

Christopher A Zimmerman, PhD

Postdoctoral Fellow
Princeton Neuroscience Institute
Princeton University, Princeton, NJ

Office: PNI 184E, Washington Road
Email: czimmerman@princeton.edu
Website: <https://cazimmerman.github.io>

EDUCATION

2019	PhD, Neuroscience, University of California San Francisco
2016	MS, Neuroscience, University of California San Francisco
2013	BS, Neuroscience, University of Pittsburgh
2013	BSE, Bioengineering, University of Pittsburgh

POSITIONS

2019–	Postdoctoral Fellow, Princeton Neuroscience Institute Advisor: Ilana B Witten, PhD
2013–2019	Graduate Student, UCSF Department of Physiology and HHMI Advisor: Zachary A Knight, PhD Thesis: The neural basis of thirst

HONORS AND AWARDS

2023	NIH BRAIN Initiative Advanced Postdoctoral Career Transition Award (K99-DA059957)
2022	McKnight Foundation Allison J Doupe Fellowship
2020	Helen Hay Whitney Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship
2020	Donald B Lindsley Prize in Behavioral Neuroscience <i>Awarded by the Society for Neuroscience for “the most outstanding PhD thesis in the general area of behavioral neuroscience”</i>
2020	Eppendorf and Science Prize for Neurobiology <i>Awarded by the American Association for the Advancement of Science for “the most outstanding neurobiological research by a young scientist”</i>
2020	Harold M Weintraub Graduate Student Award <i>Awarded by the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center for “outstanding achievement during graduate studies in the biological sciences”</i>
2020	Winter Conference on Brain Research Travel Fellowship
2017	NIH National Research Service Award Predoctoral Fellowship (F31-HL137383)
2016	Genentech Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship
2015	UCSF Discovery Fellowship
2013	NSF Graduate Research Fellowship

PUBLICATIONS

Vertical bars denote first-author publications (8 out of 15 total)

Zhukovskaya A, Zimmerman CA, Willmore L, Janarthanan SR, Falkner AL, Witten IB. Differences in an aversive teaching signal produce brainwide and behavioral substrates of susceptibility. *bioRxiv*, 2023. [doi: 10.1101/2023.11.06.565681](https://doi.org/10.1101/2023.11.06.565681).

Zimmerman CA, Pan-Vazquez A, Wu B, Keppler EF, Guthman EM, Fetcho RN, Bolkan SS, McMannon B, Lee J, Hoag AT, Lynch LA, Janarthanan SR, López Luna JF, Bondy AG, Falkner AL, Wang SSH, Witten IB. A neural mechanism for learning from delayed postingestive feedback. *bioRxiv*, 2023. [doi: 10.1101/2023.10.06.561214](https://doi.org/10.1101/2023.10.06.561214).

Cox J, Minerva AR, Fleming WT, Zimmerman CA, Hayes C, Zorowitz S, Bandi A, Ornelas S, McMannon B, Parker NF, Witten IB. A neural substrate of sex-dependent modulation of motivation. *Nature Neuroscience* 26, 274–284, 2023. [doi: 10.1038/s41593-022-01229-9](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41593-022-01229-9).

- Zimmerman CA. Neuroscience: Secretin excites the thirst circuit. *Current Biology* 32, R1318–R1320, 2022. doi: 10.1016/j.cub.2022.10.046.
- Bolkan SS*, Stone IR*, Pinto L, Ashwood ZC, Iravedra Garcia JM, Herman AL, Singh P, Bandi A, Cox J, Zimmerman CA, Cho JR, Engelhard B, Pillow JW, Witten IB. Opponent control of behavior by dorsomedial striatal pathways depends on task demands and internal state. *Nature Neuroscience* 25, 345–357, 2022. doi: 10.1038/s41593-022-01021-9. *Equal contributions
- Zimmerman CA. The origins of thirst. *Science* 370, 45–46, 2020. doi: 10.1126/science.abe1479.
- Zimmerman CA, Knight ZA. Layers of signals that regulate appetite. *Current Opinion in Neurobiology* 64, 79–88, 2020. doi: 10.1016/j.conb.2020.03.007.
- Zimmerman CA, Huey EL, Ahn JS, Beutler LR, Tan CL, Kosar S, Bai L, Chen Y, Corpuz TV, Madisen L, Zeng H, Knight ZA. A gut-to-brain signal of fluid osmolarity controls thirst satiation. *Nature* 568, 98–102, 2019. doi: 10.1038/s41586-019-1066-x.
- Leib DE*, Zimmerman CA*, Poormoghaddam A, Huey EL, Ahn JS, Lin YC, Tan CL, Chen Y, Knight ZA. The forebrain thirst circuit drives drinking through negative reinforcement. *Neuron* 96, 1272–1281, 2017. doi: 10.1016/j.neuron.2017.11.041. *Equal contributions
- Zimmerman CA, Leib DE, Knight ZA. Neural circuits underlying thirst and fluid homeostasis. *Nature Reviews Neuroscience* 18, 459–469, 2017. doi: 10.1038/nrn.2017.71.
- Leib DE, Zimmerman CA, Knight ZA. Thirst. *Current Biology* 26, R1260–R1265, 2016. doi: 10.1016/j.cub.2016.11.019.
- Tan CL, Cooke EK, Leib DE, Lin YC, Daly GE, Zimmerman CA, Knight ZA. Warm-sensitive neurons that control body temperature. *Cell* 167, 47–59, 2016. doi: 10.1016/j.cell.2016.08.028.
- Chen Y, Lin YC, Zimmerman CA, Essner RA, Knight ZA. Hunger neurons drive feeding through a sustained, positive reinforcement signal. *eLife* 5, e18640, 2016. doi: 10.7554/elife.18640.
- Zimmerman CA, Lin YC, Leib DE, Guo L, Huey EL, Daly GE, Chen Y, Knight ZA. Thirst neurons anticipate the homeostatic consequences of eating and drinking. *Nature* 537, 680–684, 2016. doi: 10.1038/nature18950.
- Luongo FJ, Zimmerman CA, Horn ME, Sohal VS. Correlations between prefrontal neurons form a small world network that optimizes the generation of multineuron sequences of activity. *Journal of Neurophysiology* 115, 2359–2375, 2016. doi: 10.1152/jn.01043.2015.

CONFERENCE AND DEPARTMENTAL TALKS

Janelia Conference, Sensory Biology of Ingestion. Ashburn, VA. Nov 2024.
 Princeton/Rutgers Conte Center for Understanding Latent Cause Inference. Virtual. May 2024.
 Cosyne Conference. Lisbon, Portugal. Mar 2024.
 Princeton Neuroscience Institute Retreat. Philadelphia, PA. May 2023.
 Helen Hay Whitney Foundation Retreat. Dedham, MA. Nov 2022.
 Hellenic Society for Neuroscience Meeting. Virtual. Oct 2021.
 Scripps Department of Neuroscience. La Jolla, CA. Sep 2018.
 Keystone Symposium, Synapses and Circuits. Santa Fe, NM. Mar 2017.
 UCSF Neuroscience Retreat. Pacific Grove, CA. Sep 2016.
 UCSF Diabetes and Obesity Retreat. Santa Cruz, CA. Sep 2015.

CONFERENCE POSTERS

Society for Neuroscience Meeting. Washington, DC. Nov 2023.
 Lake Conference, Neural Coding and Dynamics. Seattle, WA. Sep 2023.
 Winter Conference on Brain Research. Snowbird, UT. Jan 2023.
 Gordon Research Conference, Optogenetics. Newry, ME. Jul 2022.
 Winter Conference on Brain Research. Big Sky, MT. Jan 2020. Poster Award.
 Gordon Research Conference, Neuromodulation. Les Diablerets, Switzerland. May 2019.

Howard Hughes Medical Institute Meeting. Chevy Chase, MD. Dec 2018.
 Cold Spring Harbor Meeting, Neuronal Circuits. Laurel Hollow, NY. Apr 2018.
 Keystone Symposium, Synapses and Circuits. Santa Fe, NM. Mar 2017.
 Society for Neuroscience Meeting. San Diego, CA. Nov 2016.

TEACHING AND MENTORSHIP

2021–2022 Princeton Neuroscience Institute Undergraduate Junior Tutorial Course Instructor
 2021–2022 Princeton Neuroscience Institute Graduate Student Bootcamp Course Instructor
 2021 Neuromatch Academy Computational Neuroscience Course Mentor
 2021– Trainee Supervision in the Witten Lab: 4 PhD Rotations, 3 Technicians, 2 Undergraduates
 2020–2023 Princeton Neuroscience Institute Graduate Student Journal Club Course Instructor
 2019 UCSF Science and Health Education Partnership Teaching Volunteer
 2015 UCSF School of Dentistry Cell Physiology Course Teaching Assistant
 2014–2019 Trainee Supervision in the Knight Lab: 4 PhD Rotations, 3 Technicians, 1 Undergraduate

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2023 Cosyne Conference Reviewer
 2022–2023 Princeton Neuroscience Institute Seminar Host
 2021–2022 Princeton Neuroscience Institute Seminar Series Committee
 2021– Journal Peer Review: *Current Biology*, *Current Opinion in Neurobiology*, *PLOS One*, *Science Advances*, *Scientific Reports*, *STAR Protocols*
 2018 UCSF Neuroscience Graduate Program Recruitment Speaker
 2014–2017 UCSF Neuroscience Graduate Program Recruitment Host

PRESS AND MEDIA

The Transmitter, [‘It must be something I ate’ is hard-wired into the brain](#). Mar 2024.
Cosyne Conference, [Cosyne Main Meeting talk recording \(Session 3: Learning\)](#). Mar 2024.
Scientific American, [Your body has a clever way to detect how much water to drink](#). Sep 2022.
SfN Press Release, [Society for Neuroscience presents 2020 Lindsley Prize](#). Oct 2020.
Naked Neuroscience Podcast, [How does thirst work in the brain?](#). Oct 2020.
Inverse, [Scientists discover the origin of thirst in the brain](#). Oct 2020.
Science Podcast, [Interview with the winners of the 2020 Eppendorf and Science Prize](#). Oct 2020.
Princeton Press Release, [Zimmerman wins 2020 Eppendorf and Science Prize](#). Oct 2020.
Eppendorf Press Release, [Research on thirst wins 2020 Eppendorf and Science Prize](#). Oct 2020.
AAAS Press Release, [Real-time signals from body to brain help regulate sensation of thirst](#). Oct 2020.
Fred Hutch Press Release, [Fred Hutch announces 2020 Weintraub Award recipients](#). Mar 2020.
Nature Reviews Gastroenterology and Hepatology, [A thirst-quenching gut–brain signal](#). Apr 2019.
NHLBI Press Highlight, [Your gut controls your thirst and keeps your brain informed](#). Mar 2019.
Inscopix, [A gut check tells the brain about thirst](#). Mar 2019.
NPR News, [Blech! Brain science explains why you’re not thirsty for salt water](#). Mar 2019.
HHMI Press Release, [Thirst controlled by signal from the gut](#). Mar 2019.
UCSF Press Release, [Had enough water? Brain’s thirst centers make a gut check](#). Mar 2019.
Cell, [Firing up in anticipation](#). Nov 2016.
Nature, [Forecast for water balance](#). Sep 2016.
STAT News, [Thirsty? Your brain knows before you do](#). Aug 2016.
BBC News, [Brain’s thirst circuit ‘monitors the mouth’](#). Aug 2016.
Nature Podcast, [Scientists quench a decades-old question about thirst](#). Aug 2016.
UCSF Press Release, [New understanding of thirst emerges from brain study](#). Aug 2016.