Abbie M. Popa, ScB **UC Davis Neuroscience Graduate Group**
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EDUCATION

Currently Enrolled
PhD, Neuroscience (September 2012 - current)
University of California at Davis, Davis, CA
Thesis Topic: Anxiety Interacts with Cognition to Impact Daily Function in Adolescence

Undergraduate
Bachelor of Science, Cognitive Neuroscience (September 2006-December 2010)
Brown University, Providence, RI
Graduated with Departmental Honors
Thesis Title: Concordance of Movement and Heart Rate Responses in Fetuses at Risk for Autism

INTERESTS AND SPECIALIZATIONS

Anxiety	Attention	Executive Function
Adolescence	Neurodevelopmental Disorders	Psychopathology
Event-Related Potentials	Neuroimaging	Physiology

AWARDS AND CERTIFICATES

UC Davis Graduate Student Asssembly Travel Award — 2013-14 Academic Year
ERP Boot Camp (Dr. Steven J. Luck) — Completed July 2014

AFFILIATIONS

Society of Biological Society, *Student Member* — 2013-present
Society for Neuroscience, *Student Member* — 2013-present
Association for Women in Science, *Student Member* — 2013-present
American Association for the Advancement of Science, *Student Member* — 2013-present

PRESENTATIONS AND POSTERS

- **Popa AM**, Angkustsiri K, Brahmbhatt K, Cruz J, Cung N, Harvey D, Leckliter I, Reyes D, Shapiro H, Wong L, Simon TJ. Impact of Cognitive-Affective Interactions on Attentional Control, Inhibition, and Temporal Attention. Oral Presentation Submitted at the 21st International Scientific Meeting of the Velo-Cardio-Facial Syndrome Educational Foundation, Inc 2014, Las Vegas Nevada.
- **Popa AM**, Angkustsiri K, Brahmbhatt K, Cruz J, Cung N, Leckliter I, Quintero A, Reyes D, Shapiro H, Simon TJ. Timecourse of Response to Threat Stimuli in Children with 22q11.2 Deletion Syndrome Informs Understanding of Anxiety. Oral Presentation Accepted at the 9th Annual Meeting of the International 22q11.2 Foundation 2014, Mallorca, Spain.
- Angkustsiri K, **Popa AM**, Simon TJ. Atypical Pupillary Responses To Emotional Faces in Children With Chromosome 22q11.2 Deletion Syndrome. Oral Presentaion Accepted at the Pediatric Academic Societies and Asian Society for Pediatric Research Joint Meeting 2014 Vancouver, BC, Canada.
- **Popa AM**, Angkustsiri K, Brahmbhatt K, Cruz J, Cung N, Leckliter I, Quintero A, Reyes D, Shapiro H, Simon TJ. Atypical Adaptation Responses to Threat Stimuli in Children with Chromosome 22q11.2 Deletion Syndrome. Poster accepted at the 69th Annual Meeting of the Society of Biological Psychiatry 2014, New York, NY.
- Cruz JR, **Popa AM**, Wong LM, Angkustsiri K, Shapiro H, Fox N, Pine D, Perez-Edgar K, Simon TJ. Examining Attention Bias Towards Threat to Understand Cognition and Anxiety Interactions in 22q11.2DS. Poster presented at the 20th International Scientific Meeting of the Velo-Cardio-Facial Syndrome Educational Foundation 2013, Dublin, Ireland.
- Cruz JR, Wong LM, Angkustsiri K, **Popa AM**, Shapiro HM, Fox N, Pine D, Perez-Edgar K, Simon TJ. Children with Chromosome 22q11.2 Deletion Syndrome Exhibit High

Levels of Anxiety and Threat Bias in a Dot Probe Experiment. Poster presented at the 68th Annual Meeting of the Society of Biological Psychiatry 2013, San Francisco, CA.

- Sullivan, M. C., Miller, R. J., Winchester, S. B., Barcelos, M., Oliveira, E., & **Popa, A**. (2012, May). Developmental Origins Theory and HPA axis function: Evidence from a Longitudinal Study of Preterm Infants at Young Adulthood. Poster presented at the Massachusetts General Hospital, Yvonne L. Munn Center for Nursing Research, Nursing Research Expo, Boston, MA.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Threat Bias As it Relates to Cognition and Anxiety in Chromosome 22q.11.2 Deletion Syndrome

Dr. Tony J. Simon — MIND Institute at UC Davis, Davis CA

Graduate Student Researcher — June 2013 - present

Rotation Student — April 2013 - June 2013

- Analysis of behavioral, eye gaze, and pupillometric data from a dot probe threat bias experiment as they relate to self report measures of anxeity and cognition in 46 children with 22q11.2 deletion syndrome and 28 typically developing children
- Pilot testing and analyses of a DPTB and emotional go-no go EEG experiment
- Development of research questions and proposal for dissertation testing interactions of anxiety and cognition in adolescence using ERP and physiological measures

Reactivation of Neural Ensembles during Very Recent Memory

Dr. Brian J. Wiltgen — Center for Neuroscience at UC Davis, Davis CA

Rotation Student — January 2013 - April 2013

- Behavioral testing of 6 mice in a fear learning paradigm and preparation and imaging of tissue to determine coactivation of neurons during learning and memory

Poly-I:C Non-human Primate Model of Autism

Dr. Melissa D. Bauman — MIND Institute at UC Davis, Davis CA

Rotation Student — September 2012 - December 2012

- Development of tracing protocol and interrater reliability tests for lateral ventricles in macaque subjects' structural MRI scans
- Tracing of lateral ventricles in 24 subjects to assess structural abnormalities in primates at risk for autism due to maternal immune activation

Brown Center for the Study of Children at Risk

Dr. Mary C. Sullivan

Dr. Stephen J. Sheinkopf — Women and Infants Hospital, Providence RI

Research Assistant — January 2011 - May 2012

- **Preterm Infant to Adult Study:** A study comparing a longitudinal sample of young adults who had been born pre- or full term on several measures, including cardiology, executive function and stress response.
- **Autism Cry Study:** A study comparing cries from infants at high or low risk for autism to develop an early predictor of the disorder

Concordance of Movement and Heart Rate Responses in Fetuses at Risk for Autism

Dr. Stephen J. Sheinkopf — Brown University, Providence RI

Senior Honors Thesis Project — September 2009-December 2010

- Developed a research question and metodology; collected, analyzed and reported on data
- Based on actocardiograph data, compared a sample of fetuses at high risk for autism (one or more confirmed autistic siblings or parents) to a group of normal controls on concordance between movements and heart rate. This was observed at rest and in response to social and asocial stimuli

Virtual Environment Navigation Laboratory (VENlab)

Dr. William H. Warren — Brown University, Providence RI
Research Assistant — May 2007-December 2010

- Ran 6 experimental paradigms in virtual reality and the real world on human participants to study navigation and locomotion

Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging in Theory and Practice
Dr. David Badre — Brown University, Providence RI
Class Research — September 2009-December 2009

- Designed, executed, analyzed and wrote up an fMRI experiment in small groups. Our experimental stimuli were comprised of neutral words, words expressing fear, neutral faces, and faces expressing fear to measures brain activation in response to different modalities of fear stimuli

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

The Groden Center
Providence, RI
Treatment Teacher — June 2009-December 2009

- Worked as a treatment teacher in a classroom for severely autistic adolescents with profound behavioral problems doing individualized lessons and therapies
- Helped take severely autistic children and adolescents on community field trips

Writers' Group
The Swearer Center at Brown University, Providence, RI
Facilitator — February 2009-May 2009

- Planned and facilitiated weekly lessons and activities with a student organized group that prepares writing workshops for developmentally disabled adults in the local community.

Bonn Nontapum
Cross Cultural Solutions, Bangkok, Thailand
Volunteer — September 2008- December 2008

- Performed play and life skill activities with children at a home for children with special needs in Thailand

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Laboratory on Genes and Behavior
Dr. Rebecca D. Burwell — Brown University Department of Psychology, Providence RI
Teaching Assistant — January 2010-May 2010

- Responsible for setting up equipment for behavioral experiments run on knockout mice, including the Morris Water Maze, tail suspension and basic habituation tasks
- Explained procedures to students and helped them run the tasks

LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE

Graduate Student Assembly
Davis, CA
Departmental Representatitive — September 2013 - Present

- Attend meetings and vote on policy affecting graduate students at UC Davis and in the wider UC graduate student assembly
- Publicize information to graduate group

Neuroimaging Journal club
Davis, CA
Student Co-Facilitator — September 2013 - Present

- Invite faculty guests, select papers and lead student discussions for the student-run neuroimaging journal club

Brain Awareness Week
Davis, CA
Graduate Student Presenter March 2013 - Present

- Developed and presented a new station on Vestibular Nystagmus for a school for struggling high schoolers in Sacramento
- Presented posters at a booth at the Farmer's Market
- Taught neuroanatomy using sheep brains to high schoolers in Davis

UC - Davis Neuroblog
Online through UC Davis
Graduate Student Contributer September 2013 - Present

- Plan, write and publish posts about neuroscience, advocacy and related topics to a student run blog.

The Graduate Academic Achievement and Advocacy Program
Davis, CA
Graduate Student Volunteer September 2013 - Present

- Advice and assist students from underrepresented minorities one on one on topics such as graduate school applications and science writing
- Plan and run workshops for students from underrepresented minorities on topics such as graduate school applications, research assistantships and gap years
- Mentor a student