

# **GPN** Newsletter

## **STUDENT & MENTOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

As told by Dr. Karin Schon, Assistant Professor in the Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology, who shares exciting news about the success of her GPN student (and mentee!) Michael Rosario, and her new research grants!

*"My primary exciting news is that"* my graduate student Michael won a Health Policy Research Scholarship from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, which makes him the first graduate student at BU to receive this five-year award (providing four years of very flexible funding). Michael's research associated with this award is directly linked to my Alzheimer's Association Research Grant ("Perceived racism as a chronic stressor and cognition in Black seniors"), which I received earlier this year in March. For this research, for which we just started recruiting participants, we will compare two groups of African Americans on their cognitive functioning. These groups differ in racial minority status (St. Croix, USVI vs. Boston, MA) and presumably in perceived racism. Given that African Americans are twice as likely as White Americans to have Alzheimer's disease, in the future this and subsequent research may help us understand whether racism-related chronic stress contributes to health disparity.

Additional Note: Michael also received an Honorable Mention on a Ford Foundation Fellowship.

In related grant news, I just received a just-in-time information request for an R21 grant from the NIA (which received the top percentile score of 1) for a related project comparing Black and White Americans on neuroimaging outcome measures. The grant title is "Psvchosocial stressors and the hippocampal memory system in African American seniors". Again, the primary psychosocial stressor we are interested in is racism/discrimination related chronic stress. Michael will also be the primary graduate student on this grant. I've also received a small one-year pilot grant this past summer from BU's Alzheimer's Disease Center to examine a similar question in their participant cohort, which in the future will allow us to follow participants longitudinally to then directly test the contribution of racism-related chronic stress to Alzheimer's disease (grant title: "Impact of psychosocial stress on hippocampal integrity in the HOPE cohort: a pilot study")."



**Michael Rosario** 



**Dr. Karin Schon** 

## **MENTOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS!**



Congratulations again to Professor Mike Hasselmo on his election this year to the American Academy of Arts & Sciences!

Congratulations to Hengye Man on his promotion to Full Professor!





A big welcome to our new Administrative Coordinator Nazifa Haque and the beginnings of our Monday afternoon teas in the South End.



## **STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS!**



**Janis Intoy** 



Samantha Shelton

### <u>Awards!</u>

Janis Intoy was awarded an NIH NRSA Fellowship (F31) this past September for her project titled "Function of Fixational Eye Movements for Fine Depth Perception".

### **Publications!**

Daniel Vogt, Kathleen K A Cho, Samantha M Shelton, Anirban Paul, Z Josh Huang, Vikaas S Sohal, John L R Rubenstein; Mouse *Cntnap2* and Human *CNTNAP2* ASD Alleles Cell Autonomously Regulate PV<sup>+</sup> Cortical Interneurons, *Cerebral Cortex*, Volume 28, Issue 11, 1 November 2018, Pages 3868 3879,

https://doi.org/10.1093/cercor/bhx248



**Nathaniel Kinsky** 



**Elizabeth Spencer** 



Sophie Schwartz



**Austin Soplata** 

### More Publications!

Kinsky, N. R., Sullivan, D. W., Mau, W., Hasselmo, M. E., & Eichenbaum, H. B. (2018). Hippocampal Place Fields Maintain a Coherent and Flexible Map across Long Timescales. *Current Biology*. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cub.2018.09.037

Spencer, E., Martinet, L. E., Eskandar, E. N., Chu, C. J., Kolaczyk, E. D., Cash, S. S., ... & Kramer, M. A. (2018). A procedure to increase the power of Granger-causal analysis through temporal smoothing. *Journal of neuroscience methods*, 308, 48-61.

https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jneumeth.2018.07.010

Schwartz, Shinn-Cunningham, & Tager-Flusberg. (2018). Meta-analysis and systematic review of the literature characterizing auditory mismatch negativity in individuals with autism. *Neuroscience and Biobehavioral Reviews*, 87, 106-117 <u>https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neubiorev.2018.01.00</u> 8

Soplata, Austin E, McCarthy, Michelle M, Sherfey, Jason, Lee, Shane, Purdon, Patrick L, Brown, Emery N, & Kopell, Nancy. (2018). Thalamocortical control of propofol phaseamplitude coupling. *PLoS Computational Biology*, 13(12): E1005879 https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pcbi.1005879



**Mary Kate Joyce** 

Joyce, M., & Barbas, H. (2018). Cortical **Connections Position Primate Area 25 as a** Keystone for Interoception, Emotion, and Memory. The Journal of Neuroscience : The Official Journal of the Society for *Neuroscience, 38*(7), 1677-1698. https://doi.org/10.1523/JNEUROSCI.2363-17.2017



William Mau



**Catherine Moore** 

Mau, W., Sullivan, D. W., Kinsky, N. R., Hasselmo, M. E., Howard, M. W., & Eichenbaum, H. (2018). The same hippocampal CA1 population simultaneously codes temporal information over multiple timescales. Current Biology, 28(10), 1499-1508.

https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cub.2018.03.051

Moore, CF., Sabino, V., & Cottone, P. (2018). Trace Amine Associated Receptor 1 (TAAR1) Modulation of Food Reward. Frontiers In Pharmacology, 9, 129. https://doi.org/10.3389/fphar.2018.00129

#### Congratulations to our GPN students who passed their Qualifying Exams this year!

Scott Bressler Marek Kowalski Shen Ning **Byron Price** Patricia Rein Sema Quadir (honorary member)

Samantha Shelton **Elizabeth Spencer** Louis Vinke **Gregory Wirak Kimberly Young** 

# SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2018!

# GPN Students and their Mentors presenting this year at Society for Neuroscience, San Diego, CA



Thanks to all of our students who helped to recruit the next class at the Graduate Student Fair... you are the heartbeat of our program!

CONTINUED...









# MEMORIES OF OUR GPN HOLIDAY PARTY!



Congratulations to all of our GPN students and faculty as this has been an amazing year. Good luck to everyone on their way to graduation!



# Winter in Boston

Looking for fun activities to do? <u>Click here</u> to find out about student discounts, including free admissions to museums!









### Have a wonderful holiday and winter season!



### OR are you waiting for summer like Sparkle!

Make sure to log in your accomplishments with GPN to post for next semester's 2019 newsletter and look out for more announcements via Neurodome.