Curriculum Vitae

Personal information

Michela (Micky) Marinelli
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Degrees

1997 Ph.D., Neuroscience and Pharmacology, University of Bordeaux 2, Bordeaux, France (summa cum laude)

1991 B.S. in Pharmacy, University of Rome La Sapienza, Rome, Italy (110/110 summa cum laude)

1986 International Baccalaureate, Ecole Internationale de Genève, Geneva, Switzerland/St. Stephen's School, Rome, Italy.

Academic appointments

Sept 2013-now	**The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX, USA** Research topics: neuroscience of motivated behavior
	During my time at the University of Texas at Austin, I held the following titles
Sept 2017-now	Associate Professor, Department of Neuroscience, College of Natural Sciences Affiliate or courtesy appointments in the Department of Neurology and the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences (Dell Medical School) and the Division of Pharmacology and Toxicology (College of Pharmacy).
Sept 2020-now	Graduate Advisor, Interdisciplinary Neuroscience Program
Sept 2019-May 2021	Associate Chair, Department of Neuroscience, College of Natural Science (note: I terminated this position when my husband became Chair of the department)
Oct 2013-2017	Associate Professor, Division of Pharmacology and Toxicology, College of Pharmacy
Aug 2003-July 2016	**Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science (RFUMS)** (formerly Finch University of Health Sciences), North Chicago, IL, USA Research topics: Cellular and molecular mechanisms of drug addiction
	During my time at the Rosalind Franklin University I held the following titles and maintained an adjunct title until 20215 because I continued teaching at this institution as guest lecturer
June 2010–July 2016	Adjunct Associate Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences, College of Pharmacy
July 2007-July 2013	Director of Graduate Studies in Cellular and Molecular Pharmacology
Mar 2007-Sept 2013	Associate Professor, Dept. of Cellular and Molecular Pharmacology
Aug 2003-Mar 2007	Assistant Professor, Dept. of Cellular and Molecular Pharmacology
Mar 2001 - July 2003	**Université de Bordeaux 2, Bordeaux, France** Chargé de Recherche (French equivalent of Assistant Professor). Laboratoire des comportements adaptatifs, INSERM U259 (currently U588) Research topics: Cellular and molecular mechanisms of vulnerability to drug addiction; Role of gene/environment interactions in vulnerability to drug addiction.

May 2000 - Mar 2001	**Finch University of Health Sciences, Chicago Medical School, North Chicago, IL, USA** Research Assistant Professor, Dept. of Cellular and Molecular Pharmacology Research topics: Electrophysiological correlates of vulnerability to dopamine-related disorders.

Research Interests

Rodent models of drug addiction liability with focus on impact of stress, adverse events, punishment, sex, age

Role of the lateral preoptic area in motivation

Simple and common errors in published literature

Impact and alternatives to the use of restraint and seclusion in schools and psychiatric settings

Cognitive biases that impact learning in college students

Recent Awards

2025	Pillar award from Texas Blazers (the only official student organization at UT Austin) for exemplary service to the community
2023	Rigor Champions Prize, NINDS/NIH (awarded in 2024) – Link to description
2022	Teaching Excellence Award from the College of Natural Sciences, UT Austin
2020	"Texas 10" – given to the 10 most inspiring professors at UT Austin (nominated by alumni and selected by the Alcalde magazine. These are professors that their former students, upon reflection and with the benefit of hindsight, consider having made a lasting impact on their lives). Link to description.

Teaching-related activities at UT Austin

2024	Chair of the curriculum committee for the Interdepartmental Neuroscience Program (INP). The curriculum committee had not met for numerous years. I am tasked to evaluate and improve the curriculum when it comes to topics taught, outcomes sought, methods of teaching and evaluating students, and sequencing.
2020-now	Graduate student advisor for the INP. In addition to doing standard advisory activities, I helped reorganize qualifying exams and ensured that lectures for core courses have outcomes, and I helped the 16 instructors in the course write such outcomes. I also helped increase student monitoring.
2000-now	Member of the undergraduate teaching committee. We meet weekly to discuss teaching matters, course organization, and to design the curriculum.
2022-now	Member of the committee tasked to create a solid program in quantitative neuroscience for undergraduate students.
2016-2017	Member of the "Pharmacotherapy taskforce" committee to revise the PharmD curriculum
2014-2015	Chair of Workgroup "Graduate and postdoctoral education/training" for the College's Strategic Plan

Classroom Teaching at UT Austin

Overview

2017-now	Direct and teach one 3h/week course and one 1h/week course Also teach selected lectures across diverse student bodies including undergraduate students, graduate students, students pursuing different healthcare professions, medical students, and psychiatry residents, as well as summer interns (high school students or undergraduate students).

2014-2017 Directed or co-directed one 6h/week course, two 3h/week courses, and one 4h/week course for PhD or PharmD students; additionally taught ~160 hours per year (classroom lectures/small-group exercises).

Role as guest instructor: I give one or more lectures in the course.
Role as instructor: I give one or more lectures in the course and participated in developing the curriculum for the course.

* denotes where I was director or co-director of a course or section of a course.

Undergraduate or graduate courses

2026-now **Communication skills in Neuroscience (NEU 185L)**
Topics: Key elements of talks, Information processing, Layout of talks, Infographics & concept maps, Visualizing data, Peer reviews. * Role: Course creator, director, and instructor
(1 h/week, to PhD students in the interdisciplinary Neuroscience Program)

2024-now **LEADER, Undergraduate Research Program**
Topic: Literature analysis. Role: Guest instructor
(1-2 h/yr, to Undergraduate students in the LEADER research program)

2021-now **Principles of Neuroscience II (NEU 382T)**
Topic: Neuropeptides and neuromodulation. Role: Guest instructor
(~1.5 h/year to PhD students in the interdisciplinary Neuroscience Program)

2020-now **Responsible conduct of science (NEU 185 and PGS 185)**
Topic: Data management, and case studies. Role: Guest instructor
(~1 h/year to PhD students from various Colleges)

2019-now **Analytical skepticism (NEU 367S and NEU 385L)**
Topics: Seeing, quantifying, and presenting data, Cognitive illusions, Scientific bias, Approaches to testing a hypothesis (experimental design), Assessing probabilities, Quantifying-analyzing data, Normalizing data.
Link to description of the course presentation at CSICon (~15 min) or presentation at C4R (watch first 10 min). * Role: Course creator, director, and instructor
(4 h/week – 3h lecture and 1h discussion – to Undergraduate students mostly in the Neuroscience program and some PhD students in the Interdisciplinary Neuroscience program)

2020 **Career development for neuroscientists (NEU 394P)**
Topic: the academic system: who's hired? Role: Guest instructor
(1.5 h/year to PhD students and senior Undergraduate students from various Colleges)

2018 **Neural systems II (NEU 335)**
Topic: Drug addiction. Role: Guest instructor
(2 h/yr to Undergraduate students in the Neuroscience program)

2014-2023 **Young people and drugs (UGS 302 & UGS 303)**
Topics: Animal models of addiction, factors that enhance vulnerability to addiction. Role: Guest instructor
(~3 h/yr to first year Undergraduate students from various Colleges)

2014-2020 **Neurobiology of addiction (NEU 365W)**
Topics: Psychostimulants, and (from 2019) animal models of addiction and principles in pharmacology.
Role: Instructor
(~3-6 h/yr, to Undergraduate students from various Colleges)

2016-2017 **Principles in Neuroscience (NEU 482T)**
Topic: Neuropharmacology (pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics). Role: Guest instructor
(~2 h/yr, to PhD students from the Institute for Neuroscience)

2015-2016 **Principles in Neuroscience (NEU 482T)**
Topic: Grant writing. Role: Guest instructor
(~8 h/yr, to PhD students from the Institute for Neuroscience)

2014-2017 **Pharmacological mechanisms of addiction (PGS 388K & NEU 385L)**
Topics: Animal models, Sedatives, Alcohol, Psychostimulants, Inhalants and solvents, Cannabinoids, Nicotine, Opioids, Hallucinogens, Genetics & Genomics, Medications and treatment, Hot topics
* Role: Course co-director (with Dr. R.O. Messing) and instructor
(~3 h/week to PhD students from the Pharmacology and Toxicology, Institute for Neuroscience, or Institute for Cellular and Molecular Biology Program)

2014-2017 **Principles in Experimental Design & Biostatistics (PGS 388K, PGS 380S)**
Topics: Cognitive biases, Experimental design theory and practice, Why we need statistics, Describing & presenting data (written, graph, oral), Introduction to statistics (focus on ANOVA, Chi Square, Confidence intervals, Pearson and Spearman Correlations, Power analysis), Normalizing data theory and practice, Brief notions on Multivariate analysis. * Role: Course creator, director, and instructor
(~3 h/week to PhD students from the Pharmacology and Toxicology, Biomedical Engineering, and Institute for Neuroscience)

2013-2016 **Oral and Written Communication for Scientists (PGS 478Q)**
Topics: Scientific manuscripts (abstract, introduction, methods, results, discussion), Oral presentations (style and content) for lay or scientific audiences * Role: Course co-director and instructor
(4 h/week to PhD and MS students from different programs).

Upper-division courses to professional schools (College of Pharmacy, Dell Medical School)

2026-now **Neuroscience for psychiatrists**
Topic: Hormones. Role: Instructor
(~2 h/year, to 1st year Psychiatry residents)

2020-2022 **PGY1 Adult Psychiatry Curriculum**
Topic: Basics of evidence. Role: Course creator and instructor
(~2-4 h/year, to 1st year Psychiatry residents)

2020-2022 **Innovation, Leadership, and Discovery, Research Distinction Track (MS3 ILD)**
Topic: Research design. Role: Creator of this section and instructor
(~2-6 h/yr, 3rd year Medical student)

2021 **Addiction Psychiatry Fellowship**
Topic: Neurobiology of addiction; Role: Coordinator and instructor for section "neurobiology of addiction"
(~6-8h/yr to Psychiatry residents)

2016-2019 **Physiology, Pathophysiology, and Drug Targets (PHM 480C)**
Topics: Seizures, Parkinson's Disease, dementias, schizophrenia, addiction, anxiety, major depressive disorder, bipolar disorder, compare and contrast disorders, case studies. Role: Instructor
(7 h/yr to PharmD students from the College of Pharmacy)

2017 **Foundations for Inter-Professional Collaborative Practice (S2017 IPE)**
Topics: Small-group collaborative exercises on Motivational interviewing, Addiction care, Error disclosure, Palliative care, applying TeamSTEPPS to transitions of care, Inter-professional collaborative practice. Role: Guest instructor
(~18 h/yr, to Medical, PharmD, Nursing, and Social Work students)

2016 **Pharmacotherapeutics III (PHM 685F)**
Topics: Surgical & pain, psychiatry, neurology, oncology.
* Role: Course director for 14 faculty across 4 UT sites (no lecturing)
(6h/week; to PharmD students across 4 UT sites: Austin, El Paso, San Antonio, Rio Grande Valley)

Community Teaching at UT Austin or local schools (selected topics)

2024-now	Presentation and discussion with undergraduate students on "why and how to apply to graduate school".
2018-now	Coordinated the learning experiences or taught summer interns from "Women in Neuroscience" or local high schools during their summer internships and provided various lectures and training opportunities. The foundation helps women, minority and economically disadvantaged students, to pursue studies and careers in neuroscience. My role included coordinating and giving lectures, training, and discussions on research skills, data management, and career choices. It also included weekly reflections, lunch meetings, and discussions to ensure student progress and expectations were being met (duration of commitment varies across years, from minimum of ~2h to maximum of ~40h)
2024	Dean's scholars' lunch, with Dean's scholars to discuss my career history and research
2024	Meeting to discuss "my career history, and some of my research" to students in the Synapse organization
2021-2023	Lectured with live "online" demonstrations on animal models of addiction to high school students in the UT Summer Discovery Neuroscience course
2021	Provided a "writing workshop" for junior faculty, postdocs, and graduate students covering: information processing, manners to describe data, and structure of a paper (sentences, paragraphs, overall)
2018-2019	"Science" – course for summer interns from different UT Austin programs (high school, undergraduate, minority fellowships, etc...). The course introduced students to the scientific method, scientific bias, reading, interpreting, and presenting data, and data management. (6 h/week for 6 weeks in 2018; ~10 h total in 2019)
2020	Hosted a section for the bootcamp for Graduate students in the Interdisciplinary Neuroscience Program, on "perils in science", for students in the interdisciplinary neuroscience graduate program
2018, 2019	Hosted a section for the bootcamp for Graduate students in the Interdisciplinary Neuroscience Program, on "behavioral neuroscience", for students in the interdisciplinary neuroscience graduate program

Classroom Teaching at Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science

Chicago Medical School

2003-2015 **Foundations of medical pharmacology (MCMP 600A)**
Topics: Basic principles in pharmacology, pharmacokinetics, clinical applications of pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics. Role: Instructor
(7 h/yr, to 2nd year Medical students)
Note: I traveled from Austin to Chicago to teach this course in 2014 and 2015

2006-2013 **Cognitive Processing-Based Review for USMLE Step 1**
Topics: Pharmacokinetics, clinical applications of pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics
Role: Guest instructor
(3 h/yr, to Medical students who have not passed USMLE step 1, from various Universities in the USA)

2003-2012 **Medical pharmacology (MCMP 600A-C)**
Topics: Small group problem-solving exercises on medications used to treat: Parkinson's, hypertension, cancer, asthma, diabetes, psychopharmacology. Role: Instructor
(~8-12 h/yr, to 2nd year Medical students)

College of Health Professions and College of Pharmacy

2012-2014 **Basic pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics (YPHS 600)**
Topics: Drug absorption and pharmacodynamics. Role: Guest instructor

(2h/yr, to 2nd year PharmD students in the College of Pharmacy).
Note: I traveled from Austin to Chicago to teach this course in 2014

2012-2013 **Intro Clinical Med for Physician Assistants (HPAS 538)**
Topic: Pharmacokinetics. Role: Guest instructor
(2 h/yr, to 2nd year students in the Physician Assistant program)

1999-2001 & 2003-2004 **Pharmacotherapy (HPAS 601)**
Topics: Physiology of blood pressure regulation, antihypertensive drugs and diuretics
Role: Guest instructor
(6 h/yr, to 2nd year students in the Physician Assistant program)

School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

2011-2013 **Principles in Experimental Design & Biostatistics (GIGP 514)**
Topics: Cognitive biases, The scientific method, Basic statistical principles, Presenting data
* Role: Course creator, director, and instructor
(~25-30 h/yr, to PhD students in the IGPBS program)

2009-2013 **Research skills beyond the bench (GCMP608)**
Topics: Scientific meetings, manuscripts, grants, research administrative duties.
* Role: Course creator, director, and instructor
(~20-30 h/yr, to PhD students from various departments)

2007-2013 **MCB II Molecular and Cellular Biology II (GIGP 502)**
Topics: Principles of biomolecular action. Role: Instructor
(~9 h/yr, to PhD students from the IGPBS program)

2005-2013 **Neuropharmacology I & II (GCMP 601 & GCMP 602)**
Topics: Basic principles in pharmacology, techniques in neuropharmacology, experimental design
Role: Instructor
(~10 h/yr, to PhD students from various departments)

2006, 2012 Ethics in biomedical research (CGS 724)
Topics: scientific fraud, record-keeping, authorship. Role: Discussant
(~2 h/yr, to PhD students from various programs)

2005-2006 **Brain frontiers: Advanced topics in neuroscience research (MTD 710)**
Topics: Addiction, brain and behavior. Role: Gust instructor
(6 h/yr, to PhD students from the Neuroscience Interdepartmental Program)

2004-2006 **Journal Club series, Dept. Cellular & Molecular Pharmacology**
* Role: course director

Guest lectures and additional teaching

9 Mar 2005 **Plasticity and regeneration (ANAT 521)**
University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL. Role: Guest instructor (Course director: Dr. J.R. Unnerstall)
Topic: Neuroadaptations of the dopamine system that may increase vulnerability to addiction.
(1 h, to PhD students from the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology)

15 Mar 2004 **Medical sciences (M5330)**
The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI Role: Guest instructor (Course director: Dr. T.E. Robinson)
Topic: Approaching addiction mechanisms through dopamine cell excitability
(1hr, to PhD students from the Neuroscience program)

2002-2003 **"Ppréparation à l'agrégation en sciences de la vie et de la Terre"**
Program for France's highly selective national teaching exam (agrégation) in life and earth sciences.
University of Bordeaux 1, Talence, France
Topics: Theories of drug dependence, mechanisms of drug action. R
Role: Instructor (Course director: Prof. J.M Cabelguen)
(6 h/yr, to students of the "preparation à l'aggregation")

Nov 2001 **The use of electrophysiology in neuroscience research.**
University of Bordeaux 2, Bordeaux, France
* Role: Course creator and instructor
(1.5 h/yr, to PhD students from the neuroscience and pharmacology program).

Dec 2000 **Statistics and data analysis**
University of Bordeaux 2, Bordeaux, France
* Role: Course creator and instructor
(2.5 h/yr, to PhD students from the neuroscience and pharmacology program).

Student Mentoring and Development (since my time at UT Austin)

Commmitment to mentorship

2025: Certification from CIMER (Center for the Improvement of Mentored Experiences in Research, in academia).

Thesis

Mentored or co-mentored 6 students who earned their Master's or PhD degree in my lab, and 2 post-docs.
Served on 12 PhD student committees and 13 qualifying exam committees.
Students were in the following programs: Interdepartmental Neuroscience Program (INP), or Psychology.

Rotations

Mentored 11 PhD or PharmD students performing rotations in my lab
7 PhD students from the Interdepartmental Program in Neuroscience (INP),
2 PhD and 2 PharmD students from the Division of Pharmacology and Toxicology

Student research assistants

Mentored the following number of students in my lab for undergraduate research assistant positions, or internships

20	BS or BSA	Neuroscience	1	BSA or BSA	Psychology
4	BS or BSA	Human Biology	1	BSA or BSA	Public Health
1	BS or BSA	Biochemistry	2	MD	Dell Med, Texas Tech
1	BS or BSA	Chemistry	9	NA	Summer internship

Talks

I have given 100 talks at international meetings, national meetings, or Universities. Selected talks are listed below

Invited talks or activities specifically about my teaching abilities

I have been invited to share my teaching practices and strategies through several national forums.

2025 "Creating and teaching scientific rigor courses". C4R25 Community for rigor 2025 conference, Philadelphia, PA. Link to the 10-min presentation (with additional 20 min of discussion) (link also provide in list of courses taught).

2025 "Teaching Scientific Rigor" NIH/NINDS showcase of programs and activities (online webinar).
This webinar featured some recipients of the NIH/NINDS Rigor Champions Prize. I was invited to present my teaching of scientific rigor through the course Analytical Skepticism. Link to the 10-min presentation (see min 45-55 for my portion) (link also provide in list of courses taught).

2024 "Designing Engaging Pharmacology Courses Using Videos." JoVE (online webinar).
I was honored to be asked to serve as an expert teacher, demonstrating innovative strategies for creating engaging content in pharmacology education.

2023 "Analytical Skepticism in the Classroom." CISCon (Conference for the Center for Scientific Inquiry), Las Vegas, NV. I was one of six individuals selected to present at this international conference, where I delivered a talk showcasing the design and impact of the course Analytical Skepticism. The presentation highlighted how the course equips students to think critically about science. Link to the ~15 min presentation.

2017 I was hired by the newly appointed Dean of the College of Pharmacy at the University of Binghamton to train an Assistant Professor in teaching pharmacology, for topics of pharmacokinetics, clinical applications, and pharmacodynamics. Having previously observed my teaching, the Dean specifically selected me to ensure excellence in this training.

Invited talks or activities reflecting my expertise in presenting information

These talks were not strictly about teaching, but reflect that organizers sought me out for my expertise in presenting information and developing programs that support diversity in research.

2025 "How the brain deceives itself: bias, error, & the illusion of objectivity". Neurology Grand Rounds, UT Austin Link to the ~45 min presentation

2025 "The illusions of objectivity in science", Graduate student distinguished lecture. Dept. of Pharmacology, Toxicology & Neuroscience, Louisiana State University, Shreveport, LA.

2024 "Cognitive Biases and Common Errors Impacting Research." Required workshop for the Responsible Conduct of Research for NIH/NSF-funded researchers, UT Austin.

2021 Four public talks to the lay public on the same theme: "The Fooled Brain: How We Are Easily Misled When Processing Data and Making Decisions," presented in Austin TX in these venues:
- UT Tower Fellows
- Metropolitan breakfast club
- Osher Lifelong Learning Institute - Learning Activities for Mature People (OLLI-LAMP)
- UT Brainstorms, "Texas science festival". Link to the ~45 min presentation (~2300 views) and link to interview.

2021 Public talk on "Opportunity Through Discovery" – a discussion on the WiN program, to provide research opportunities to women of underrepresented minorities." (OLLI-LAMP)

2019 Public talk on "Analytical Skepticism", aimed at helping the lay public critically evaluate scientific news (OLLI-LAMP)

Selected talks about my research

I have given talks at international meetings, national meetings, or Universities, mostly about my research on drug addiction. Selected talks are listed below. Those for the lay public are labeled as "(Lay)".

2024-10-16 "What is the Role of the Lateral Preoptic Area in Reward?" Dept. Anatomy & Cell Biology, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL. Host: A. Miguelez Fernandez

2022-05-22 "Effects of methylphenidate and methylphenidate plus fluoxetine on cocaine self-administration and reinstatement of cocaine seeking behavior". Dopamine 2022 meeting, Montreal, Canada.
Panel organizer: H. Steiner. Panel title: "SSRI antidepressants potentiate effects of psychostimulants on forebrain circuits and behavioral markers for addiction liability".

2019-03-07 (Lay) "The craving brain". Parent Enrichment Program, St. Andrew's Episcopal School (presentation to parents of high school students), Austin, TX. Host: L. Duchon

2018-10-17 "Factors and pathways that lead to addiction". Behavioral Neuroscience Seminar Series, Department of Psychology, UT Austin, Austin, TX. Host: M. Monfils

2018-10-08 "Factors and pathways that lead to addiction". ICHAN School of Medicine, New York, NY. Host: P. Kenny

2018-09-29 (Lay) "The craving brain: a conversation about vulnerability to drug addiction". UT Brainstorms (presentation to the Austin public), Austin, TX. Link to the ~45 min presentation (~3000 views)

2018-08-31 "Factors and pathways that enhance addiction liability". Cognition and Neuroscience Program, The University of Texas at Dallas, TX. Host: C. McIntyre

2018-05-15 "Towards Solving the Problem of Substance Misuse and Addiction among Youth and Emerging Adults", Pop-up institute Summit, Austin, TX. Presenter/discussant in the panel "Wellness of campus and beyond".

2018-05-04 "Factors that influence vulnerability to addiction". Plenary talk for the 16th annual retreat of the Center for Biomedical Neuroscience, San Antonio, TX.

2018-04-25 "Towards Solving the Problem of Substance Misuse and Addiction among Youth and Emerging Adults", Coffee talks, Pop-up institute Austin, TX. "Adolescence, stress, and punishment: how these factors impact the risk for addiction". Link to the ~20 min presentation

2018-04-02 (Lay) "The Neurobiology of Drug Addiction/Revising our Current Thinking of Addiction". YSAPC (Travis County Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition), bi-monthly meeting, Austin, TX. Hosts: M Muñoz and S. Rainbolt

2018-02-28 (Lay) "Understanding rats and the neurological bases of addiction". CSR (Center for Students in Recovery), SOAR (Seminar on Addiction Research), Austin, TX. Host: J. Harris

2018-02-20 (Lay) "Revising our current thinking about addiction". OLLI-LAMP (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute - Learning Activities for Mature People) lecture series, Austin, TX. Host: W. Whitney

2018-02-09 "Biological factors that determine diversity and vulnerability to drug use and relapse: science-based studies in rodents". TRSA (Texas Research Society on Alcoholism). 28th Annual Meeting, Austin, TX. Panel organizers: M. Marinelli and L. Holleran Steiker. Panel title: "A Bio-Psycho-Social-Spiritual model: Interdisciplinary, evidence-based perspectives on substance use disorders and related risk among youth and emerging adults"

Service

Service to the scientific community

2023-now Board member for "Women in Neuroscience". The foundation helps first-time college students, or students who faced adversities (both male and female) to pursue studies and careers in neuroscience.

2022-now Member of the PAIMI council in Texas (PAIMI: Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness). Under the PAIMI program, protection and advocacy agencies like Disability Rights Texas are authorized to investigate abuse and neglect and rights violations in all public and private facilities and community settings, including hospitals, nursing facilities and group homes – and to oversee the effectiveness of state agencies that license and regulate these programs.

2015-2021 Member of the board of Scientific Counselors for the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA)/NIH

- Served on 30 grant review sessions for: NIH, Texas Education Agency, Department of Defense, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, Neurological Foundation of New Zealand, and University-sponsored grants.
- Associate editor for Frontiers in Neuroscience (current), and European Journal of Neuroscience (past).
- Reviewer of 5-24 manuscripts per year, according to the year, for different peer-reviewed scientific journals including Biological Psychiatry, European Journal of Neuroscience, Frontiers in Addiction Research, JAMA network, Neuropsychopharmacology, Neuron, Neuroscience, Neuroscience & Biobehavioral Reviews, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Psychopharmacology, Synapse, Journal of Neurophysiology, Journal of Neuroscience.

Service to societies or organizations

2017-2023	Councilor, European Behavioural Pharmacology Society (EBPS)
2013-2020	Monthly participant in "Austin Humanists at Work", providing needed goods to persons experiencing homelessness in the Austin community (set up tables and assembly line serving our patrons, organized distribution of goods and food, interacted with patrons)
2006-2008	Secretary of the Chicago Chapter of the Society for Neuroscience (SfN).
2005-2007	Organizer, with Dr. Celeste T. Napier, of "Chicago Dopamine & Friends", designed to promote interactions amongst Chicago-land scientists who are interested on the topic of "dopamine".
2004-2006	Councilor for the Great Lakes Chapter of the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET).
2006	Chair of the Psychopharmacology Social, Society for Neuroscience meeting, Atlanta, GA

Service to UT Austin (selected items only)

University or College-level

2024-now	Member of the teaching awards committee for the College of Natural Sciences and for the Department of Neuroscience
2022-now	Member of the Departmental Academics Affairs Committee for the Department of Neurology
2014-2017	Member of the Financial Aid Committee for the College of Pharmacy
2015-2017	Member of the Academic Support Committee for the College of Pharmacy
2014-2015	Chair of Workgroup "Graduate and postdoctoral education/training" for the College of Pharmacy's Strategic Plan

Department-level

2018-2023	Reviewer of annual Faculty Annual Report "FAR" for Neuroscience (member of committee 2018-2023 & chair of committee 2019, 2020, 2022, 2023)
2019-now	Member (2019-now) or chair (2022, 2023) of committees for 6-year review and mid-term probationary review for different faculty members for the Department of Neuroscience
2020-2023	Member of search committees for 5 tenure-track and 2 lab-teaching faculty
2015-2017	Member of the Graduate Studies Admissions Committee (Pharmacology & Toxicology, College of Pharmacy)

Funding: Grants (since my time at UT Austin)

Active

2026	Minnesota Disability Law Center research grant " The Effects of School Seclusion on Children with Disabilities", $25,000 direct costs. Role: Co-PI (07-01-2026-12-31-2026),
2025-2027	NIH/NIDA (R03DA062825) "Age and sex-differences in reward responding after punishment", $100,000 direct costs. Role: PI (07/01/2025-06/30/2027).

Completed

2017-2025	NIH/NIDA (R01DA042206) "The lateral preoptic area: a novel regulator of VTA activity and cocaine seeking", $1,187,500 direct costs. Role: PI (08/01/2017-07/31/2022 no cost extension to 07/31/2025)
2018-2023	DoD (PR171296) "Protein Kinase C Epsilon Inhibitors to Treat Pain", $1,104,861 direct costs. Role: Co-I (PI: R.O. Messing and J. Levine), (08/09/2018-08/31/2021, no cost extension 08/21/2023)

2017-2020 NIH/NIDA (R03 DA044562) “Crossing an electric barrier to obtain cocaine: age and sex difference”, $100,000 direct costs. Role: PI (08/15/2018-07/31/2019, no cost extension to 07/31/2020)

2014-2017 NIH/NIDA (1R01 DA036978) “Cellular basis of nicotine-induced aversion”, $420,000 direct costs. Role: Co-I (PI: D.S. McGehee) (04/01/14 - 03/31/19, my portion until 03/31/17)

2012-2016 NIH/NIDA (R21DA031916) “Risk of cocaine addiction after methylphenidate plus SSRI combination treatment”, $275,000 direct costs. Role: PI (05/01/12 - 04/30/14, no cost extension 04/30/16)

2011-2014 NIH/NIDA (1R21 DA031577) “Afferents modulating VTA activity and their plasticity after self-administration”, $250,000 direct costs. Role: PI (06/01/11 - 05/31/13, no cost extension 05/31/14)

Publications

Peer-reviewed publications

Google Scholar h-index: 44 and cited 10,000 times (Google Scholar). Relative Citation Ratio: 3.09 (cited 3x more than average scholar in my field). In the list below, (n) = times cited (as of May 2026, from Web of Science).

1. Catalani A, Marinelli M, Scaccianoce S, Nicolai R, Muscolo LAA, Korànyi L, Piazza PV, Angelucci L. Progeny of mothers drinking corticosterone during lactation has lower stress-induced corticosterone secretion and better cognitive performance. Brain Res (1993) 624:209-215. (117)
2. Marinelli M, Piazza PV, Deroche V, Maccari S, Le Moal M, Simon H. Corticosterone circadian secretion differentially facilitates dopamine-mediated psychomotor effect of cocaine and morphine. J Neurosci (1994) 14:2724-2731. (116)
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Presented research in poster-form 111 times at national and international meetings (list available upon request).