

Steven Joseph Nieto

University of California, Los Angeles
Department of Psychology
UCLA Addictions Laboratory
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EDUCATION

- Postdoc Psychology 2020
Clinical and Behavioral Neuroscience Areas
University of California, Los Angeles
- Ph.D. Psychology 2019
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

RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Psychology 2020-Current
University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA
UCLA Addictions Laboratory
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Lara Ray
Research Area: I am interested in medications development for alcohol use disorder (AUD). Specifically, I am applying behavioral economic approaches (i.e., alcohol demand, delay discounting, and choice procedures) to screen potential AUD medications in human laboratory drug trials.
- Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Psychology 2014-2019
University of Houston, Houston, TX
Developmental Behavioral Neuroscience Laboratory
Faculty Advisors: Drs. Therese Kosten and Richard Meisch
Research Area: Dissertation project examined the behavioral and epigenetic consequences of paternal alcohol exposure in rats. Master's thesis project identified that naltrexone had sex-dependent effects on operant alcohol-self administration behaviors and stress axis activity in rats.
- 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

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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 AND AWARDS

- NIH/NIDA, Translational Neuroscience on Drug Abuse Postdoctoral Fellowship (PI: London; T32DA024635-12), UCLA 8/2020-7/2021
- NIH/NIAAA, Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award Predoctoral Individual Fellowship (PI: Nieto; F31AA026495), University of Houston 2017-1/2020
- 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

Instructor of Record, 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, University of Houston, TX 2015-2019

Community

Treasurer, Voices Neighborhood Council, Los Angeles, CA 2019-
Chair, Health and Safety Committee, Voices Neighborhood Council, Los Angeles, CA 2019-

GRANT SUPPORT

T32DA024635 London (PI) 8/1/2020 - 7/31/2021
NIDA
Translational Neuroscience on Drug Abuse
Alcohol Choice in Medications Development for Alcohol Use Disorder
This study incorporates a behavioral economics approach to medications development for AUD. Specifically, this project assesses medication effects on alcohol choice behaviors in an early efficacy drug trial.
Role: Postdoctoral Research Fellow

F31AA026495 Nieto (PI) 9/7/2017 - 1/6/2020
NIAAA
Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award
Functional and Epigenetic Consequences of Paternal Alcohol Exposure
This study used 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 was 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.**, Green R., Grodin E.N., Ray L.A. Pain catastrophizing predicts alcohol craving independent of pain intensity (in press). *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*.
2. **Nieto S.J.**, Green R., MacKillop J., Ray L.A. Intravenous alcohol administration selectively decreases rate of change in elasticity of demand in individuals with alcohol use disorder (in press). *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research*.
3. Baskerville W., **Nieto S.J.**, Ho D., Towns B., Grodin E.N., Li C., Burnette E., Donato S., Ray L.A. (in press). Baseline drinking patterns in non-treatment seeking heavy drinkers. *Alcohol & Alcoholism*
4. **Nieto S.J.**, Grodin E.N., Ray L.A. (2020). On the path towards personalized medicine: Implications of pharmacogenetic studies of alcohol use disorder medications. *Expert Review of Precision Medicine and Drug Development*, 5:1, 43-54.
5. Ray L.A., Grodin E.N., Bujarski S., Du H., Meredith L., Ho D., **Nieto S.J.**, Wassum K. (2020). Capturing habitualness of drinking and smoking behaviors in humans. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, 207, 107738.
6. Grodin E.N., Bujarski S., Venegas A., Baskerville W.A., **Nieto S.J.**, Jentsch J.D., Ray L.A. (2019). Reward, relief, and habit drinking: Initial validation of a brief assessment tool. *Alcohol and Alcoholism*, 54:6, 574-583.
7. **Nieto S.J.**, Kosten T.A. (2019). Who's your daddy? Behavioral and epigenetic consequences of paternal drug exposure. *Int J Dev Neurosci*, 78, 109-121.

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8. **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.
9. **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.
10. 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.
11. **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.
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. 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.

Under Review

1. **Nieto S.J.**, Grodin E.N., Ray L.A. Evaluation of the Addiction Neuroclinical Assessment (ANA) Framework through deep phenotyping of problem drinkers. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*.
2. **Nieto S.J.**, Meisch R.A., Kosten T.A. Paternal alcohol exposure reduces operant alcohol self-administration and affects *Bdnf* DNA methylation in male and female offspring. *Neuropsychopharmacology*.
3. Grodin E.N., Bujarski S., Towns B., Burnette E., **Nieto S.J.**, Lim A., Lin J., Miotto K., Gillis A., Irwin M.R., Evans C., Ray L.A. A novel neuroimmune modulator reduces heavy drinking and alcohol cue-elicited neural activation. *Neuropsychopharmacology*.
4. Ray L.A., Green R., Leventhal A., Grodin E., Enders C., Li G., Lim A., Hartwell E., Venegas A., Meredith L., **Nieto S.J.**, Shoptaw S., Miotto K. Efficacy of combining varenicline and naltrexone for smoking cessation and drinking reduction: A randomized clinical trial. *The American Journal of Psychiatry*.

AD HOC REVIEWER FOR ACADEMIC JOURNALS

Neuroscience Letters, Elsevier

Addiction, Wiley

Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research, Wiley

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*

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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

REFERENCES

Therese A. Kosten, Ph.D.
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Phone: 713-743-3724
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Richard A. Meisch, M.D., Ph.D.
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