

Torry Scott Dennis, Ph.D.

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Education

Postdoctoral Fellowship: <i>Neuroscience</i> Medical University of South Carolina	2014-2017 Charleston, SC
Doctor of Philosophy: <i>Experimental Psychology - Health & Neuroscience</i> University of Texas at Arlington Dissertation: <i>Modulation of Cocaine-Induced tVTA Activation by Estradiol.</i>	2011-2014 Arlington, TX
Master of Science: <i>Experimental Psychology - Health & Neuroscience</i> University of Texas at Arlington Thesis: <i>Conditioned Place Preference in the Male Wistar-Kyoto Rat.</i>	2008-2011 Arlington, TX
Bachelor of Science: <i>Psychology; Minors: Neuroscience, Business</i> Texas A&M University	2004-2008 College Station, TX

Professional Experience

Assistant Professor: <i>St. Mary's College of Maryland</i> St. Mary's City, MD	2017-present
Postdoctoral Research Fellow: <i>Medical University of South Carolina</i> Charleston, SC	2014-2017
Graduate Researcher: <i>Perrotti Lab, University of Texas at Arlington</i> Arlington, TX	2008-2014
Adjunct Faculty: <i>University of North Texas at Dallas</i> Dallas, TX	2013
Teaching Fellow: <i>Department of Psychology, University of Texas at Arlington</i> Arlington, TX	2008-2013
Undergraduate Research Assistant: <i>Meagher Lab, Texas A&M University</i> College Station, TX	2007-2008

Professional / Academic Honors and Awards

Office of Graduate Studies Dissertation Fellowship A competitive fellowship to enhance scholarship and provide support during the final stages of the dissertation.	2014
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APA Science Directorate's Dissertation Research Award	2013
A competitive award granted to individuals whose dissertation research reflects "excellence in scientific psychology"	
Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society	2011
Nominated by faculty as one of two students admitted annually from the Department of Psychology at the University of Texas at Arlington.	
Society for Neuroscience Travel Award	2011
An award provided by the Arlington-Ft. Worth Society for Neuroscience chapter for travel to the national Society for Neuroscience conference.	
Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Teaching Fellowship	2008-2013
A fellowship granted to STEM graduate students to receive training and gain experience in teaching at the University level.	

Teaching Experience

Advanced Topics in Neuroscience
Discussion Section
Brain and Behavior
Lecture Course
Introduction to Psychology
Lecture Course
Health Psychology
Lecture Course
Methods in Behavioral Neuroscience
Laboratory Methods Course
Physiological and Sensory Psychology
Lecture Course
Introduction to Neuroscience
Lecture Course
Biological Psychology
Lecture Course

Relevant Organizational Memberships

Faculty for Undergraduate Neuroscience (FUN)	2019-present
Organization for the Study of Sex Differences (OSSD)	2010-present
Society for Neuroscience (SfN)	2009-present

Service to the College

Neuroscience Program Coordinator: <i>St. Mary's College of Maryland</i>	2019-present
Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) Mentor: <i>St. Mary's College of Maryland</i>	2019
Alcohol Task Force Member: <i>St. Mary's College of Maryland</i>	2019
Psychology Assessment Committee Member: <i>St. Mary's College of Maryland</i>	2018-present
Faculty Lecture Series Committee Member: <i>St. Mary's College of Maryland</i>	2018-2019
Neurobiology Search Committee Member: <i>St. Mary's College of Maryland</i>	2018
Open House Volunteer: <i>Neuroscience/Psychology, St. Mary's College of Maryland</i>	2017-2019
Admitted Students Day Volunteer: <i>Neuroscience, St. Mary's College of Maryland</i>	2017-2019
IACUC Committee Member: <i>St. Mary's College of Maryland</i>	2017-present
Chair of Media and Outreach: <i>Postdoctoral Association, Med. Univ. of South Carolina</i>	2016-2017
Chair of Mentorship: <i>Postdoctoral Association, Med. Univ. of South Carolina</i>	2014-2016
"I Engage" Mentor: <i>Intellectual Engagement Mentoring Program</i>	2012

Service to the Community

Brain Bee Judge: <i>Regional Brain Bee</i>	2017-2019
Science Fair Judge: <i>Spring Ridge Middle School Brain Battle</i>	2017
Science Fair Judge: <i>St. Mary's County Science and Engineering Fair</i>	2017
Science Fair Judge: <i>Fort Worth Regional Science and Engineering Fair</i>	2012-2014

Laboratory Research Mentoring

Uzoma Uche (2008-2009)	Brocke Addison McNair Scholar (2009-2010)
Faith Newton (2010)	Christian Chance (2010-2011)
Alexandra Schiller Honors College (2011-2014)	Sarah Anderson <i>I Engage</i> Mentee (2011-2014)
Matthew Fisher (2013-2014)	Hira Hanif (2013-2014)
Stacy Brown (2008-2009)	Linda Batto (2009)
Cam Liu McNair Scholar (2009-2011)	Leasa Mabe (2010-2011)
John Perish (2011-2013)	Aspen Samuel NSF LSAMP student (2011-2014)
Aliza DeNobrega Honors College (2012-2014)	Christopher Folk (2013-2014)
Jonathon Koerber (2014-2016)	William Carson (2016)
Noah Lincoln (2018-2019)	Shale Beharie (2017-2019)
Angel Tse (2018-2019)	Joey Abramovitz (2018-2019)
Ariel Graham (2018-2019)	Hannah Madden (2018-2019)
Becca Faubion (2019)	Andrea Deleonibus (2019-2020)
Riley Tedtsen (2019-2020)	Bert Estes (2019)
Megan Rivers (2019)	Nhu Chau (2019)
Victoria Chang (2019-2020)	
Asia Dofat (2019-2020)	

Invited Talks

Frontal Mechanisms Involved in Cocaine Consumption SMCM Neuroscience Seminar	Fall 2018 St. Mary's City
The Importance of Undergraduate Mentoring in Scientific Research "I Engage" Mentoring Luncheon, University of Texas Arlington	Summer 2012 Arlington, TX
Conditioned Place Preference in the Wistar Kyoto Rat Research Progress Symposium, University of Texas at Arlington	Spring 2011 Arlington, TX
Wistar Kyoto Rat: A Model of High Anxiety Works in Progress Neuroscience Symposium, University of Texas at Arlington	Fall 2010 Arlington, TX

Peer-Reviewed Manuscripts

- Dennis, T. S.,** Beck, K. D., Cominski, T. P., Morris-Bobzean, S. A., Kuzhikandathil, E. V., Servatius, R. J., & Perrotti, L. I. (2016). Exposure to morphine-associated cues increases mu opioid receptor mRNA expression in the nucleus accumbens of Wistar Kyoto Rats. *Behavioral Brain Research*.
- Dennis, T. S.,** & Perrotti, L. I. (2015). Erasing Drug Memories Through the Disruption of Memory Reconsolidation: A Review of Glutamatergic Mechanisms. *Journal of Applied Biobehavioral Research*, 20(3), 101–129. <http://doi.org/10.1111/jabr.12031>
- Glueck, A., **Dennis, T. S.,** Perrotti, L. I., Torres, C., & Papini, M. R. (2015). Brain expression of pCREB in rats exposed to consummatory successive negative contrast. *Neuroscience Letters*, 587, 93-97. <http://doi.org/10.1016/j.neulet.2014.12.036>
- Dhakal, K. R., Gu, L., Shivalingaiah, S., **Dennis, T. S.,** Morris-Bobzean, S. A., Li, T., et al. (2014). Non-Scanning Fiber-Optic Near-Infrared Beam Led to Two-Photon Optogenetic Stimulation In-Vivo. *PLoS ONE*, 9(11), e111488. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0111488
- Morris-Bobzean, S. A., **Dennis, T. S.,** & Perrotti, L. I. (2014). Acute estradiol treatment affects the expression of cocaine-induced conditioned place preference in ovariectomized female rats. *Brain Research Bulletin*, 103, 49–53. doi:10.1016/j.brainresbull.2014.02.002
- Perrotti, L. I., **Dennis, T. S.,** Jiao, X., Servatius, R. J., Pang, K. C. H., & Beck, K. D. (2013). Activation of extracellular signal-regulated kinase (ERK) and Δ FosB in emotion-associated neural circuitry after asymptotic levels of active avoidance behavior are attained. *Brain Research Bulletin*, 98, 102–110. doi:10.1016/j.brainresbull.2013.07.004.
- Dennis, T. S.,** Beck, K. D., Bobzean, S. A. M., Dougall, A. L., & Perrotti, L. I. (2012). Assessing learned associations between conditioned cocaine reward and environmental stimuli in the Wistar Kyoto rat. *Pharmacology, Biochemistry, and Behavior*, 103(1), 76–82. doi:10.1016/j.pbb.2012.08.005
- Uhelski, M. L., Morris-Bobzean, S. A., **Dennis, T. S.,** Perrotti, L. I., & Fuchs, P. N. (2012). Evaluating underlying neuronal activity associated with escape/avoidance behavior in response to noxious stimulation in adult rats. *Brain Research*, 1433, 56–61. doi:10.1016/j.brainres.2011.11.016

Bobzean, S. A. M., **Dennis, T. S.**, Addison, B. D., & Perrotti, L. I. (2010). Influence of sex on reinstatement of cocaine-conditioned place preference. *Brain Research Bulletin*, 83(6), 331–336. doi:10.1016/j.brainresbull.2010.09.003

Selected Published Abstracts

Chau, N., **Dennis, T. S.** (Presented 2019) *Encapsulating L-DOPA in nanoparticles*. Poster presentation given at the St. Mary's Undergraduate Research Fellowship Symposium, St. Mary's City, MD.

Dennis, T. S., Jhou, T. C., McGinty, J. F. (Presented 2016) *Prelimbic cortical firing is decreased during cocaine self-administration in rats*. Poster presentation to be given at the Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA.

Dennis, T. S., Koerber, J. A., Jhou, T. C., McGinty, J. F. (Presented 2015). *Alterations in dmPFC neuronal activity during and immediately after cocaine self-administration*. Poster presentation given at the Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.

Dennis, T. S., Beck, K. D., Cominski, T. P., Morris-Bobzean, S. A., Servatius, R. J., & Perrotti, L. I. (presented 2013). *Exploring morphine reward and changes in opiate-related signaling molecules in the Wistar Kyoto rat*. Poster presentation at the Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA.

Morris-Bobzean, S. A., **Dennis, T. S.**, & Perrotti, L. I. (presented 2013). *Differential conditioned place preference in response to estradiol replacement*. Poster presentation given at the Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA.

Glueck, A., **Dennis, T. S.**, Perrotti, L. I., Torres, C., & Papini, M. R. (Presented 2013). *Brain expression of pCREB in rats exposed to incentive downshift*. Poster presentation to be given at the Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA.

Dennis, T. S., Morris-Bobzean, S. A., & Perrotti, L. I. (presented 2013). *Conditioned morphine reward in a model of anxiety vulnerability*. Poster presentation at the Southwestern Comparative Psychological Association/Southwestern Psychological Association Convention. Fort Worth, TX.

Dennis, T. S., Morris-Bobzean, S. A., Anderson, S., Servatius, R. J., Beck, K. D., & Perrotti, L. I. (presented, 2012). *Anxiety vulnerability and conditioned morphine reward: A conditioned place preference study in the WKY rat*. Poster presentation given at the Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.

Dhakal, K., Gu, L., **Dennis, T. S.**, Perrotti, L. I., & Mohanty, S. (presented 2012). *Fibre-optic two-photon optogenetic stimulation*. Poster presentation at the Seventh Brain Research Conference. Optogenetics and Pharmacogenetics in Neural Function and Dysfunction. New Orleans, LA.

Dennis, T. S., Morris-Bobzean, S. A., & Perrotti, L. I. (presented 2011). *Assessing learned associations between drug reward and environmental stimuli in the Wistar Kyoto rat*. Poster presentation given at the Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting, Washington, DC.

Morris-Bobzean, S. A., **Dennis, T. S.**, Addison, B. A., & Perrotti, L. I. (presented 2010) *Sex differences in cocaine reward*. Poster presentation at Fourth Annual meeting of The Organization for the Study of Sex Differences. Ann Arbor, MI.

Dennis, T. S., Servatius, R. J., Jiao, X., Perrotti, L. I., & Beck, K. D. (presented 2009). *Molecular basis of avoidant behavior in Sprague-Dawley and Wistar-Kyoto rats*. Poster presentation given at the Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.