

# Onyekachi “Kachi” Odoemene

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## Education

Ph.D. Systems Neuroscience (2017), **Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Watson School of Biological Sciences**, Cold Spring Harbor NY

*Thesis Advisor:* Dr. Anne K. Churchland

*Committee Chair:* Dr. Anthony M. Zador

M.S. Biomedical Engineering (2011), **Purdue University**, West Lafayette IN

B.S. Biomedical Engineering (2009), **The George Washington University**, Washington DC

## Awards & Fellowships

NIH F31 Individual NRSA Predoctoral Fellowship (2014-2016)

Honorable Mention, NSF Graduate Research Fellowship (2010)

Gordon Research Conference (on Ion Channels) Carl Storm Travel Fellowship (2010)

George Gamow Undergraduate Research Fellowship (2006-2007)

HHMI-GWU Summer Research Scholar (2006)

## Technical Skills

**Neuroscience** Psychophysics, Electrophysiology, Optical Brain Imaging, Neuroanatomy, Optogenetics, Chemogenetics, Small animal neurosurgery

**Quantitative** Modeling and analysis of psychophysical behavior, Neural Data Analysis, Computational Neuroscience, Machine Learning

**Programming** MATLAB, Python, C, and C++

**Electrical Engineering & Embedded Systems** Analog and Digital Circuit Design, Signal Processing, Image Processing, Microfabrication (MEMS), Arduino, Raspberry Pi

## Research & Engineering Design Experience

PhD Candidate in Systems Neuroscience (2011-Present), **Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory**

- Designed and executed on research program to investigate the causal role of rodent visual brain areas to visual decision-making behavior
- Developed psychophysics paradigm for rodent visual decision-making behavior
- Developed imaging system, and new research program in the lab, for functional mapping of rodent visual brain areas
- Supervised research technicians and undergraduate summer students
- Won NIH NRSA (F31) Individual Predoctoral Fellowship (2014-2016)

Graduate Research Associate in Peripheral Neural Engineering (2011), **Purdue University**

- Developed experimental preparation and analytical method for estimating electrode-to-nerve fiber distances

Graduate Research Associate in Biosensor Microfabrication (2009-2010), **Purdue University**

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- Designed and developed prototype lab-on-chip platform for simultaneous intracellular electrophysiology recordings from multiple neurons
- Designed and characterized performance of microelectrodes for NASA nano-satellite compatible biosensor platform for assessing *Cyanobacteria* gravitational physiology
- Led zero gravity space flight team (NASA FAST) to test custom lab-on-chip sensor platform which measured gravity dependent calcium currents of plant spores (*Ceratopteris richardii*)
- Won Honorable Mention for NSF Graduate Research Fellowship (2010)

Engineering Design Capstone Student (2008-2009), **The George Washington University**

- Designed and developed a mechanical model of vocal cords
- Designed and wrote MATLAB-based diagnostic software for analyzing human vocalization

Research Associate in Biophysics (2006-2008), **The George Washington University**

- Developed gold nanoparticle wire biomechanical sensor platform
- Won George Gamow Undergraduate Research Fellow (2006-2007)
- Won HHMI Summer Research Scholarship (2006)

## Publications

**Odoemene O** and Churchland AK (*in prep*). “Distinct roles of mouse secondary visual areas in perceptual decision-making behavior”

**Odoemene O** and Churchland AK (2014). “Listening for the right sounds “(Preview). *Neuron*

Qiao S, **Odoemene O**, and Yoshida K (2012). “Determination of electrode to nerve fiber distance and nerve conduction velocity through spectral analysis of extracellular action potentials recorded from earthworm giant fibers” *Medical and Biological Engineering and Computing* 50(8) 867-975.

Robertson KL, Soto CM, Archer MC, **Odoemene O**, Liu JL (2011). “Engineered T4 viral nanoparticles for cellular imaging and flow cytometry” *Bioconjugate Chemistry* 22 (4) 595-604

## Conference Abstracts & Presentations

**Odoemene O** and Churchland AK (2016, talk). “Causal role of mouse visual area AM in visual evidence accumulation”. *HHMI Janelia Farm Junior Scientist Workshop on Neural Circuits of Behavior*. Ashburn VA.

**Odoemene O**, Brown AM, Kaufman MT, Churchland AK (2014, poster). Disrupting inhibition in posterior parietal cortex reduces decision accuracy. *Society for Neuroscience Meeting*. Washington, DC.

**Odoemene O**, Brown A, Churchland AK (2013, invited poster). Mice: a platform for studying sensory decision-making. *Society for Neuroscience* (Diversity Fellows Poster Session), San Diego CA

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**Odoemene O**, UI Haque A, Porterfield DM (2010, poster). “Design and Fabrication of a Multi-Patch Recording Unit for Electrophysiological Studies on Neural Networks. *Gordon Research Conference on Ion Channels* Tilton NH

\*UI Haque A, \***Odoemene O**, Porterfield DM (2010, poster). The CHO biochip: A novel nano-satellite compatible lab-on-a-chip for studying Cyanobacteria gravitational physiology. *Institute of Biological Engineering Annual Meeting* Cambridge, MA

Robertson KL, Archer M, Soto CM, **Odoemene O**, Liu JL (2009, poster). “Mutant T4 bacteriophage nanoparticles for Imaging and Detection Applications.” 238<sup>th</sup> *American Chemical Society Meeting*, Washington, DC.

## Teaching & Mentoring Experience

Mentor, CSHL Undergraduate Research Program (2015)

Math & Science Tutor, Middle & High school students in the Long Island area (2011-2013)

Course Instructor, CSHL DNA Learning Center (2012)

Course Instructor, Purdue University Gifted Education Resource Institute (2011)

Graduate Mentor & Tutor, Purdue University (2009-2010)

Tutor & Peer Mentor, The George Washington University (2006-2008)

GED Math Instructor, DC Catholic Charities (2006-2008)

## Professional Membership, Service & Outreach

Member, Society for Neuroscience (2011-Present)

Science Judge, Long Island Science Fair (2015)

Science Judge, Syosset High School Research Fair (May 2014)

Mentor/Coach, LI-ACTSO Science Competition (2013, 2014)

Tour Guide, CSHL (2011-2013)

Judge, LI-ACTSO Science Competition (2013)

Ambassador, Purdue University Birck Nanotechnology Center (2010)

Chapter President, National Society of Black Engineers, The George Washington University (2008)