Gina M. Fernandez

Department of Psychology

St. Mary’s College of Maryland

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**EDUCATION**

2014 Ph.D., Psychology, George Mason University**,** Fairfax, VA

2011 M.A., Psychology, George Mason University**,** Fairfax, VA

2008 B.S., Psychology, College of William and Mary**,** Williamsburg, VA

**PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS**

2017- Present Assistant Professor, Psychology Department, St. Mary’s College

of Maryland, St. Mary’s City, MD

2014- 2017 Postdoctoral Fellow, Psychology Department, Binghamton University, Binghamton, NY

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**St. Mary’s College of Maryland**

Psychological Statistics

Psychological Research, Writing, and Analysis

Special Topics in Biological Psychology: Animal Models of Neurodegeneration Drugs, Brain and Behavior

Physiological and Sensory Psychology

Advanced Neuroscience Seminar

**George Mason University Graduate Courses**

Graduate Laboratory Methods in Biopsychology

**George Mason University Undergraduate Courses**

Physiological Psychology

Physiological Psychology Lab

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Peer Reviewed Publications**

Landin JD, Palac M, Carter JM, Dzumaga Y, Santerre- Anderson JL, Fernandez GM,

Savage LM, Varlinskaya EI, Spear LP, Moore SD, Swartzwelder HS, Fleming RL,

Werner DF. 2019. General anesthetic exposure in adolescent rats causes

persistent maladaptions in cognitive and affective behaviors and neuroplasticity.

*Neuropharmacology, 150*, 153-163.

Fernandez GM, Savage LM. 2017. Adolescent Binge Ethanol Exposure Alters Specific

Forebrain Cholinergic Cell Populations and Leads to Selective Functional Deficits

in the Prefrontal Cortex. *Neuroscience, 361*, 129-143.

Fernandez GM, Lew BJ, Vedder LC, Savage LM. 2017. Chronic Intermittent Ethanol

Exposure Leads to Alterations in Brain-Derived Neurotrophic Factor within the

Frontal Cortex and Impaired Behavioral Flexibility in both Adolescent and Adult

Rats. *Neuroscience*, *348*, 324-34.

Fernandez GM, Stewart WN, Savage LM. 2016. Chronic Drinking During Adolescence

Predisposes the Adult Rat for Continued Heavy Drinking: Neurotrophin and

Behavioral Adaptation after Long- Term, Continuous Ethanol Exposure. *PloS*

*One, 11,* e0149987.

Ehlinger DG, Bergstrom HC, Burke JC, Fernandez GM, McDonald CG, Smith RF. 2016.

Adolescent nicotine-induced dendrite remodeling in the nucleus accumbens is rapid, persistent, and D1- dopamine receptor dependent. *Brain Structure & Function, 221,* 133-45.

Bergstrom HC, McDonald CG, Dey S, Fernandez GM, Johnson LR. 2013. A common

spatial allocation of neurons underlies fear memory consolidation and

reconsolidation in the dorsolateral amygdala. *Brain Topography, 26*, 468-78.

**Invited Presentations**

2018 Neuroscience Lecture Series St. Mary’s College of Maryland

Guest Lecture: Stress & the Science of Chillin’ St. Mary’s College of Maryland

**Web Based Publications**

Fernandez GM. 2013. Research and Career Guidance for Graduate Students.

American Psychological Association Psychological Science Agenda.

Fernandez GM. 2013. Dual Graduate Careers. American Psychological Association

Psychological Science Agenda.

Fernandez GM. 2012. How to Collaborate Effectively with Colleagues. American

Psychological Association Psychological Science Agenda.

**GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

2018 National Institute for Mentoring Early Minority Faculty in Neuroscience

2015 NIH Extramural Loan Repayment Award

2014 George Mason University Dissertation Completion Grant

2013 BBC: Translational Research in Addiction Conference Travel Award

2012 American Psychological Association Dissertation Research Award

**CONFERENCE ACTIVITY**

**Symposia Organized**

Breaking the Academic Mold: Nontraditional Career Options, American Psychological Association. 2013.

**Selected Presentations**

Mantell JT, Freedman G, Fernandez GM, Draheim AR, Williams EN, Bailey AM. 2020.

Undergraduate students’ knowledge of research methods and statistics: an integrated approach to skills and content. Council on Undergraduate Research Virtual Biennial Conference.

Bailey AM, Fernandez GM, Mantell JT. 2020. Optimizing resources: adding

undergraduate research experiences to the curriculum using existing resources. Council on Undergraduate Research Virtual Biennial Conference.

Bailey AM, Fernandez GM, Mantell JT. 2020. Optimizing resources: using what you

have to improve your curriculum. National Institute on the Teaching of Psychology.

Folts LM, Best LM, Fernandez GM. 2019. Long-term behavioral effects of nicotine and

ethanol exposure in aged rodents. Society for Neuroscience.

Bailey AM, Fernandez GM, Dennis TS, Mantell JT. 2019. SMCM Psychology

Department Year 3 Updates and Future Plans. Council for Undergraduate Research Transformation Project.

Toledo Nunes P, Fernandez GM, Hall JM, Savage LM. 2018. Binge- type alcohol

exposure during adolescence alters septohippocampal functioning as rats age. Society for Neuroscience.

Fernandez GM, Savage LM. 2017. Adolescent Binge Ethanol Exposure Alters Specific

Forebrain Cholinergic Cell Populations and Results in Cognitive Flexibility Deficits. Society for Neuroscience.

Fernandez GM, Savage LM. 2016. Lack of a Functional Hippocampal Cholinergic

Deficit Following Adolescent Chronic Ethanol Exposure. 6th Annual Aspen Brain Forum.

Fernandez GM, Lew B, Stewart WN, Savage LM. 2015. Behavioral and Neural

Consequences of Chronic versus Binge Ethanol Treatment: A Profile of Rodent Models of Adolescent and Adult Ethanol Exposure. Research Society on Alcoholism.

Fernandez GM, Ehlinger DG, Bergstrom HC, McDonald CG, Smith RF. 2014. The Role

of Context Preference on Single Trial Nicotine Conditioned Place Preference, and the Role of Dosing Context on MAPK Activation in the Ventral Striatum. Society for Neuroscience.

Fernandez GM, Bergstrom HC, McDonald CG, Smith RF. 2013. The role of innate

anxiety-like Behavior, age and MAPK signaling on one-trial nicotine conditioned place preference. Society for Neuroscience.

Fernandez GM, Brooks- Faulconer TR, Smith RF. 2012. The effect of ERK inhibition on

one-trial nicotine conditioned place preference in adolescent rats. Society of Neuroscience.

Fernandez GM, McDonald CG, Smith RF. 2011. Can individual differences in learning

predict the strength of one- trial nicotine conditioned place preference in adolescent rodents? Society for Neuroscience.

Fernandez GM, Brielmaier JM, McDonald CG, Smith RF. 2010. Chronic adolescent

nicotine exposure presents no effect on cocaine conditioned place preference induction, extinction or reinstatement. Society for Neuroscience.

Brielmaier JM, McDonald CG, Bergstrom HC, Fernandez GM, Smith RF. 2009.

Environmental novelty modulates long-term sensitization to nicotine following a single exposure in adolescence. Society for Neuroscience.

**SERVICE TO PROFESSION**

2020 Ad Hoc Reviewer: PLOS ONE

2020 Ad Hoc Reviewer: Animal Behavior and Cognition

2019- Current Council for Undergraduate Research Transformation

Team: SMCM Psychology

2019- Current Ad Hoc Reviewer: PSYCLearn Introductory Statistics

2019 Ad Hoc Reviewer: Genes, Brain and Behavior

2018- Current SMCM DeSousa-Brent Scholars Mentor

2018-2020 SMCM Psychology Lecture Series Committee

(Committee Chair 2019-2020)

2017- Current SMCM Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

(Committee Chair 2018- Current)

2017- Current Southern Maryland Brain Bee Co- Director

2011-2014 Science Student Council, Biopsychology Representative, American Psychological Association

2011-2013 Ad Hoc Reviewer, American Psychological Association Early Graduate Student Researcher Award

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

Society for Neuroscience

Faculty for Undergraduate Neuroscience