

Steven Joseph Nieto

University of Houston

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Developmental Behavioral Neuroscience Laboratory

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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Psychology Current
Integrative Program in Developmental, Cognitive, and Behavioral Neuroscience
University of Houston, Houston, TX
Dissertation: Behavioral and Epigenetic Consequences of Paternal Alcohol Exposure
- M.A. Psychology 2017
Integrative Program in Developmental, Cognitive, and Behavioral Neuroscience
University of Houston, Houston, TX
Thesis: Sex-dependent Effects of Naltrexone on Operant Alcohol Self-administration and Hypothalamic-Pituitary-Adrenal Axis Activity in Rats
- B.A. Biological Psychology 2014
California State University, San Bernardino, CA
Senior Honors Thesis: Fluoxetine exposure during adolescence increases preference for cocaine in adulthood

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

- Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Psychology 2014-
University of Houston, Houston, TX
Developmental Behavioral Neuroscience Laboratory
Faculty Advisors: Drs. Therese Kosten and Richard Meisch
Research Area: Current projects include: (1) Examining the intergenerational effects of paternal alcohol exposure on offspring behavior in rats; (2) Assessing the efficacy of naltrexone on appetitive and consummatory behaviors for alcohol in female rodents; and (3) Delineating the role of the immune receptor toll like receptor 4 (Tlr4) in an animal model of post-traumatic stress disorder.
- Undergraduate Research Assistant, Department of Psychology 2012-2014
California State University, San Bernardino, CA
Behavioral Neuroscience Laboratory
Faculty Supervisors: Drs. Sergio D. Iñiguez and Cynthia Crawford
Research Area: Projects examined the long-term effects of adolescent exposure to antidepressants and chronic social defeat stress on sensitivity to reward in mice.
- Research Fellow, Center for Translational and Basic Research 2013
City University of New York, Hunter College, NY
Neuropharmacology Laboratory
Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Peter Serrano
Research Area: Projects examined the extent of methamphetamine-induced neurodegeneration within the various sub regions of the rat hippocampus and substantia nigra, as well as Protein Kinase M zeta functioning following a bolus dose of methamphetamine.

HONORS, AWARDS, & FELLOWSHIPS

- NIH/NIAAA, Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award
Predoctoral Individual Fellowship (PI: Nieto; F31AA026495), University of Houston 2017-2020
- Behavior, Biology, & Chemistry: Translation Research in Addiction Poster Award 2017
- International Society of Developmental Psychobiology Travel Award 2016
- International Behavioral Neuroscience Society Travel Award 2016
- College on Problems of Drug Dependence Primm-Singleton Travel Award 2016
- Behavior, Biology, and Chemistry Addiction Conference Travel Award 2014
- California State University Statewide Student Research Competition
1st Place Winner in Behavioral and Social Sciences 2014
- NIH/NIDA Diversity in Drug Abuse Research Program (DIDARP) Scholar 2013-2014
- Leadership Alliance Summer Fellow (Hunter College, NYC) 2013

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Fellow, University of Houston, Houston, TX Introduction to Psychological Statistics-PSYCH 3301	2018
Physiological Psychology-PSYCH 3341	2016-2017
Teaching Assistant, University of Houston, Houston, TX Physiological Psychology-PSYCH 3341	2015-2017
Introduction to Methods in Psychology-PSYCH 2301	2014
Child Development-PSYC 2350	2014

SERVICE/COMMITTEES***Department***

Member, DCBN Seminar Planning Committee 2015-

Community

Voting member, Health and Safety Committee, Los Angeles Neighborhood Council 2018-
Voting member, Outreach Committee, Los Angeles Neighborhood Council 2018-

GRANT SUPPORT

F31AA026495 Nieto (PI) 9/7/2017 - 8/6/2020
NIAAA
Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award
Functional and Epigenetic Consequences of Paternal Alcohol Exposure
This study uses animal models to examine the effects of preconceptual paternal alcohol exposure on unconditioned behavioral responses to alcohol and operant alcohol self-administration in male and female offspring. An additional goal of this project is to identify changes in global and gene-specific DNA methylation levels that are transmitted by alcohol-dependent fathers to subsequent generations.
Role: PI / Predoctoral Research Fellow

PUBLICATIONS***Peer-Reviewed Publications***

1. **Nieto S.J.**, Quave C.B., Kosten T.A. (2018) Naltrexone alters alcohol self-administration behaviors and hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis activity in a sex-dependent manner. *Pharmacology, Biochemistry, and Behavior*, 167, 50-59.
2. **Nieto S.J.**, Kosten T.A. (2017). Female Sprague-Dawley rats display greater appetitive and consummatory responses to alcohol. *Behavioural Brain Research*, 327, 155-161.
3. Iñiguez S.D., Aubry A., Riggs L.M., Alipio J.B., Zanca R.M., Flores-Ramirez F.J., Hernandez M.A., **Nieto S.J.**, Musheyev D., Serrano P.A. (2016). Social defeat stress induces depression-like behavior and alters spine morphology in the hippocampus of adolescent male C57BL/6 mice. *Neurobiology of Stress*, 5, 54-64.
4. **Nieto S.J.**, Patriquin M., Nielsen D.A., Kosten T.A. (2016). Don't worry; be informed about the epigenetics of anxiety. *Pharmacology, Biochemistry, and Behavior*, 146, 60-72.
5. Iñiguez, S.D., Riggs L.M., **Nieto S.J.**, Wright K.N., Zamora N.N., Cruz B., Zavala A.R., Robison A., Mazei-Robison M.S. (2015). Fluoxetine exposure during adolescence increases preference for cocaine in adulthood. *Scientific Reports*, 5:15009.
6. Iñiguez S.D., Riggs L.M., **Nieto S.J.**, Dayrit G., Zamora N.N., Shawhan, K.L., Warren, B.L. (2014). Social Defeat Stress Induces a Depression-like Phenotype in Adolescent Mice. *Stress*, 17(3), 247-55.
7. Iñiguez S.D., Alcantara L.F., Warren B.L., Riggs L.M., Parise E.M., Vialou V., Wright K.N., Dayrit G., **Nieto S.J.**, Wilkinson M.B., Lobo M.K., Neve R.L., Nestler E.J., Bolaños-Guzmán C.A. (2014). Fluoxetine exposure during adolescence alters responses to aversive stimuli in adulthood. *The Journal of Neuroscience*, 34(3), 1007-1021.

In Preparation

1. **Nieto S.J.**, Meisch R.A., Kosten T.A. Paternal alcohol exposure decreases acquisition of operant alcohol self-administration in offspring.
2. Haile, C.N., **Nieto S.J.**, Kosten T.A. Predator odor stress enhances alcohol self-administration in female rats.
3. Forouzan S., **Nieto S.J.**, Kosten T.A. Persistence of operant responding after prior cocaine exposure in Fischer 344, but not Lewis rats.

SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

1. **Nieto S.J.**, Quave, C., Kosten T.A. (June, 2018). *Paternal Preconception alcohol exposure confers a protective effect on operant alcohol self-administration in offspring*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Research Society on Alcoholism, San Diego, CA.
2. **Nieto S.J.**, Quave, C., Kosten T.A. (June, 2018). *Paternal alcohol exposure reduces operant alcohol self-administration in adult male and female offspring*. Oral presentation at the College on Problems of Drug Dependence annual meeting, San Diego, CA.
3. **Nieto S.J.**, Quave, C., Kosten T.A. (November, 2017). *Toll-like receptor 4 (TLR4) activation alters anxiety-like behavior in an animal model of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)*. Poster presented at the Society for Neuroscience annual meeting, Washington D.C., MD.

4. **Nieto S.J.**, Winoske K.J., Kosten T.A. (March, 2017). *Naltrexone reduces appetitive and consummatory responses to alcohol in a sex-dependent manner in rats*. Poster presented at the 9th annual Behavior, Biology, and Chemistry conference, San Antonio, TX.
5. **Nieto S.J.**, Nielsen D.A., Kosten T.A. (November, 2016). *Paternal alcohol exposure alters the behavior of adult male and female offspring*. Poster presented at the 49th annual scientific meeting of the International Society for Developmental Psychobiology (ISDP), San Diego, CA.
6. **Nieto S.J.**, Winoske K.J., Kosten T.A. (June, 2016). *Sex differences in the effects of naltrexone on appetitive and consummatory responses to ethanol in adult rats*. Poster presented at the 39th annual scientific meeting of the Research Society on Alcoholism, New Orleans, LA.
7. **Nieto S.J.**, Winoske K.J., Kosten T.A. (June, 2016). *Naltrexone alters appetitive and consummatory responses to alcohol in a sex-dependent manner in rats*. Oral presentation at the International Behavioral Neuroscience Society (IBNS) annual meeting, Budapest, Hungary.
8. **Nieto S.J.**, Kosten T.A. (June, 2015). *Paternal alcohol exposure alters the behavior of adult male and female offspring*. Poster presented at the 38th annual scientific meeting of the Research Society on Alcoholism, San Antonio, TX.
9. **Nieto S.J.**, Musheyev D., Dayrit G., Aubry T., Avila J., Iñiguez S.D., Serrano P.A. (November, 2014). *Social defeat stress decreases clustering of synaptic markers and alters spine morphology in the hippocampus of adolescent c57BL/6 mice*. Poster presented at the Society for Neuroscience annual meeting, Washington D.C., MD.
10. **Nieto S.J.**, Riggs L.M., Zamora N.N., Zavala A.R., Iñiguez S.D. (June, 2014). *Exposure to Prozac during adolescence increases sensitivity to the rewarding effects of cocaine in adulthood*. Poster presented at the College on Problems of Drug Dependence 76th Annual Meeting (CPDD), San Juan, Puerto Rico.
11. **Nieto S.J.**, Riggs L.M., Dayrit G., Shawhan K.L., Cruz B., Warren B.L., Iñiguez S.D. (June, 2014). *Ketamine prevents the development of avoidance behavior after social defeat stress in adolescent male mice*. Poster presented at the International Behavioral Neuroscience Society (IBNS), Las Vegas, NV.
12. **Nieto S.J.**, Riggs L.M., Cruz B., Shawhan K.L., Zavala A., Iñiguez S.D. (March, 2014). *Adult male mice pretreated with fluoxetine during adolescence exhibit an enhanced behavioral response to cocaine*. Poster presented at Behavior, Biology, and Chemistry: Translational Research in Addiction, San Antonio, TX.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Society for Neuroscience
- Research Society on Alcoholism
- College on Problems of Drug Dependence
- International Behavioral Neuroscience Society
- International Society for Developmental Psychobiology

REFERENCES

Therese A. Kosten, Ph.D.
Professor and Associate Chair, Department of Psychology, University of Houston

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Richard A. Meisch, M.D., Ph.D.
Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, UT Health Science Center at Houston
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