(401) 440 5228 abbiepopa@gmail.com

### **EDUCATION**

PhD University of California at Davis, Davis, CA, (September 2012 - December 2017)

Major: Cognitive Neuroscience

Advanced to Candidacy September 2015

Thesis Topic: Anxiety Impacts Attentional and Inhibitory Control in Adolescence Honors ScB., Brown University, Providence, RI, (September 2006-December 2010)

Major: Cognitive Neuroscience

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

# DISSERTATION Behavior and EEG Testing of Teen Anxiety

Mentor: Dr. Tony J. Simon

June 2013 - present

A study of 20 adolescents with generalized anxiety disorder and 40 typical controls examining attentional and inhibitory control using event-related potentials, heart rate variability, and behavioral data. Participants complete four tasks and self and parent reports of daily function.

# RESEARCH **EXPERIENCE**

### 22q11.2 Research Center and Clinic

Dr. Tony J. Simon Graduate Student Researcher Rotation Student

MIND Institute at UC Davis, Davis CA June 2013 - present

April 2013 - June 2013

- Analyzed behavioral, eye gaze, and pupilometric data from a dot probe threat bias experiment as they related to self report measures of anxiety and cognition in 47 children with 22q11.2 deletion syndrome and 32 typically developing children
- Designed, tested, collected data, and analyzed four ERP experiments examining adolescents with 22q11.2 deletion syndrome and typical controls on attentional and inhibitory control using neutral and emotional stimuli for a five-year NIH funded grant.
- Developed tasks for five behavioral experiments on the same study
- Analyzed resting state fMRI data from over a hundred participants with and without 22q11.2 deletion syndrome to examine differences in three networks isolated using ICA
- Trained and mentored four junior research assistants and seven volunteer interns

# **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

## Neurobiology

Dr. Lee M. Miller UC Davis Department of Neurobiology, Physiology, and Behavior, Davis CA April 2015-June 2015 Teaching Assistant

- Planned nine weeks of discussion sections with two co-TAs. Prepared material for an hour of homework review, practice problems, and discussion of lecture material and readings.
- Independently led 3 one hour discussion sections for a total of 75 students each week.
- Held weekly office hours attended by around six students each session.
- Answered numerous e-mails and arranged individual meetings for students who needed extra help.
- Developed one homework assignment.
- Graded two short answer midterms and one short answer final exam for 200 students with one co-TA.

# Laboratory on Genes and Behavior

Dr. Rebecca D. Burwell Brown University Department of Psychology, Providence RI Teaching Assistant January 2010-May 2010

- Set 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** EXPERIENCE Neuroscience Initiative to Enhance Diversity

Davis, CA

Student Organizer Event held April 2016

Explorations, UC Davis Undergraduate Research Journal

Davis, CA

Editor February 2015 - August 2015 Managing Editor, Physical and Life Sciences September 2015 - Present

**Davis Incubator Group** 

Davis, CA

President September 2016 - Present Member January - August 2016

**Neuroimaging Journal Club** 

Davis, CA

Student Co-Facilitator September 2013 - Present

**COMMUNITY SERVICE** 

Intertational Rescue Committee

Sacramento, CA

Refugee Empowerment Volunteer January 2017 - Present

Women in Science and Engineering

Davis, CA

Mentor, Workshop Organizer and Presenter September 2015 - Present

UC - Davis Neuroblog

Online through UC Davis

September 2013 - Present Graduate Student Contributer

The Graduate Academic Achievement and Advocacy Program

Davis, CA

September 2013 - June 2015 Graduate Student Volunteer and Mentor

Graduate Student Assembly

Davis, CA

Departmental Representative September 2013 - June 2015

Brain Awareness Week

Davis, CA

Graduate Student Presenter March 2013 - Present

PUBLICATIONS Submitted: Popa AM, Cruz J, Wong L, Harvey D, Angkustsiri K, Leckliter I, Perez-Edgar K, Simon TJ. Seeing Eye to Eye with Threat: Atypical Threat Bias Responses in Children with 22q11.2 Deletion Syndrome.

> In Progress: McCabe KL, Popa AM, Durdle C, Amato M, Cabaral M, Wong L, Harvey D, Simon TJ. Quantifying the resolution of spatial and temporal representation in children with 22q11.2 deletion syndrome.

> In Progress: Popa AM, McCabe KL, Morgan H, Garner J, Harvey D, Amato M, Simon TJ. Children with 22q11.2 Deletion Syndrome show Visuospatial Impairments on Bisection Tasks.

## AWARDS AND CERTIFICATES

UC Davis Graduate Student Asssembly Travel Award UC Davis FUTURE Certificate Track UC Davis Graduate Student Asssembly Travel Award

ERP Boot Camp (Dr. Steven J. Luck) UC Davis Graduate Student Asssembly Travel Award 2015-16 Academic Year 2015-16 Academic Year 2014-15 Academic Year Completed July 2014 2013-14 Academic Year

**AFFILIATIONS** Association for Women in Science, Student Member

2013-present

# **PRESENTATIONS** AND POSTERS

Selected from 13 Posters (5 first author) and 5 Presentations (4 first author) at International Conferences

- Popa AM, Mayo D, Durdle C, Morgan H, Shapiro H, Ferrer E, Niendam T, Luck S, Carter C, Simon TJ. Attention and Inhibition Deficits in Youth with 22q11.2DS are Associated with Symptoms of Psychosis Proneness (an IBBC abstract). Poster Accepted at the 17th International Congress of the European Society for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry 2017, Geneva, Switzerland.
- Popa AM, Durdle C, Morgan H, Shapiro H, Niendam T, Carter C, Luck S, Simon TJ. Highly Psychosis-Prone Adolescents show Increased Capture by Distractor Stimuli and More Effort to Inhibit Emotional Stimuli than Typically Developing Controls. Oral Accepted at the 16th International Congress on Schizophrenia Research 2017, San Diego, CA.
- Popa AM, Shapiro H, Harvey D, Amato M, Cruz J, Cung N, Reyes D, Simon TJ. Children with 22q11.2 Deletion Syndrome Show Lower Spatial and Temporal Acuity Than TD Children In Continuously Varying Tasks. Abstract Accepted at the 10th Biennial International 22q11.2 Conference 2016, Sirmione, Italy.
- Popa AM, Hunsaker N, Deng M, Garner J, Cruz J, Cung N, Reyes D, Simon TJ. Cortical Tissue Volumes Correlate to Cavum Septum Pellucidum Size in Children with 22q11.2 Deletion Syndrome and Typical Controls. Oral Accepted at the 71st Annual Meeting of the Society of Biological Psychiatry 2016, Atlanta, GA.
- Popa AM, Beaton E, Cruz J, Wong L, Cung N, Harvey D, Simon TJ. Adaptation to a Mild Stressor in Initially Anxious Children was related to their Attention to Perceived Threat in a Dot Probe Experiment. Poster Presented at the 70th Annual Meeting of the Society of Biological Psychiatry 2015, Toronto, ON, Canada.