

Steven Joseph Nieto

University of California, Los Angeles
Department of Psychology
UCLA Addictions Laboratory
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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Psychology 2020-Current
University of California, Los Angeles
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 studies.
- Graduate Researcher, Department of Psychology 2014-2019
University of Houston
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
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
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.

EDUCATION

- 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. Psychology 2014
California State University, San Bernardino, CA
Senior Honors Thesis: Fluoxetine Exposure During Adolescence Increases Preference for Cocaine in Adulthood

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Publications

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
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., 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.
6. **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.
7. **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.
8. **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.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. **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.

12. **Nieto S.J.**, Green R., MacKillop J., Ray L.A. (2020). Intravenous alcohol administration selectively decreases rate of change in elasticity of demand in individuals with alcohol use disorder. *Alcoholism, clinical and experimental research*, 44(11), 2336–2342.
13. Baskerville W., **Nieto S.J.**, Ho D., Towns B., Grodin E.N., Li C., Burnette E., Donato S., Ray L.A. (2021). Baseline drinking patterns in non-treatment seeking heavy drinkers. *Alcohol and alcoholism (Oxford, Oxfordshire)*, 56(1), 57–63.
14. **Nieto S.J.**, Green R., Grodin E.N., Ray L.A. (2021). Pain catastrophizing predicts alcohol craving independent of pain intensity. *Drug and alcohol dependence*, 218, 108368.
15. **Nieto S.J.**, Grodin E.N., Green, R., Ray L.A. (2021). Evaluation of the Addictions Neuroclinical Assessment (ANA) Framework through Deep Phenotyping of Problem Drinkers. *Drug and alcohol dependence*, 221, 108603.
16. Quave C.B., **Nieto S.J.**, Haile C.N., Kosten T.A. (2021). Immune receptor toll-like receptor 4 contributes to stress-induced affective responses in a sex-specific manner. *Brain, Behavior, & Immunity – Health*, 14: 100248.
17. Forouzan S., **Nieto S.J.**, Kosten T.A. (2021). Persistence on operant responding for food after prior cocaine exposure in Fischer 344 but not Lewis rats. *The American Journal on Addictions*, 30(4), 358–365.
18. 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. (2021). A novel neuroimmune modulator reduces heavy drinking and alcohol cue-elicited neural activation. *Translational Psychiatry*, 11(1), 355.
19. Ray L.A., Green R., Enders C., Leventhal A., Grodin E., Li G., Lim A., Hartwell E., Venegas A., Meredith L., **Nieto S.J.**, Shoptaw S., Ho, D., Miotto K. (2021). Efficacy of combining varenicline and naltrexone for smoking cessation and drinking reduction: A randomized clinical trial. *The American Journal of Psychiatry*, 178(9), 818–828.
20. Green R., Du H., Grodin E.N., **Nieto S.J.**, Bujarski S., Roche D.J.O., Ray L.A. (2021). A meta-regression of methodological features predicting the effects of pharmacotherapies on subjective response to alcohol. *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research*, 45, 1336– 1347.
21. **Nieto S.J.**, Baskerville W., Donato S., Bujarski S., Ray L.A. (2021). Lifetime heavy drinking years predict alcohol use disorder severity over and above current alcohol use. *The American Journal of Drug and Alcohol Abuse*, 47(5), 630–637.
22. Cameron C., **Nieto S.J.**, Bosler L., Wong M., Bishop I., Mooney L., Cahill C.M. (2021). Mechanisms Underlying the Anti-Suicidal Treatment Potential of Buprenorphine. *Advances in Drug and Alcohol Research*, 11:10009.
23. **Nieto S.J.**, Grodin E.N., Aguirre C., Izquierdo, A., Ray L.A. (2021) Translational opportunities in animal and human models to study alcohol use disorder. *Translational psychiatry*, 11(1), 496.
24. **Nieto S.J.**, Haile C.N., Quave C.B., Harding M.J., Nielsen D.A., Meisch R.A., Kosten T.A. (2022) Paternal alcohol exposure reduces acquisition of operant alcohol self-administration and affects *Bdnf* DNA methylation in male and female offspring. *Addiction biology*, 27(1), e13078.

Steven J. Nieto, Ph.D. – Curriculum Vitae

This study incorporates a behavioral economics approach to medications development for AUD. Specifically, this human laboratory study assesses medication effects on alcohol choice behaviors after a practice quit attempt.

Role: Principal Investigator / Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Grant Support – Awarded/Pending

UCLA CTSI Pilot Award Nieto (PI) 7/1/2022 – 6/30/2023

UCLA Resource Centers for Minority Aging Research (RCMAR) Center for Health Improvement of Minority Elderly (CHIME)

Evaluating the clinical utility of neurofunctional domains derived using deep phenotyping among older Hispanic individuals with alcohol-related liver disease

This study will characterize and evaluate the clinical utility of addiction phenotypes in older Hispanic patients with alcohol-related liver disease (ALD). An additional objective is to identify factors that motivate alcohol drinking in the sample. This study has important clinical implications such that these phenotypes be leveraged to advance precision medicine efforts for this older minority population.

Role: Principal Investigator

Grant Support - Completed

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 preconceptional 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 sires to subsequent generations.

Role: Principal Investigator / Predoctoral Research Fellow

HONORS AND AWARDS

- UCLA RCMAR/CHIME Scientist 2022-2023
- Winter Conference on Brain Research (WCBR) Travel Fellowship 2022
- NIH/NIAAA, Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award 2021-2023
Postdoctoral Individual Fellowship (PI: Nieto; F32AA029288), UCLA
- NIH/NIDA, Translational Neuroscience on Drug Abuse 2020-2021
Postdoctoral Fellowship (PI: London; T32DA024635-12), UCLA
- NIH/NIAAA, Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award 2017-2020
Predoctoral Individual Fellowship (PI: Nieto; F31AA026495), University of Houston
- Behavior, Biology, & Chemistry: Translational 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

Steven J. Nieto, Ph.D. – Curriculum Vitae

- 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

Lecturer, UCLA Psychology of Addiction-PSYCH 162	2021
Lecturer, Loyola Marymount University Research Methods-PSYC 2002	2021
Statistical Methods for Psychology-PSYC 2001	2022
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

SCIENTIFIC PRESENTATIONS

1. **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.
2. **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.
3. **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.
4. **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.
5. **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.
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.**, 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.
8. **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.
9. **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.
10. **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.
11. **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.
12. **Nieto S.J.**, Grodin E.N., Green R., Ray L.A. (December, 2020). *Evaluation of the Addictions Neuroclinical Assessment (ANA) framework through deep phenotyping of problem drinkers*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology, Virtual conference.
13. **Nieto S.J.**, Grodin E.N., Ray L.A. (March, 2021). *Reward, relief, and habit drinking: Drinker subtype classification to improve precision medicine*. Oral presentation at the annual meeting of the Collaborative Perspectives on Addiction, Virtual conference.
14. **Nieto S.J.**, Grodin E.N., Green R., Ray L.A. (June, 2021). *Evaluation of the Addictions Neuroclinical Assessment (ANA) framework through deep phenotyping of problem drinkers*. Oral presentation at the College on Problems of Drug Dependence Annual Meeting, Virtual conference.
15. **Nieto S.J.**, Grodin E.N., Green R., Ray L.A. (December, 2021). *Moderators of subjective response to alcohol in the human laboratory*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology, San Juan, PR.
16. **Nieto S.J.**, Ray L.A. (June, 2022). *Evaluation of the Addictions Neuroclinical Assessment (ANA) Framework Across Substances*. Oral presentation scheduled at the annual meeting of the Research Society on Alcoholism, Orlando, FL.

AD HOC REVIEWER FOR ACADEMIC JOURNALS

Addiction, Wiley

Addictive Behaviors, Elsevier

Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research, Wiley

Drug and Alcohol Dependence, Elsevier

Neuroscience Letters, Elsevier

Psychology of Addictive Behaviors, American Psychological Association

Scientific Reports, Nature

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Society for Neuroscience

Steven J. Nieto, Ph.D. – Curriculum Vitae

Research Society on Alcoholism
College on Problems of Drug Dependence
International Behavioral Neuroscience Society

SERVICE/COMMITTEES

Department

Member, DCBN Seminar Planning Committee, University of Houston 2015-2019

Community

Treasurer, Voices Neighborhood Council, Los Angeles, CA 2019-
Chair, Health and Safety Committee, Voices Neighborhood Council, Los Angeles, CA 2019-2021

REFERENCES

Lara A. Ray, Ph.D.
Professor, Department of Psychology, University of California, Los Angeles
Phone: 310-794-5383
Email: lararay@psych.ucla.edu

Alicia Izquierdo
Professor, Department of Psychology, University of California, Los Angeles
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James MacKillop, Ph.D.
Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurosciences, McMaster University
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Therese A. Kosten, Ph.D.
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