Gerardo Raul Rojas

Graduate Student

Minneapolis, Minnesota

rojas174@umn.edu | GRReds

Current employment

Grissom Lab *Minneapolis, MN*

Graduate Researcher *Present*

- Exploring the contribution of 16p11.2 hemideletion towards motivated behaviors.
- Studying decision-making in a mouse model of 16p11.2 hemideletion.

PSY 3061 - Introduction to Biopsychology *Minneapolis, MN*

Teaching Assistant *2021-2022*

- Helped evaluate student performance on quizzes/exams.
- Taught select classes on research methods, drug pharmacology, drug addiction, and ASD.
- Held office hours weekly for students.

Education

Carthage College *Kenosha, WI*

BA in Psychology & Neuroscience *2013 - 2027*

- Conducted studies on Wistar-Kyoto rats and their avoidance learning.

Teaching experience

University Teaching Assistance

2021 S1 **PSY 3061**: Biopsychology (University of Minnesota Twin Cities)
2022 S2 **PSY 3061**: Biopsychology (University of Minnesota Twin Cities)

Research experience

Research Experience of Undergraduates (REUs)

2015 **SURP**: LeDoux Lab (New York University)
2016 **SNURF**: Bouton Lab (University of Vermont)
2017 **NIDA**: Mahler Lab (University of California-Irvine)

Grants

Research

2015 **SURP**: NYU (NSF)
2016 **SNURF**: UVM (NSF)
2017 **NIDA**: UCI (NIH)
2018 **Pilot Training Program**: UMN (Fellowship)
2019 **Beverly and Richard Fink**: UMN (Fellowship)
2019 **David Campbell**: UMN (Fellowship)
2019 **Summer Research Award FY20**: UMN (Fellowship)
2019 **NIMH T32 MH115886**: UMN (Fellowship)
2020 **Summer Research Award FY20**: UMN (Fellowship)

Publications

2017 **Campese, V. D., Kim, I. T., Rojas, G., and LeDoux, J. E.** Pavlovian Extinction and Recovery Effects in Aversive Pavlovian to Instrumental Transfer. *Frontiers in Behavioral Neuroscience, 11, 179.*
`http://doi.org/10.3389/fnbeh.2017.001`

2019 **Farrell, M. R., Ruiz, C. M., Castillo, E., Faget, L., Khanbijian, C., Chiu, S., Schoch, H., Rojas, G. R., Hnasko, T. S., and Mahler, S. V.** Ventral Pallidum is Essential for Cocaine Reinstatement After Voluntary Abstinence. *Neuropsychopharmacology, 44(13), 2174–2185*
`https://doi.org/10.1038/s41386-019-0507-4`

2022 **Rojas, G. R., Curry-Pochy, L. S., Chen, C. S., Heller, A. T., and Grissom, N. M.** Sequential delay and probability discounting tasks in mice reveal anchoring effects partially attributable to decision noise. *Behavioural Brain Research, 431, 113951.*
`https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bbr.2022.113951`

Presentations

2015 **Rojas, G., Campese, V. D., and LeDoux, J. E.** Reducing threat signal status with extinction temporarily eliminates aversive pavlovian to instrumental transfer.
Diversity Summer Student Research Conference

2016 **Rojas, G., Thrailkill, E., and Bouton, M.** Breaking habits.
Summer Research Symposium

2017 **Rojas, G.** Breaking gambling habits.
Thesis Poster Presentation

2017 **Farrell, M. R., Ruiz, C. M., Schoch, H., Huang, J., Cevallos, J., Castillo, E., Manoogian, A., Rojas, G., Jung, K. M., Moreno-Sanz, G., Piomelli, D., and Mahler, S. V.** The DREADDed Weed: Chemogenetic Dissection of Dopamine Function After Adolescent Cannabinoid Receptor Stimulation.
Gordon Research Conference: Cannabinoid Function in the CNS

2018 **Rojas, G. R., Heller, A., Leschisin, J., and Grissom, N. M.** Decision Making in Mice: Individual Differences in impulsive Choice and Sex Differences in Risk Assessment.
Society for Neuroscience

2019 **Collier, J., Rojas, G. R., Duerr, A., Ritchie, M., and Grissom, N. M.** A Mouse Model for Neurodevelopmental Disorders shows Increase in Amphetamine-Induced Stereotypical Behaviors.
LSSURP Annual Poster Symposium

2019 **Rojas, G. R., Collier, J., Duerr, A., Ritchie, M., Bastin, A., and Grissom, N. M.** A Mouse Model for Neurodevelopmental Disorders shows Increase in Amphetamine-Induced Stereotypical Behaviors.
Minnesota Symposium on Addiction Neuroscience

2019 **Rojas, G. R., Heller, A., Collier, J., Bastin, A., Duerr, A., Ritchie, M., and Grissom, N. M.** Stereotyped behavior in rewarding scenarios in a mouse model of 16p11.2 hemideletion.
Society for Neuroscience

2019 **Collier, J., Rojas, G. R., Duerr, A., Ritchie, M., and Grissom, N. M.** A Mouse Model for Neurodevelopmental Disorders shows Increase in Amphetamine-Induced Stereotypical Behaviors.
Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students

2019 **Rojas, G. R., Knep, E., and Grissom, N. M.** Delay but not uncertainty produces inflexible choice in a mouse model of 16p11.2 hemideletion.
International Behavioral Neuroscience Society

2022 **Giglio, E., Rojas, G. R., Knep, E., and Grissom, N. M.** Stereotyped behavior in rewarding scenarios in a mouse model of 16p11.2 hemideletion.
Dopamine Society