation. She spent the next four years becoming a "neuroanatomist".

From 1977 until her death in October 2007, Su Tieman was a Senior Research Associate in the Neurobiology Research Center, a Research Professor in Biological Sciences, and an Adjunct Professor in the School of Public Health at the University at Albany (SUNY). Her research had three major foci, which included the effects of visual deprivation on synaptic organization, the effects of development and visual deprivation on the dendrites of cells in the visual pathway, and the effects of visual deprivation and deafferentation on the expression of possible neurotransmitters, most notably N-acetyl-aspartyl-glutamate. These three interacting foci led to a series of behavioral, physiological and anatomical experiments that occupied her for 30 years.

Su would not want the description to stop there, because she also loved teaching and interacting with students. In addition to seminars on vision and development, she taught three basic courses: Neuroanatomy, Sex, and Survival skills. For many years she taught a very comprehensive course on "Neuroanatomical Research Techniques". Graduate students sweated formalin after taking this course. Throughout her years as a professor, she was often contacted by former students for permission to pass her lecture notes and lab hand-outs on to others. These materials comprised over 250 carefully prepared pages. In 2005, Su taught this course and meticulously converted nearly 2000 2x2 lecture slides into PowerPoint format, despite knowing that the class of only five would likely be the last she would teach in this course. She could never stand to do a slipshod job, no matter what the cost to her. Her Biology of Sex class was primarily for non-majors. She considered it an opportunity to trick non-biology students into learning some biology. Her favorite course evaluation came from an English major who said: "I really enjoyed it; thank you for not dumbing it down; I had expected a Mickey." You could call it a lot of things, but "Mickey Mouse" was not one of them. Finally, Su also influenced many years of graduate students by teaching a yearlong course on ethics and survival skills in science. Students from all areas of the life sciences took this course and hopefully absorbed some of Su's ideas about ethics, writing, surviving and generally getting along in their careers.

Su fought arthritis for 40 years. It sapped her strength and stamina and it left her with hands that could not open jars or grasp fine objects. In the end, its effects killed her. But it never sapped her spirit or made her a complainer. She never gave in and never wanted to be defined by her problems: she focused on what she could do, not on what she couldn't.

Su will be missed, but her ideas about science, pedagogy, and life will live on in the hearts of the many lives that she touched. Su was dedicated to science, her students, her family and friends, and lived life to the fullest. We hope to recognize and remember her extraordinary life and contributions by bestowing upon select individuals The Suzannah Bliss Tieman Research Award(s) at each NEURON conference.

***~Acknowledgements~***

The Psychology Collective would like to thank the following people & offices  
for all they have done to bring about the success of  
The 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Hunter College Psychology Convention & The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual N.E.U.R.O.N. Conference.

Jason Young, Ph.D.  
Provost Vita Rabinowitz, Ph.D.  
President Jennifer J. Raab  
Cheryl Frye, Ph.D.

The Office of the President, Hunter College  
Dean of Students Offices, Hunter College  
The College Association, Hunter College  
Undergraduate Student Government, Hunter College  
Central Reservations, Hunter College  
Hunter College Auxiliary Enterprise Board  
The New York State Psychological Association  
The Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues  
Andrea Meyer Catering

*Convention Organizers - Marlene Gioia ~ Inna Saboshchuk ~ Devin Heyward – for Organizing Chaos*

***Officers of the Hunter College Psychology Collective***

Andrea Vial – Psi Chi, President  
Alyssa Wheeler – Psi Chi, Vice President  
Alex Koenig – Psi Chi, Secretary  
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Atara Stemp – Psych News, Editor-in-Chief  
Marlene Gioia – Psych News, Treasurer  
Sam Cooper – Psych News, Senior Editor  
Denisa Kondi – Psych News, Secretary

***Special Thank You to all the Convention Volunteers***

The N.E.U.R.O.N Organization & Steering Committee  
<http://www.albany.edu/neuron/conference/committee.html>

***Special thanks to NEURON and to the Office of Student Activities  
for their extremely generous co-sponsorship this year.***

Funding for this conference was made possible in by grant R13MH060282 from the NIMH. The views expressed in written conference materials or publications and by speakers and moderators do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the Department of Health and Human Services nor does mention of trade names, commercial practices, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

Special thanks to MBRS-RISE Program of NIGMS, Grant # GM060665.

**NOTES:**

	HW615						
9:45AM	Opening Remarks/Welcome 9:30 to 10	Hunter West 8th Floor					
10:00AM		8:30am to 4:00pm Registration 8:30 to 10:00 Breakfast		12:00 to 3:00 Lunch 3:30 to 3:45 Tieman Award Presentation			
10:15AM	<b>Keynote Speaker: Dr. Eric J. Nestler</b> 10 to 11	11:30 to 3:30 Student Outreach - Grad Program in Applied Social Research (Prof. Lune)		4:45 to 6:00 Fruit and Wine Reception Kaplan Raffle Drawing Psi Chi Induction Ceremony			
10:30AM		<b>Poster Session 1</b> N-W Bridge 11:15 to 12:45			<b>Poster Session 2</b> N-W Bridge 1:30 to 3:00		
10:45AM							
11:00AM		HW603	HW706	HW215	HW217	Dining Room Presentation Area	
11:15AM							
11:30AM	<b>Dr. Uwe P. Gielen</b> 11:15 to 12:15	<b>Anderson</b> 11:15 to 11:30	<b>Alfieri</b> 11:15 to 11:45	<b>Promoting student excellence in psychology</b> 11:15 to 12:15	<b>Sapio</b> 11:15 to 11:30	<b>N.E.U.R.O.N. Research and Educational Symposia</b> <b>Walf, Kohtz, Osborne, Paris, and Frye</b>  <b>Jahagirdar Cotero Jiao</b>  <b>Gittis, Osborne, Kohtz, Paris, VanDam, and Frye</b>	
11:45AM		<b>Ackerman</b> 11:30 to 11:45			<b>Agoli</b> 11:30 to 11:45		
12:00PM		<b>Henriquez</b> 11:45 to 12:00	<b>Moreano</b> 11:45 to 12:00		<b>Remigio</b> 11:45 to 12:00		
12:15PM							
12:30PM		<b>Goel</b> 12:15 to 12:30	<b>Gajary</b> 12:15 to 12:30				
12:45PM	<b>Rettig</b> 12:30 to 1:30	<b>Rahaman</b> 12:30 to 12:45	<b>Kimble</b> 12:30 to 12:45	<b>Psychology in New York City: Its fascinating history</b> 12:30 to 1:30	<b>Parent</b> 12:30 to 12:45		
1:00PM		<b>Beltran and Palishchuk</b> 12:45 to 1:00	<b>Lass</b> 12:45 to 1:00		<b>Fabiszak</b> 12:45 to 1:00	<b>Dr. Frye Group Lunch</b>	
1:15PM			<b>Miller</b> 1:00 to 1:15				
1:30PM		<b>Washington</b> 1:15 to 1:30			<b>Kang</b> 1:15 to 1:45		
1:45PM			<b>Yanis</b> 1:30 to 1:45		<b>Kriss</b> 1:30 to 1:45		

2:00PM	<b>Nadal</b>	<b>Reynolds</b> 1:45 to 2:00	<b>Firpo</b> 1:45 to 2:00	<b>Pena</b> 1:45 to 2:00		
2:15PM	<b>Wong</b> 1:45 to 2:00 <b>Hamit and Meterko</b> 2:00 to 2:15			<b>Kessel</b> 2:00 to 2:15	"Internships- A Key to Your Career" Paula A. Wicklow, Internship Coordinator 2:00 to 3:00	
2:30PM	<b>Wideman and Leon</b> 2:15 to 2:30 <b>Griffin</b> 2:30 to 2:45	<b>Wheeler</b> 2:15 to 2:30	<b>Vega</b> 2:15 to 2:30	<b>Gagerie</b> 2:15 to 2:30		
2:45PM		<b>Moore</b> 2:30 to 2:45	<b>Powers</b> 2:30 to 2:45			
3:00PM		<b>Vial</b> 2:45 to 3:00	<b>Alhonte</b> 2:45 to 3:00			
3:15PM	<b>Cortes</b> 3:00 to 3:15	<b>Prokhovnik</b> 3:00 to 3:15	<b>Sunderaraman</b> 3:00 to 3:15	<b>Symposium on International Psychology</b> 2:45 to 3:45		
3:30PM	<b>Hamilton and Loveland</b> 3:15 to 3:30				Kaplan Test Prep Preview Class 3:15 to 4:45	
3:45PM	<b>Bacayon</b> 3:30 to 3:45	<b>Koltko-Rivera</b> "Attitudes" 3:30 to 4:00	<b>Elkady</b> 3:30 to 3:45			
4:00PM			<b>Heyward</b> 3:45 to 4:00			
4:15PM		<b>Koltko-Rivera</b> "A Qualitative" 4:00 to 4:30	<b>Ricart</b> 4:00 to 4:30		<b>Panel Discussion The Real psychoanalyst Wilhelm Reich: Myth and Reality</b> 4:00 to 5:00	
4:30PM	Diversity-based programs: Promises and Expectations <b>Susan D. Croll</b> 4:00 to 4:45					
4:45PM		<b>Doran, Bolger and Somerville</b> Workshop on the Alliance Negotiation Scale 4:30 to 5:00				
5:00PM						

## Directions



Handicap Access Available to All Floors

All Presentations in West Building

Faculty Dining Room

8<sup>th</sup> Floor Hunter West—Registration, Breakfast, Lunch, Closing Reception

Poster Presentations are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor North-West Bridge (the walkway that crosses 68<sup>th</sup> Street)

