

Katie E. Yoest, PhD
Associate Scientific Director
keyoest@gmail.com

(860) 941-7876
Lansing, MI

EDUCATION

- 2013-2018 **University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI**
PhD in Psychology/Biopsychology: 2018
Advisor: Jill B. Becker, PhD
Dissertation: *Ovarian hormones regulate dopamine release and adaptive motivation in female rats*
- 2018 **University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI**
Graduate Teaching Certificate, Center for Research on Learning and Teaching
- 2009-2013 **Wagner College, Staten Island, NY**
B.S., Biopsychology, *magna cum laude*, with Chemistry minor: 2013
Advisor: Laurence J. Nolan, PhD

EXPERIENCE

- 2025-present **Associate Scientific Director**
Fingerprint Medical (formerly MedThink SciCom)
Cary, NC (Remote)
- 2023-2025 **Senior Medical Writer**
MedThink SciCom
Cary, NC (Remote)
- 2022-2023 **Medical Writer**
MedThink SciCom
Cary, NC (Remote)
- 2018-2022 **Postdoctoral Research Fellow**
Neurobiology of Social Behavior Laboratory
Michigan State University
Research Mentor: Alexa H. Veenema, PhD
- 2013-2018 **Graduate Student Research Fellow**
Neurobiology of Sex Differences Research Group
Molecular and Behavioral Neuroscience Institute
University of Michigan
Research Mentor: Jill B. Becker, PhD
- 2015-2017 **Research Assistant**
MCubed: Bringing big data to the study of epigenetics and addiction
University of Michigan
Research Mentors: Jill B. Becker, PhD & M. Leora Bowden, MSW
- 2012-2013 **Undergraduate Research Assistant**
Genetics of Developmental Abnormalities Lab
Institute for Basic Research in Developmental Disabilities
Research Mentor: Thomas Wise, PhD

RESEARCH SUPPORT & INDIVIDUAL FELLOWSHIPS

- 2020-2023 **NSF Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in Biology** (DBI 1906523), NSF, \$207,000
Sex-specific regulation of juvenile social behavior by oxytocin

2019-2020	Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship , The National Academies, \$60,000 <i>Sex-specific regulation of juvenile social behavior by oxytocin</i>
2017-2018	Rackham Candidate Research Grant , University of Michigan, \$3,000
2016-2017	NIDA Predoctoral Training Grant (T32 DA007281), \$24,376
2014-2015	Rackham Precandidate Research Grant , University of Michigan, \$1,500

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Neural regulation of adaptive and maladaptive motivated behaviors:

- What are the neural substrates regulating motivation for natural rewards (i.e. food, social behavior) and drugs of abuse?
- How do these circuits interact to produce resilient or vulnerable phenotypes?
- What is the influence of sex on neural circuits underlying motivated behaviors?

HONORS & AWARDS

2022	Winter Conference on Brain Research Travel Fellow , \$1000 <i>Travel support to the Winter Conference on Brain Research</i>
2020	Outstanding Scholars in Neuroscience Program , National Institutes of Health <i>Supporting neuroscience trainees with great academic potential</i>
2018	Barbara Perry Roberson Fellowship , University of Michigan, \$2,000 <i>Recognizing outstanding women graduate students engaged in research and teaching</i>
2018	Pat Gurin Distinguished Lecturer Award , University of Michigan, \$200 <i>Awarded to one student in each area of the Psychology department for research excellence</i>
2018	International Behavioral Neuroscience Society Travel Award , \$1,000 <i>Travel support to the annual meeting of the International Behavioral Neuroscience Society</i>
2018	Barbara A. Oleshansky Memorial Fund Research Prize , \$2,000 <i>Recognizing outstanding women graduate students engaged in research and teaching</i>
2017	Neuroscience Scholars Program Professional Development Award , Society for Neuroscience, \$1,000 <i>Travel support to the annual meeting of the Society for Neuroscience</i>
2016-2017	Neuroscience Scholars Program Associate , Society for Neuroscience <i>Mentoring and resources to outstanding neuroscience trainees from under-represented backgrounds</i>
2014-2018	Rackham Conference Travel Grants , University of Michigan, \$3,200 <i>Travel support to present research</i>
2013	Biopsychology Award , Wagner College <i>Awarded to one student in the Biopsychology Major based on academic achievement</i>

PUBLICATIONS

Yoest, K.E., Henry, M.G., Velisek, H.A, Stokes, T., & Veenema, A.H. Sex-specific role of oxytocin receptor expressing cells within the bed nucleus of the stria terminalis in the regulation of juvenile social behaviors. *In preparation*.

Yoest, K.E., Henry, M.G., Velisek, H.A, & Veenema, A.H. Sex differences in the development of social recognition in rats. *Hormones & Behavior*, **151**, 10534. DOI: 10.1016/j.yhbeh.2023.105347

Levy, M., Bassis, C.M, Kennedy, E., **Yoest, K.E.**, Becker, J.B., Bell, J., Berger, M.B., & Bruns, T.M. (2020) The rodent vaginal microbiome across the estrous cycle and the effect of genital nerve electrical stimulation. *PLOS One*, **15(3)**, e0230170. DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0230170

Yoest, K.E., Cummings, J.A., & Becker, J.B. (2019) Ovarian hormones mediate changes in adaptive choice and motivation in female rats. *Frontiers in Behavioral Neuroscience*, **13**. DOI: 10.3389/fnbeh.2019.00250

Yoest, K.E. Cummings, J.A., & Becker, J.B. (2018) Oestradiol influences on dopamine release from the nucleus accumbens shell: Sex differences and the role of selective estradiol receptor subtypes. *British Journal of Pharmacology*, **176(21)**, 4136-4148, DOI: 10.1111/bph.14531

Yoest, K.E., Quigley., J.Q., & Becker, J.B. (2018) Rapid effects of ovarian hormones in nucleus accumbens and dorsal striatum. *Hormones & Behavior*, **104**, 119-129, DOI: 10.1016/j.yhbeh.2018.04.002

Yoest, K.E., Cummings, J.A. & Becker, J.B. (2014) Estradiol, Dopamine, and Motivation. *Nervous System Agents in Medicinal Chemistry*, **14**, 83-89. DOI: 10.2174/1871524914666141226103135

CONFERENCE ABSTRACTS

Gelblum J., **Yoest, K.E.**, Weisman, D. Barriers and solutions for initiating monoclonal antibody therapy in Alzheimer's disease. American Academy of Neurology 2025 Annual Meeting.

Yoest, K.E., Henry, M.H., Velisek, H.A., Stokes, T.M., Veenema, A.H. Sex-specific regulation of social behavior by oxytocin receptor expressing cells in the bed nucleus of the stria terminalis of juvenile rats. Winter Conference on Brain Research 2022.
*Panel presentation

Yoest, K.E., Barrett, A.R., Henry, M.H., Velisek, H.A., Anderson, D., Veenema A.H. Sex differences in social stimulus induced activation of oxytocin receptor expressing cells within nodes of the social behavior neural network. Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting 2021.

Anderson, D., Barrett, A.R., **Yoest, K.E.**, Veenema, A.H. Role of oxytocin receptors in the sex-specific regulation of social behavior in juvenile rats. Mid-Michigan Symposium for Undergraduate Research Experiences 2021.

Yoest, K.E., Henry, M.G., Velisek, H.A., Veenema, A.H., Sex-specific effects of development on social recognition in rats. Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology Virtual Meeting 2021.

Reppucci, C.J. Khaykin, V.M., Lee, J.D.A., **Yoest, K.E.**, Veenema, A.H. Role of septal projections to the ventral tegmental area in the expression of social play behavior in juvenile rats. Virtual Dopamine Conference 2021.

Yoest, K.E., Henry, M.G., Velisek, H.A., Veenema, A.H., Sex-specific effects of development on social recognition in rats. American College of Neuropsychopharmacology Meeting 2020.

Yoest, K.E., Henry, M.G., Velisek, H., Bredewold, R., Veenema, A.H. Sex differences in juvenile social recognition: Role of oxytocin in the bed nucleus of the stria terminalis. Conference of Ford Fellows 2019.

Yoest, K.E., Henry, M.G., Velisek, H., Bredewold, R., Veenema, A.H. Sex differences in juvenile social

recognition: Role of oxytocin in the bed nucleus of the stria terminalis. Society for Neuroscience Meeting 2019.

Yoest, K.E., Henry, M.G., Bredewold, R., Veenema, A.H. Sex differences in juvenile social recognition: Role of oxytocin in the bed nucleus of the stria terminalis. Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology Meeting 2019.

Levy, M., Bassis, C., Kennedy, E., **Yoest, K.E.**, Becker, J.B., Bell, J., Berger, M.B., & Bruns, T.M. Effects of peripheral nerve stimulation on organ microbiome across rodent estrous cycle. Society for Neuroscience Meeting 2018.

Yoest, K.E., Shashlo, K.E., Cummings J.A., & Becker, J.B. Gonadal hormones mediate changes in adaptive choice and dopamine release in female rats. International Behavioral Neuroscience Society Meeting 2018.

Yoest, K.E., Shashlo, K.E., Cummings, J.A., & Becker, J.B. Regulation of food reward by female gonadal hormones. Society for Neuroscience Meeting 2017.

Furman, K.L., **Yoest, K.E.**, Cummings, J.A., Becker, J.B. Sex differences in the effect of estradiol on cocaine-induced dopamine release: Role of selective estrogen receptors. Society for Neuroscience Meeting 2017.

Yoest, K.E., Cummings, J.A., Aragona, B.J., & Becker J.B. Sex differences in the effect of estradiol on nucleus accumbens dopamine release after cocaine administration. Opioids and Stimulants Symposium 2017.
**Selected for oral presentation*

Yoest, K.E., Shashlo, K.E., Cummings, J.A., & Becker, J.B. A role for progesterone in motivation for food. Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology Meeting 2017.

Yoest, K.E., Cummings, J.A., Aragona, B.J., & Becker, J.B. Contribution of estrogen receptor subtypes to the effect of estradiol on cocaine-induced dopamine release in the nucleus accumbens. Society for Neuroscience Meeting 2016.

Yoest, K.E., & Becker, J.B. Estrogen receptors differentially affect motivation for food. Michigan AGEP Fall Conference, 2015.
**Selected for oral presentation*

Yoest, K.E., Reisen, B.E., Cummings, J.A., & Becker, J.A. Selective activation of estradiol receptors differentially modulates motivation for food in female rats. Society for Neuroscience Meeting 2015.

Yoest, K.E., Cummings, J.A., Chamberlain, K.N., Alonso, Y.A., & Becker, J.E. Estradiol rapidly enhances dopamine in nucleus accumbens shell of females but not males. Society for Neuroscience Meeting 2014.

Liang, J., **Yoest, K.E.**, & Becker, J.B. Estrous cycle and motivation for a cue linked to a food pellet. Society for Neuroscience Meeting 2014.

Yoest, K.E., Wise, T. Genetic Correlates of Insulin-like Growth Factor Disregulation in the Fragile X Mouse. Wagner College Senior Thesis Presentations, 2013.
**Selected for oral presentation*

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

2017-2022	International Behavioral Neuroscience Society
2017-2023	Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology
2017-2018	Organization for the Study of Sex Differences
2014-2022	Society for Neuroscience
2012-present	Psi Chi National Honor Society

DEPARTMENTAL & INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

Fall 2020-2022	Behavioral Neuroscience Group Seminar Series Organizer, Michigan State University
Fall 2019-Winter 2020	Provost Search Committee, Michigan State University
Fall 2017- Spring 2018	Graduate Student Leadership Council, University of Michigan Psychology Department
Summer 2017-Spring 2018	Faculty-elected Departmental Associate, Department of Psychology, University of Michigan
Winter 2016-Fall 2016	Professional Development Committee, Biopsychology Area, Department of Psychology, University of Michigan
Fall 2015-Winter 2016	Graduate Admissions Committee (Biopsychology Area), Department of Psychology, University of Michigan

OUTREACH & VOLUNTEERING

Winter 2019-2020	Girls Science & Math Outreach Program, Michigan State University
Fall 2018-2019	Girls STEM Day Outreach Program, Michigan State University
Summer 2016	Girls in Science and Engineering Summer Day Camp, Women in Science and Engineering Program, University of Michigan
Spring 2014-Spring 2018	Treasurer, M.Y.E.L.I.N Outreach Program, University of Michigan
Spring 2014-Spring 2018	BrainsRule! Outreach Program, University of Michigan

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2019	Guest Lecturer, Psychology Department, Michigan State University
2015-2018	Guest Lecturer, Psychology Department, University of Michigan
2014-2016	Graduate Student Instructor, Psychology Department, University of Michigan
2014-present	Grader, Psychology Department, University of Michigan
2012-2013	Peer Tutor, Wagner College

Courses Taught

Fall 2015-Winter 2016	PSYCH 220: Introduction to Biopsychology for Non-Majors Head Instructor: Dr. Jennifer Cummings
Winter 2015	PSYCH 303: Research Methods in Psychology Head Instructor: Dr. Joshua Rabinowitz
Fall 2014	PSYCH 111: Introduction to Psychology Head Instructor: Dr. Shelly Schreier

Guest Lectures

Winter 2019	PSYCH 493: Neuroscience of Psychopathologies, <i>“Psychopathologies: an overview”</i> and <i>“Novel insights into neurobiology of depression and anxiety disorders”</i>
Fall 2018	PSYCH 209: Brain & Behavior, <i>“Emotion, Stress, and Aggression”</i>
Winter 2017	PSYCH 230: Introduction to Biopsychology, <i>“The History of Biopsychology”</i>
Fall 2016	PSYCH 220: Introduction to Biopsychology for Non-Majors, <i>“The History of Biopsychology”</i>
Spring 2016-Winter 2017	PSYCH 430: Sex Differences in Brain, Behavior & Disease, <i>“Sex differences in addiction”</i>

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH MENTORING

2014:	Jing Liang, BP-ENDURE Visiting Student Researcher Yang Heun Han, Benjamin Greenberg, Rhea Berry, Nyelah Shah, Kelsey Wilson, Undergraduate Research Assistants
2015:	Kelsey Wilson, Breanne Reisen, Daniel Ferman, Emily George, Arthi Bharadwaj, Undergraduate Research Assistants
2016:	Breanne Reisen, Arthi Bharadwaj, Rachel Lin, Kelly Shashlo, Jacob Nasser, Undergraduate Research Assistants
2017:	Katie Furman, BP-ENDURE Visiting Student Researcher Elizabeth Swan, Kelly Shashlo, Jacob Nasser, Eden Axler, Michael Whalen, Ben Galen, Undergraduate Research Assistants
2018:	Kelly Shashlo, Undergraduate Thesis Student Elizabeth Swan, Eden Axler, Michael Whalen, Undergraduate Research Assistants
2019:	Morgen Henry, Haley Velisek, Undergraduate Research Assistants
2020:	Morgen Henry, Haley Velisek, Ricardo Peguero, Undergraduate Research Assistants
2021:	Morgen Henry, Haley Velisek, Ricardo Peguero, Timothy Stokes, Undergraduate Research Assisnts