

Undergraduate Principal Investigator

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Ashley Becker

Summary of Qualifications

- Approximately two years' experience conducting neuroscience research in principle investigator and research assistant positions
- Proficient in Excel, HTML, CSS, JavaScript, MATLAB, R, and Jupyter Notebook
- Presented an overview of research demonstrating the dynamic relationship between white matter and literacy in adolescent brains to undergraduate and graduate research colleagues
- Exemplary researcher with exceptional organization, collaboration, and presentation skills
- Certified in Social-Behavioral Educational Research through CITI, and certified in General Biosafety Training and Lab Safety and Hazardous Waste Training through BioRAFT

Education

Bachelor of Science in Cognitive Science – Expected Graduation, June 2025
Specialization in Clinical Aspects
University of California, San Diego – La Jolla, California

Work Experience

Undergraduate Principal Investigator

Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development Study Coordinating Center, San Diego, California

September 2021 – Present

- Conduct research under the supervision of Dr. Terry Jernigan, UCSD Distinguished Professor of Cognitive Science, Psychiatry, and Radiology; Director of the Center for Human Development
- Investigate the dynamic relationship between reading for pleasure and white matter in brains by sampling and manipulating data from the ABCD Study®—the largest U.S. long-term study of brain development and child health
- Determine predictor variable effects on dependent variables by running them through a collection of processing steps developed by the Center for Multimodal Imaging and Genetics, utilizing R, Jupyter Notebook, and MATLAB
- Researched and drafted the introduction for a research presentation on the associations between reading for pleasure and cortical surface area for the Society for Neuroscience 2022 conference

Undergraduate Research Assistant

Arch Laboratory, Boulder, Colorado

August 2020 – May 2021

- Conducted research under the supervision of graduate research student Alex Kirk, as directed by Dr. Joanna Arch, Head of Arch Labs and Professor in the Department of Psychology and Neuroscience at the University of Colorado Boulder
- Investigated the short- and long-term effects of exposure to phobias on the immune and autonomic nervous systems by separating plasma and red blood cells in a centrifuge, and subsequently pipetting the plasma and saliva samples into polypropylene graduated microcentrifuge tubes to store in a biological freezer
- Received certification through the CITI program in Social-Behavioral Educational Research, including courses on the History and Ethics of Human Research, Assessing Risk, Informed Consent, Privacy and Confidentiality, Research in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools, International Research, and Populations in Research Requiring Additional Considerations and/or Protections
- Certified in General Biosafety Training and Lab Safety and Hazardous Waste Training through BioRAFT