Kaetlyn Conner

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# Education

**Kent State University** August 2023 – Present

Graduate Student in Clinical Psychology Kent, OH

Advisor: Dr. Sarah Black

**Fordham University** August 2015 - May 2019

Bachelor of Science in Integrative Neuroscience New York, NY

Graduated Summa Cum Laude, GPA: 3.85

Concentration: Cognition

# Honors and Awards

**Undergraduate Student Summer Fellowship Award** 2019

American Heart Association

Project Title: The Effect of Glucose on the Modulation of Response to

Stress

**Global Undergraduate Award** 2019

Highly Commended Category in Psychology

Project Title: Glucose-Sensing Neurons in the Medial Amygdala and

their Role in Glucose Homeostasis

**Global Undergraduate Award** 2019

Highly Commended Category in History

Project Title: Charcot: The Catalyst of Freudian Psychoanalysis

**Alpha Sigma Nu Membership** 2018

Jesuit University Honors Society

**Dean’s List Award Recipient** 2016-2019

Fordham University

**Dean’s Academic Scholarship Recipient** 2018

Fordham University

# Research experience

**Assistant Research Specialist** 2022-2023

Affective Neuroscience and Developmental Psychopathology Lab

UPMC – Pittsburgh, PA

*Supervisor:* Erika Forbes, Ph.D.

*Project Titles:*

Development of Anhedonia during Adolescence (R01MH104418)

DYADS: Digital Assessment of Young Adults & Detection of

Suicidality (R01MH124900)

ADEPT: Anhedonia, Development, and Emotions: Phenotyping

and Therapeutics Study (R01MH127014)

* Assisted full-time research staff in conducting research study visit protocol
* Independently ran fMRI brain scanning with adolescents and young adults diagnosed with varying affective disorders
* Processed blood samples for phenotyping procedure and urine samples for drug screening
* Responsible for knowing and understanding multiple protocols and procedures to be able to assist with multiple studies in the lab
* Instructed participants on how to download and complete ecological momentary assessments via smartphone application
* Assisted in administering follow-up research procedures, including questionnaires

**Research Specialist** 2019-2023

Child Affect Regulation and Emotions Lab, UPMC – Pittsburgh, PA

*Supervisor:* Judith Morgan, Ph.D.

*Project Titles:*

Brain-Behavior Synchrony in Very Young Children and Their

Depressed Mothers (R01MH113777)

Neural Response in Social Circuitry in Behaviorally Inhibited

Preschool Children (Brain and Behavior Research Foundation)

* Handled all day-to-day tasks of lab and coordinated current research projects
* Administered clinical interviews using the Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-IV Axis I Disorders and Kiddie Schedule for Affective Disorders and Schizophrenia to evaluate for a range of psychiatric disorders and determine participant eligibility
* Carried out safety protocols for suicidality, child neglect, and mandated reporting (e.g. Basic Suicide Assessment Five-Step Evaluations) with study participants as appropriate
* Adhered to strict study protocol procedures while conducting in-person research visits with mothers and their 1–5-year-old children
* Collected neural activity data using Near-Infrared Spectroscopy with 1–5-year-old children and their mothers
* Utilized multiple software platforms including Noldus Observer XT and Media Recorder, ePrime, and Qualtrics in the collection of data
* Independently ran fMRI brain scanning with 5-6-year-old control subjects and individuals at risk for affective disorders
* Preprocessed and analyzed fMRI imaging data using MATLAB and SPM
* Collaborated with senior research personnel regarding study progress and clinical interview outcomes
* Recruited, screened, scheduled, and consented new research participants following IRB protocol
* Interviewed and supervised undergraduate students earning course credit during data entry, video coding, and class projects
* Entered, cleaned, and monitored data to ensure high-quality control via Excel
* Participated in Journal Club to discuss articles relevant to lab research and current literature
* Tracked and coordinated the collection of follow-up questionnaires and visits for longitudinal study
* Assisted in grant application and manuscript preparation
* Managed day-to-day operations of research lab (e.g., scheduling, ordering supplies, etc.)
* Provided referrals to behavioral health agencies and other various community resources

**Undergraduate Research Assistant** 2018-2019

The Stanley Laboratory, Icahn School of Medicine

At Mt. Sinai Hospital – New York, NY

*Supervisor:* Sarah Stanley, Ph.D.

* Created and completed independent research project for senior thesis, including data collection and analysis
* Handled and restrained laboratory mice to complete research protocols, including intraperitoneal injections and perfusion
* Utilized confocal scanning laser microscope to acquire confocal fluorescence images
* Conducted fluorescent in situ hybridization using RNAScope
* Applied for and was awarded the Undergraduate Research Grant through the American Heart Association and completed all follow up assessments needed for award
* Collaborated with senior research personnel regarding progress of independent research project
* Handled freezing, storage and slicing of brain samples using cryostat machine

**Volunteer Research Assistant** 2018-2019

The Grace Laboratory, University of Pittsburgh – Pittsburgh, PA

*Supervisor:* Anthony Grace, Ph.D.

* Observed stereotaxic surgery on laboratory rats and conducted electrophysiological protocol
* Handled laboratory rats for intraperitoneal injections
* Conducted and scored several different behavioral assays to be used in ongoing project
* Participated in biweekly lab meetings in which relevant neuroscience literature would be discussed
* Created dataset for quantification of confocal microscope images, which was handled and analyzed for ongoing project

# Publications

## Journal Publications

Morgan, J.K., Santosa, H., Fridley, R.M., **Conner, K.K.,** Hipwell, A.M., Forbes, E.E., and Huppert, T.J., “Postpartum depression is associated with altered neural connectivity between affective and mentalizing regions during mother-infant interactions,” Frontiers in Global Women’s Health, 2021.

Bayne, M., Alvarsson, A., Devarakonda, K., Li, R., Jimenez-Gonzalez, M., Garibay, D., **Conner, K**., Varghese, M., Serasinghe, M. N., Chipuk, J. E., Hof, P. R., & Stanley, S. A. (2020). Repeated hypoglycemia remodels neural inputs and disrupts mitochondrial function to blunt glucose-inhibited GHRH neuron responsiveness. *JCI insight*, *5*(21), e133488.

Morgan, J. K., Santosa, H., **Conner, K. K**., Fridley, R. M., Forbes, E. E., Iyengar, S., Joseph, H. M., & Huppert, T. J. (2023). Mother–child neural synchronization is time linked to mother–child positive affective state matching. *Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience*, *18*(1).

Morgan, J. K., **Conner, K. K**., Fridley, R. M., Olino, T. M., Grewen, K., Silk, J. S., Iyengar, S., Cyranowski, J. M., & Forbes, E. E. (2023). Adolescents’ Hormonal Responses to Social Stress and Associations with Adolescent Social Anxiety and Maternal Comfort: A Preliminary Study. *Child Psychiatry & Human Development*.

# Poster Presentations

“Role of Ventral Striatal Responses to Reward Anticipation in Socially Anxious Adolescents,” University of Pittsburgh Psychiatry Annual Research Symposium, June 9, 2022.

“Glucose-Sensing Neurons in the Medial Amygdala and their Role in Glucose Homeostasis,” Fordham University Annual Neuroscience Research Symposium, May 1, 2019.

# Professional Training

**Comprehensive Crisis Management Training [**UPMC Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic], October 2019

Description: Training to help determine risk of suicidality in patients and/or participant and teach research-supported interventions.

# Computer Skills

**Proficient in** Matlab, Statistical Parametric Mapping version 12 (SPM12), Excel, SPSS, Noldus Observer XT, Media Recorder, ePrime, Qualtrics XL Questionnaire Software, Adobe Photoshop, GraphPad Prism