

Constanza Ilarraz

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Dedicated and detail-oriented scientist with a background in behavioral neuroscience research, data analysis, and team collaboration. Seeking to transition my career to contribute to initiatives that positively impact people's quality of life.

Education

- **PhD in Health Sciences (ongoing).** University of Buenos Aires, School of Pharmacy and Biochemistry. Expected defense date: September 2024
- **Licenciate in Psychology.** University of Buenos Aires (2011-2017; US equivalent to Bachelor's + Master's Degree)

Professional experience

Doctoral Fellow

CONICET - Pain Physiology Laboratory, Systems Neuroscience Group, Institute of Physiology and Biophysics Houssay, University of Buenos Aires | 2018 – Present

- Developed and conducted research projects in neuroscience of pain
- Analyzed and presented experimental data
- Wrote reports and scientific articles

Guest Teaching Assistant

School of Pharmacy and Biochemistry, University of Buenos Aires | October 2023

- Demonstrated surgical techniques on experimental animals to students in the Animal Facility Techniques II course

Research stays

Institute of Physiology, University of Bern, Switzerland | July 2022 – September 2022, February 2020 – March 2020

- International collaboration on bilateral research projects

Therapeutic companion

Private Patient | September 2017 – March 2018

- Provided support and applied cognitive-behavioral techniques to a patient with borderline personality disorder

Teaching Assistant

Faculty of Psychology and Psychopedagogy, Salvador's University | March 2017 – June 2017

- Assisted in teaching the Neurosciences II course

Research Intern

Laboratory of Experimental and Applied Psychology, Institute of Medical Research, University of Buenos Aires - CONICET | 2016 – 2018

- Developed and conducted behavioral experiments
- Analyzed and presented experimental data
- Wrote reports and scientific articles

Additional Training

- **Data Analysis of Calcium Imaging Signals from Neural Circuits**
National University of San Luis. October 2023
- **Modern Approaches to Behavioral Analysis**
Cajal advanced neuroscience training. November 2022
- **Behavioral Analysis of Animal Models of Psychiatric Disorders**
School of Exact and Natural Sciences, University of Buenos Aires. October 2022
- **Research Methodology**
School of Pharmacy and Biochemistry, University of Buenos Aires. July – December 2022
- **Statistics applied to the Health Sciences**
School of Pharmacy and Biochemistry, University of Buenos Aires. March – July 2022
- **Applied Behavior Analysis Interventions for Children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder and other Developmental Disorders**
Educational Assistance in Behavior Modification. July – August 2021
- **Python Programming**
School of Science and Technology, National University of San Martín. March – July 2021
- **Google IT Support**
Five-course specialization. [Coursera](#). July – December 2020
- **Pharmacology**
School of Pharmacy and Biochemistry, University of Buenos Aires. August – December 2019
- **Laboratory Animals**
School of Pharmacy and Biochemistry, University of Buenos Aires. May – June 2019
- **Neurobiology of Drug Addiction**
School of Chemical Sciences, National University of Cordoba. October 2018
- **Introduction to Molecular and Cellular Biology**
School of Exact and Natural Sciences, University of Buenos Aires. March – July 2018
- **University Teaching Training**

- **Practical Statistics for Psychological Research**
Association for the Advancement of Psychological Science. June 2017

Skills

- **Software:** Data analysis (IBM SPSS, GraphPad Prism, InfoStat), programming (Python and scientific libraries), Office suite and open-source alternatives
- **Languages:** Spanish (native), English (advanced, EFSET 61/100)
- **Laboratory Techniques:** Solution preparation, immunohistochemistry, animal handling and care, stereotaxic surgery, conventional and fluorescence microscopy, benchwork
- **Soft Skills:** Teamwork, quick adaptation to change, assertive communication, diligence in meeting objectives

Publications

- Trujillo, M. J., **Illarraz, C.**, & Kasanetz, F. (2023). Plasticity of Cortico-striatal Neurons of the Caudal Anterior Cingulate Cortex During Experimental Neuropathic Pain. *Neuroscience*, 523, 91-104. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neuroscience.2023.05.017>
- Serafini, M., **Illarraz, C.**, Laurito, M., & Cuenya, L. (2022) Increment in the consummatory response induced by reward delay: An animal model of binge-like eating episodes. *Learning and motivation*, 80, 101842. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lmot.2022.101842>
- **Illarraz, C.**, Serafini, M., Laurito, M., & Cuenya, L. (2019). Consumo adolescente de bebidas azucaradas y sus efectos motivacionales en la adultez: un modelo animal. *Anuario de investigaciones*, 25, 465-472

Conferences

Posters

- **Illarraz, C.**; Trujillo, M. J.; Acuña, M.; Presta, A.; Nevian, T.; & Kasanetz, F. (2023, October). *Instrumental role of cortico-striatal neurons of the Anterior Cingulate Cortex in the manifestation of pain-related unpleasantness*. XXXVIII Annual Conference of the Argentine Society of Neuroscience Research; San Luis, Argentina
- **Illarraz, C.**; Acuña, M.; Nevian, T.; & Kasanetz, F. (2022, July). *Encoding of the unpleasantness of pain in cortico-striatal neurons of the Anterior Cingulate Cortex*. FENS Forum; Paris, France
- **Illarraz, C.**; Acuña, M.; Nevian, T.; & Kasanetz, F. (2020, October). *Nociceptive responses of cortico-striatal neurons of the Anterior Cingulate Cortex in an animal model of chronic pain*. XXXV Annual Conference of the Argentine Society of Neuroscience Research; online presentation

- **Ilarraz, C.**; Trujillo, M. J. & Kasanetz, F. (2018, October). *Mood disorders in animal models of neuropathic pain*. XXXIII Annual Conference of the Argentine Society of Neuroscience Research; Córdoba, Argentina
- **Ilarraz, C.**; Serafini, M.; Laurito, M.; Cuenya, L. (2017, November). *Adolescent consumption of sugary drinks and its motivational effects in adulthood: an animal model*. IX International Conference of Research and Professional Practice in Psychology, XXIV Research Meeting and XIII MERCOSUR Psychology researchers meeting; Buenos Aires, Argentina
- **Co-authored** four more posters presented in National Conferences

Oral communications

- **Ilarraz, C.**; Serafini, M.; Laurito, M.; Cuenya, L. (2017, August). *Long-lasting motivational alterations due to adolescent exposure to sucrose in rats*. I Behavioral Biology meeting; III Argentine Conference of Behavioral Biology; VI Uruguayan meeting of Animal Behavior; Buenos Aires, Argentina

Symposia

- Cuenya, L.; **Ilarraz, C.**; Serafini, M.; Laurito, M. (2017, September). *Adolescent exposure to sucrose in rats: an animal model for the study of the propensity to overweight in adulthood*. XXVI National meeting and V International meeting of the Argentine association for Behavioral Sciences, San Luis, Argentina

Awards and grants

- **SAN Conference Grant**. Argentine Society of Neurosciences. October 2023
- **Dean's list**. University of Buenos Aires. December 2018
- **SAN Conference Grant**. Argentine Society of Neurosciences. October 2018
- **Doctoral Fellowship**. National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET). December 2017
- **Poster Award**. University of Buenos Aires. December 2017
- **Young Researchers Award**. Argentine Association of Behavioral Sciences, First Place. August 2017