Caitlin A. Orsini, Ph.D.

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Waggoner Center for Alcohol and Addiction Research
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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Biopsychology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI (2012)

M.S., Biopsychology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI (2009)

B.S., Psychology (summa cum laude, valedictorian), Washington College, Chestertown, MD (2007)
- *Behavioral Neuroscience Concentration*

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Associate Professor with tenure, Department of Psychology & Neurology, Waggoner Center for Alcohol and Addiction Research, University of Texas at Austin (2025-Pres)

Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology & Neurology, Waggoner Center for Alcohol and Addiction Research, University of Texas at Austin (2019-2025)

Post-doctoral Fellow, McKnight Brain Institute, Dept. of Psychiatry, University of Florida (2012-2019)

Graduate Student Research Assistant, Biopsychology, University of Michigan (2007-2012)

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Active:

R01DA055676-01A1 (NIDA, 2023-28, **$2,677,462**), PI
- "Investigation of the neurobiological mechanisms underlying estradiol-mediated risk aversion in females"
- Administrative Supplement awarded (2025-2026, **$99,641**)

R01AA029386 (NIAAA, 2022-2027, **$1,767,910**), Co-I
- "Reducing alcohol-seeking behavior in a rat model of alcohol dependence"

Pending:

R01DA062734-01A1 (NIDA, 2025-2030, **$3,307,154**), PI
- "Investigation of the neurobiological mechanisms that mediate fentanyl-induced elevations in risk taking in rats"

Completed:

R21DA053462 (NIDA, 2022-24, **$430,384**), PI
- "Examination of fentanyl-induced insensitivity to risk of punishment during decision making and the potential use of methadone and buprenorphine in attenuating risk-taking deficits"

Pathway to Independence Award (R00DA041493-3, NIDA, 2019-23; **$744,605**), PI
- "Neural circuits and mechanisms underlying maladaptive risk-taking following cocaine self-administration"

Rising Science and Technology Acquisition and Retention (STARs) Award (University of Texas at Austin; **$300,000**)

Pathway to Independence Award (K99DA041493-01A1, NIDA, 2017-19; **$231,612**), PI

- "Neural circuits and mechanisms underlying maladaptive risk-taking following cocaine self-administration" (*Impact score of 10*)

Thomas H. Maren Junior Investigator Postdoctoral Fellowship (2015-17; **$50,000**), PI
- "Risk-taking and the nucleus accumbens: neural circuitry and the impact of cocaine"

McKnight Brain Institute Fellowship (2014-16; **$10,000**), PI
- "Risk-taking and the amygdala: neural circuitry and impact of chronic cocaine"

National Center for Responsible Gaming (2013-14; **$28,750**), PI
- "The effects of PTSD on risky decision-making"

Ruth L. Kirchstein National Research Service Award (F31MH091822, NIMH, 2010-12; **$63,800**), PI
- "Interactions between the ventral hippocampus and amygdala during renewal of fear."

American Psychological Association Dissertation Award (**$1,000**)
- Awarded on November 18th, 2010 from the American Psychological Association.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

44. Rae, R.J., Alberhasky, J.M.H., Balliet, M., Bangasser, D.A., Belloy, M.E., Berry, A.S., Berteotti, C., Bow, H., Buckley, R., Caldwell, J.Z.K., Carpi, M., Clark, B.J., Ciampa, C.J., Conley, A.C., Dahl, M.J., Donaldson, Z.R., Ehrenberg, A.J., Einstein, G., Falgas, N., Fenlon, H.A., Fitzhugh, M.C., Froemke, R.C., Gallay, C., Hamilton, D.A., Hasan, Z., Jabeen, S., Jacobs, H.I.L., Kolling, L.J., Koops, E.A., Lenzoni, S., Ligouri, C., Manca, R., Marcinkiewcz, C.A., Omoluabi, T., **Orsini, C.A.,** Pa, J., Pentowski, N.S., Pereira, J.B., Ramos, R., Sargin, D., Satpati, A., Selles, M.C., Sindi, S., Son, G., Van Egroo, M., Yuan, Q., Kelberman, M.A. Sex differences in neuromodulatory subcortical systems and implications for Alzheimer's disease. (in press). *Alzheimer's & Dementia.*
43. Truckenbrod, L.M., Carlos, N.R., Kelly, M., Garner, M., Streifer, M., Gore, A.C., **Orsini, C.A.** (2026). The role of ovarian hormones in risk aversion in female rats. *Neuropsychopharmacology.*
42. Tieman, M.A., Gandy, H.M., Dufala, H.A., **Orsini, C.A.,** Newman, L.A., McQuail, J.A. (2025). Individual differences in stress coping are linked to working memory performance in male and female F344 rats. *Physiology & Behavior.*
41. Kelly, M., Garner, M., Cooper, E.M., **Orsini, C.A.** (2025). Cholinergic regulation of decision making under risk of punishment. *Neurobiology of Learning and Memory.* PMID: 39710058.
40. **Orsini, C.A.,** Kim, J.H., & Arguello, A.A. (2024). Molecular underpinnings of relapse-like behavior: drug context and development. *Frontiers in Behavioral Neuroscience, 17*.
39. Wheeler, A-R., Truckenbrod, L.M., Boehnke, A., Kahanek, P., **Orsini, C.A.** (2024). Sex differences in sensitivity to dopamine receptor manipulations of risk-based decision making in rats. *Neuropsychopharmacology, 49*(13), 1978-1988. PMCID: PMC11480499.
38. Truckenbrod, L.M., Cooper, E., Wheeler, A-R., **Orsini, C.A.** (2023). Cocaine intake correlates with risk-taking behavior and affects estrous cycling in female Sprague-Dawley rats. *Frontiers in Behavioral Neuroscience,* 17.
37. Wheeler, A-R., Truckenbrod, L.M., Cooper, E.M., Betzhold, S.M., Setlow, B, **Orsini, C.A.** (2023). Effects of fentanyl self-administration on risk-taking behavior in male rats. *Psychopharmacology, 240*(12), 2529-2544. PMID:37612455.
36. Truckenbrod, L.M., Betzhold, S.M., Wheeler, A-R., Shallcross, J., Singhal, S., Harden, S., Schwendt, M., Frazier, C.J., Bizon, J.L., Setlow, B., **Orsini, C.A.** (2023). Circuit- and cell-specific contributions to decision making involving risk of explicit punishment in male and female rats. *The Journal of Neuroscience*. *43*(26), 4837-4855. PMCID: PMC10312052.
35. **Orsini, C.A.,** Pyon, W.S*., Dragone, R.J., Faraji, M. Wheeler, A.R., Pompilus, M., Febo, M., Setlow, B., Bizon, J.L. (2023). Age-related changes in risky decision making and associated neural

circuitry in a rat model. *eNeuro.* 10(1). PMCID: PMC9840382. **indicates co-first author.*

34. Truckenbrod, L.M., Cooper, E., Wheeler, A.R., **Orsini, C.A.** (2023). Cognitive mechanisms underlying decision making involving risk of explicit punishment in male and female rats. *Cognitive Affective and Behavioral Neuroscience*. *23*(2), 248-275. PMCID: PMC10065932.

33. **Orsini, C.A.,** Brown, T.W., Hodges, T.E., Alonso-Caraballo, Y., Winstanley, C.A., Becker, J.B. (2022). Neural mechanisms mediating sex differences in motivation for reward: cognitive bias, food, gambling and drugs of abuse. *The Journal of Neuroscience*. *42*(45), 8477-8487. PMCID: PMC9665932.

32. **Orsini, C.A.,** Truckenbrod, L.M., Wheeler, A-R. (2022). Regulation of sex differences in risk-based decision making by gonadal hormones: insights from rodent models. *Behavioral Processes. 200*, 104663. PMCID: PMC9893517.

31. Blaes, S.L., Shimp, K.G., Betzhold, S.M., Bizon, J.L., Setlow, B., **Orsini, C.A.** (2022). Chronic cocaine causes age-dependent increases in risky choice in both males and females. *Behavioral Neuroscience. 136*(3), 243-263. PMCID: PMC9346435.

30. Garman. T.S., Setlow, B., **Orsini, C.A.** (2021). Effects of a high-fat diet on impulsive choice in rats. *Physiology & Behavior, 229*, 113260. PMCID: PMC7775352.

29. Hernandez, C.M., **Orsini, C.A.,** Blaes, S.L., Bizon. J.L., Febo, M., Bruijnzeel, A.W., Setlow B. (2021). Effects of repeated adolescent exposure to cannabis smoke on cognitive outcomes in adulthood. *Journal of Psychopharmacology, 35*(7), 848-863. PMCID: PMC8187454.

28. **Orsini, C.A**., Blaes, S.L., Hernandez, C.M., Betzhold, S.M., Perera, H., Wheeler, A.R., Ten Eyck, T.W., Garman, T.S., Bizon, J.L., Setlow, B. (2021). Regulation of risky decision making by gonadal hormones in male and female rats. *Neuropsychopharmacology*, *46*(3), 603-613. PMID:32919406.

27. Hernandez, C.M., **Orsini, C.A**., Wheeler, A-R, Ten Eyck, T.W., Betzhold, S.M., Labiste, C.C., Wright, N.G., Setlow, B., Bizon, J.L. (2020). Testicular hormones mediate robust sex differences in impulsive choice. *eLife,* 9:e58604. PMCID: PMC7521924.

26. **Orsini, C.A.,** Simon, N.W. (2020). Reward/punishment-based decision making in rodents. *Current Protocols in Neuroscience Research,* 93:e:100. PMID: 32687693.

25. **Orsini, C.A.,** Blaes, S.L., Dragone, R.J., Betzhold, S.M., Finner, A., Bizon, J.L., Setlow, B. (2020). Distinct relationships between risky decision making and cocaine self-administration under short and long-access conditions. *Progress in Neuro-Psychopharmacology & Biological Psychiatry, 98*, 109791. PMCID: PMC7375467.

24. Setlow, B., Blaes, S.L., Burns, M.R., Dragone, R.J., **Orsini, C.A**. (2020). Using rodent models to understand interactions between gambling and substance use. *Current Opinion in Behavioral Sciences, 31*, 37-41. PMCID: PMC7583364.

23. Hernandez, C.M., **Orsini, C.A.**, Labiste, C.C., Wheeler, A-R., Ten Eyck, T.W., Bruner, M.M., Sahagian, T.J., Harden, S., Frazier, C.J., Setlow, B., Bizon, J.L. (2019). Optogenetic dissection of basolateral amygdala contributions to intertemporal choice in young and aged rats. *eLife*, 8:e46174. PMCID: PMC6472996.

22. Blaes, S.L., **Orsini, C.A.**, Holik, H.M., Stubbs, T., Ferguson, S.N., Heshmati, S.C., Bruner, M.M., Wall, S.C., Febo, M., Bruijnzeel, A.W., Bizon, J.L., & Setlow, B. (2019). Enhancing effects of acute exposure to cannabis smoke on working memory performance. *Neurobiology of Learning and Memory*, *157*, 151-162. PMCID: PMC6563837.

21. **Orsini, C.A.**, Hernandez, C.M., Bizon, J.L., Setlow, B. (2019). Deconstructing value-based decision making via temporally-selective manipulation of neural activity: insights from rodent models. *Cognitive, Affective and Behavioral Neuroscience*, *19*(3), 459-476. PMCID: PMC6472996.

20. Blaes, S.L., **Orsini, C.A.*,** Mitchell, M.R., Spurrell, M.S., Betzhold, S.M., Vera, K., Bizon, J.L., Setlow, B. (2018). Monoaminergic modulation of decision making under risk of punishment in a rat model. *Behavioral Pharmacology*. *29*(8), 745-761. PMCID: PMC6291248. **indicates co-first*

author.

19. **Orsini, C.A.**, Colon-Perez, L.M., Heshmati, S.C., Setlow, B., Febo, M. (2018). Functional connectivity of chronic cocaine use reveals progressive neuroadaptations in neocortical, striatal and limbic networks. *eNeuro*, *5*(4), ENEURO.0081-18.2018. PMCID: PMC6071197.
18. **Orsini, C.A.,** Heshmati, S.C., Garman, T.S., Wall, S.C., Bizon, J.L., Setlow, B (2018). Contributions of medial prefrontal cortex to decision making involving risk of punishment. *Neuropharmacology, 139*, 205-216. PMCID: PMC6108435.
17. Deng, J.V., **Orsini, C.A.,** Shimp, K.G., Setlow, B. (2018). MeCP2 expression in a rat model of risky decision making. *Neuroscience, 369*, 212-221. PMCID: PMC5766376.
16. **Orsini, C.A.,** Hernandez, C., Singhal, S., Kelly, K.B., Frazier, C.J., Bizon, J.L., Setlow, B. (2017). Optogenetic inhibition reveals distinct roles for basolateral amygdala activity at discrete timepoints during risky decision making. *The Journal of Neuroscience, 37(*48), 11537-11548. PMCID:PMC5707761.
15. Hernandez, C.M., Vetere, L., **Orsini, C.A**., McQuail, J.A., Mauer, A.P., Burke, S., Setlow, B., Bizon, J.L. (2017). Decline of prefrontal cortical-mediated executive functions but attenuated delay discounting in aged Fischer 344 x brown Norway hybrid rats. *Neurobiology of Aging, 60*, 141 152. PMCID: PMC5669385.
14. **Orsini, C.A.**, Mitchell, M.R., Heshmati, S.C., Spurrell, M., Bizon, J.B., Setlow, B. (2017). Effects of nucleus accumbens amphetamine administration on performance in a delay discounting task. *Behavioural Brain Research, 321*, 130-136, PMCID: PMC5272779.
13. **Orsini, C.A.**, Setlow B. (2017). Sex differences in animal models of decision making. *Journal of Neuroscience Research, 95*(1-2), 260-269, PMCID: PMC5120608.
12. **Orsini, C.A.**, Setlow, B., DeJesus, M., Galaviz, S., Loesch, K., Ioerger, T., Wallis, D. (2016). Behavioral and transcriptomic profiling of mice null for Lphn3, a gene implicated in ADHD and addiction. *Molecular Genetics and Genomic Medicine*, *4*(3), 322-343, PMCID:PMC4867566.
11. **Orsini, C.A.**, Willis, M., Gilbert, R.J., Bizon, J.L., Setlow, B. (2016). Sex differences in a rat model of risky decision making. *Behavioral Neuroscience*, *130*(1), 50-61, PMCID: PMC4738105.
10. **Orsini, C.A.**, Moorman, D., Young, J., Setlow, B., Floresco, S.B. (2015). Neural mechanisms regulating different forms of risk-related decision-making: Insights from animal models. *Neuroscience and Biobehavioral Reviews*, *58*, 147-167, PMID: 26072028.
9. **Orsini, C.A.**, Trotta, R.T., Bizon, J.L. Setlow, B. (2015). Dissociable roles for the basolateral amygdala and orbitofrontal cortex in decision-making under risk of punishment. *The Journal of Neuroscience*, *35*(4), 1368-1379, PMCID: PMC4308589.
8. **Orsini, C.A.**, Ginton, G., Shimp, K.G., Avena, N.M, Gold, M.S., Setlow, B. (2014). Food consumption and weight gain after cessation of chronic amphetamine administration. *Appetite*, *78*, 76-80, PMCID: PMC4041868.
7. **Orsini, C.A.**, Yan, C., Maren, S. (2013). Ensemble coding of context-dependent fear memory in the amygdala. *Frontiers in Behavioral Neuroscience*, 7:1-8, PMCID: PMC3861741.
6. **Orsini, C.A.** & Maren, S. (2012). Neural and cellular mechanisms of fear and extinction memory formation. *Neuroscience and Biobehavioral Reviews*, *36*(7), 1773-1802, PMCID: PMC3345303.
5. **Orsini, C.A.**, Kim, J.H., Knapska, E. & Maren, S. (2011). Hippocampal and prefrontal projections to the basal amygdala mediate contextual regulation of fear after extinction. *The Journal of Neuroscience*, *31*(47), 17269-17277, PMCID: 3241946.
4. Leighton, J., Bird, G., **Orsini, C.A.** & Heyes, C. (2010). Social attitudes modulate automatic imitation. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 46:905-910.
3. Rabinak, C.A., **Orsini, C.A.**, Zimmerman, J.M. & Maren, S. (2009). The amygdala is not necessary for unconditioned stimulus inflation after Pavlovian fear conditioning in rats. *Learning & Memory*, *16*(10), 645-654, PMCID: PMC2769164.

2. **Orsini, C.A.** & Maren, S. (2009). Glutamate receptors in the medial geniculate nucleus are necessary for expression and extinction of conditioned fear in rats. *Neurobiology of Learning and Memory*, *92*(4), 581–589, PMCID: PMC2745571.

1. Chang, C., Knapska, E., **Orsini, C.A.**, Rabinak, C., Zimmerman, J. & Maren, S. (2009). Fear extinction in rodents. *Current Protocols*, Chapter 8: Unit8.23, PMCID: PMC2756523.

RESEARCH COMMENTARIES AND EDITORIALS

2. Badrinarayan, A., Prater, K.E. & **Orsini, C.A.** (2012). The role of the central amygdala in selecting circuits and responses. *The Journal of Neuroscience*, *32*(25), 8431-8433, PMCID: PMC3457702.

1. Rabinak, C.A., Zimmerman, J.M., Chang, C. & **Orsini, C.A.** (2008). Bidirectional changes in the intrinsic excitability of infralimbic neurons reflect a possible regulatory role in the acquisition and extinction of Pavlovian conditioned fear. *The Journal of Neuroscience*, *28*(29), 7245-7247, PMCID:PMC667402.

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW OR IN PREPARATION

Kahanek, P., Opachich, Z., Csitkovits, I., Kelly, M., **Orsini, C.A.** Decision making involving risk of punishment is not modulated by acute mu-opioid receptor activation in drug-naïve rats. *Submitted to Progress in Neuro-Psychopharmacology & Biological Psychiatry.*

Trask, S. **Orsini, C.A.,** Ferrara, N.C. Distinguishing threat from fear. *Submitted to Neurobiology of Learning & Memory.*

Pyon, W.S., Viera, O., Faraji, M., Blaes, S.L., **Orsini, C.A.,** Gotlin, M.S., Raptis, C., Cruz-Wegener, C., Rod, A., Joseph, S.W., Barrett, J., Holik, H., Singhal, S.M., Burns, M.R., Frazier, C.J., Bizon, J.L., Setlow, B. Ventral tegmental area dopamine neuron activity mediates multi-valent outcomes during decision making under risk of punishment. *Submitted to Nature Neuroscience.*

Ju. A., Tseng, I., Kelly, M., & **Orsini, C.A.** Modeling Delayed Probabilistic Punishment in Risk-based Decision Making. *In preparation for submission to Psychopharmacology.*

Franks, H. Shimp, K.G., Hernandez, C. Depue, K., Setlow, B., Simon, N., **Orsini, C.A.** Influences of social housing on decision making under risk of punishment. *In preparation for submission to Behavioral Neuroscience.*

Orsini, C.A., Garner, M., Truckenbrod, L.M., Wheeler, A-R. Involvement of dopamine receptors in the medial prefrontal cortex in decision making under risk of punishment. *In preparation to Neuropharmacology.*

Wheeler, A-R., Kelly, M., Truckenbrod, L.M., Garner, M., **Orsini, C.A.** Relationship between synthetic fentanyl self-administration and risk taking in male and female rats. *In preparation for submission to Addiction Biology.*

Orsini, C.A., Simon, N.W., Febo, M., Setlow, B. Dynamic neural activity in the basolateral amygdala tracks risk and reward. *In preparation for submission to The Journal of Neuroscience.*

BOOK CHAPTERS

4. Truckenbrod, L.M., Setlow, B., **Orsini, C.A.** (2024). Sex differences in risk/reward decision making. In *Encyclopedia of the Human Brain, Second Edition.* (Vol. 2). Oxford, UK: Elsevier.

3. Cahill, L., **Orsini, C.A.** (2024). Where the study of sex influences has been, and where it is going. In *Encyclopedia of the Human Brain, Second Edition.* (Vol. 2). Oxford, UK: Elsevier.

2. Orsini, C.A., Blaes, S.L., Setlow, B., Simon, N.W. (2019). Recent Updates in Modeling Risky Decision Making in Rodents. In *Psychiatric Disorders: Methods and Protocols.* Firas H. Kobeissy, Editor. Springer Nature.

1. Mitchell, M.R., **Orsini, C.A.,** & Setlow, B. "Cocaine and intertemporal decision making." (2017). In *The Neuroscience of Cocaine: Mechanisms and Treatments.* V. Preedy, Editor. Elsevier.

BOOKS & EDITED VOLUMES

Cahill, L. & **Orsini, C.A.** Section editors. Sex Differences. In *Encyclopedia of the Human Brain, Second Edition.* Elsevier. *Published 2024.*

INVITED TALKS AND GUEST LECTURES

Orsini, C.A. (2025). The relationship between chronic opioid exposure and changes in risk taking. *Temple University. (September 16, 2025).*

Orsini, C.A. (2025). Neurobiological and hormonal mechanisms underlying risk taking: implications for substance use disorder. *University of Minnesota*. *(March 31, 2025).*

Orsini, C.A. (2024). Biological mechanisms underlying risk taking: implications for substance use disorder. *UT Austin Public Health Coalition Seminar series. (December 5, 2024).*

Orsini, C.A. (2024). Biological mechanisms underlying risk taking: implications for substance use disorder. *Departments of Neurology and Neurosurgery Fall 2024 Advisory Board Meeting. (October 21, 2024).*

Orsini, C.A. (2024). The relationship between chronic opioid exposure and changes in risk taking. *Neurobiology of Addiction Gordon Research Conference. (August 21, 2024).*

Orsini, C.A. (2024). Uncovering the neurobiological and hormonal basis of sex differences in risk taking. *Medical University of South Carolina. (March 14, 2024).*

Orsini, C.A. (2024). Neurobiological mechanisms of risk-based decision making. *Texas A&M University. (March 7, 2024).*

Orsini, C.A. (2024). Risk-based decision making: neurobiological substrates and the impact of chronic drug exposure. *University of Texas Health San Antonio. (February 21, 2024).*

Orsini, C.A. (2023). Contribution of mesolimbic circuits and cell populations in risky decision making. *National Institute on Alcohol and Alcohol Abuse. (November 16, 2023)*

Orsini, C.A. (2023). Hormonal regulation of decision making. *Purdue University. (October 30, 2023)*

Orsini, C.A. (2023). The role of dopamine D2 receptors in the basolateral amygdala in punishment-based risky decision making. *Amygdala Gordon Research Conference, Barcelona, Spain. (July 12, 2023)*

Orsini, C.A. (2022). Uncovering the neurobiological and hormonal basis of sex differences in risk taking. *University of Buffalo, Department of Psychology.*

Orsini, C.A. (2022). Amygdala-striatal circuitry in risky decision making. *Baylor University, Department of Psychology & Neuroscience Seminar series.*

Orsini, C.A. (2022). Amygdala-striatal circuitry in risky decision making. *University of Texas at San Antonio, Spring Neuroscience Seminar series.*

Orsini, C.A. (2022). Hormonal regulation of risk-based decision making: implications for decision making impairments associated with substance use disorders. *NIDA Women's Sex and Gender Workgroup seminar. Virtual (Jan 19, 2022).*

Orsini, C.A. (2021). Uncovering the neurobiological and hormonal basis of sex differences in risk taking. *Waggoner Center for Alcohol and Addiction Research seminar series, Austin, TX.*

Orsini, C.A. (2021). Uncovering the neurobiological and hormonal basis of sex differences in risk taking. *Department of Psychology, University of Memphis, Memphis, TN.*

Orsini, C.A. (2021). Hormonal regulation of risky choice in males and female rats. *Society for the Quantitative Analyses of Behavior, virtual.*

Orsini, C.A. (2021). Amygdala-striatal circuitry in risky decision making. *Andrews Genomics Scholar Lecture Series, Oregon Health & Science University, Portland, OR (virtual).*

Orsini, C.A. (2020). Amygdala-striatal circuitry in risky decision making. *Waggoner Center for Alcohol and Addiction Research seminar series, Austin, TX.*

Orsini, C.A. (2020). Amygdala-striatal circuitry in risky decision making. *Florida Consortium on the Neurobiology of Cognition.*

Orsini, C.A. (2020). How to study sex differences in behavioral neuroscience. *Institute for Neuroscience graduate program.*

Orsini, C.A. (2020). Amygdala-striatal circuitry in risky decision making. *Waggoner Center for Alcohol and Addiction Research ADVANCE symposium, Austin, TX.* *cancelled due to COVID.

Orsini, C.A. (2020). Hormonal regulation of risky choice in males and female rats. *Society for the Quantitative Analyses of Behavior, Washington, D.C.* *cancelled due to COVID.

Orsini, C.A. (2020). Amygdala-striatal circuitry in risky decision making. *Texas A&M University Institute for Neuroscience, College Station, Texas.* *cancelled due to COVID.

Orsini, C.A. (2019). Hormonal regulation of risky choice. *Florida Consortium on the Neurobiology of Cognition. Gainesville, FL.*

Orsini, C.A. (2019). Sex differences in the relationship between risk taking and cocaine self administration. *Center for Addiction Research and Education External Advisory Seminar. Gainesville, FL.*

Orsini, C.A. (2018). Basolateral amygdala contributions to cost/benefit decision making: implications for substance use disorder. *Mount Sinai Neuroscience seminar series, Icahn School of Medicine, New York City, NY.*

Orsini, C.A. (2017). The dynamic role of the basolateral amygdala in decision making: implications for substance use disorder. *National Institute on Drug Abuse/National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Neuroscience Workgroup.*

Orsini, C.A. (2016). Risky decision making and substance use. *Guest Lecture in Neurobiology of Substance Abuse, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.*

Orsini, C.A. (2015). Neurobiology underlying risk-taking: insight into mechanisms mediating cocaine addiction. *University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine, Puerto Rico.*

Orsini, C.A. (2015). Neurobiology underlying risk-taking: insight into mechanisms mediating cocaine addiction. *Invited lecture to Animal Care Services at the University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.*

Orsini, C.A. (2014). Risky decision-making and drug addiction. *Guest Lecture in Neurobiology of Substance Abuse, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.*

ABSTRACTS AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE TALKS

Orsini, C.A. (2025). The role of dopamine D2 receptors in the amygdala in punishment-based decision making. *European Brain and Behaviour Society, Bordeaux, France.*

Orsini, C.A. (2025). The relationship between synthetic opioid use and risk taking. *Park City Conference on Learning and Memory. Park City, UT.*

Orsini, C.A. (2022). Hormonal basis of sex differences in reward-based decision making. *Society for Neuroscience, San Diego, CA.*

Orsini, C.A. (2022). Hormonal regulation of decision making involving risk of punishment. ***Panel Co-Chair.*** *International Behavioral Neuroscience Society, Glasgow Scotland.*

Orsini, C.A. (2022). Sex differences in dopaminergic modulation of punishment-based risky decision making. *International Behavioral Neuroscience Society, Glasgow Scotland.*

Orsini, C.A. (2021). Sex differences in dopaminergic modulation of punishment-based risky decision making. *American College of Neuropsychopharmacology, Puerto Rico.*

Orsini, C.A. (2021). Chronic cocaine causes age-dependent increases in risk taking in rats of both sexes. ***Panel Co-Chair.*** *Pavlovian Society meeting, Ann Arbor, MI.*

Orsini, C.A. (2020). Representation of risk salience in the basolateral amygdala. *Winter Conference on Brain Research, Big Sky, Montana.*

Orsini, C.A. (2019). Hormonal regulation of risky decision making in male and female rats. *Organization on the Study of Sex Differences, Washington D.C.*

Orsini, C.A. (2019). Circuit and receptor mechanisms underlying risk-based decision-making processes. *Winter Conference on Brain Research, Snowmass, CO.*

Orsini, C.A. (2018). The dynamic role of the basolateral amygdala in decision making. ***Panel Co-Chair.*** *Winter Conference on Brain Research, Whistler, British Columbia.*

Orsini, C.A. (2017). The dynamic role of the basolateral amygdala in decision making. *Amygdala Function in Emotion, Cognition & Disease Gordon Research Seminar. Easton, MA.*

Orsini, C.A. (2016). Neurobiological and hormonal modulation of risky decision making in rats. ***Panel Co-Chair***. *American College of Neuropsychopharmacology, Hollywood, FL.*

Orsini, C.A., (2016). Behavioral insights into neural circuits for addiction and cognitive function. ***Panel Co-Chair***. *Winter Conference on Brain Research, Breckenridge, CO.*

Orsini, C.A. (2015). Neurobiology underlying risk-taking: insight into mechanisms mediating cocaine addiction. ***Panel Co-Chair***. *Winter Conference on Brain Research, Big Sky, MT.*

Orsini, C.A. (2014). The neurobiology of risky decision-making. *International Behavioral Neuroscience Society. Las Vegas, NV.*

Orsini, C.A. (2014). Balancing risk and reward. *North Central Florida Society for Neuroscience Symposium. Gainesville, FL.*

NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ABSTRACTS

Truckenbrod, L.T., Kelly, M., Carlos, N., Garner, M. Gore, A.C., **Orsini, C.A.** (2025). Estrogenic contributions to female risk aversion. *Research and poster presented at the annual Behavior, Biology and Chemistry meeting, San Antonio, TX.*

Kahanek, P., **Orsini, C.A.** (2025). Tackling the cyclical connection between PTSD and OUD: Traumatic stress enhances risk-based decision making in rats. *Research and poster presented at the annual Behavior, Biology and Chemistry meeting, San Antonio, TX.*

Wheeler, A-R., Kelly, M., Truckenbrod, L.M., **Orsini, C.A.** (2025). Relationships between fentanyl self-administration and risk-taking behavior in rats. *Research and poster presented at the annual Behavior, Biology and Chemistry meeting, San Antonio, TX.*

Truckenbrod, L.T., Kelly, M., Carlos, N., Garner, M. Gore, A.C., **Orsini, C.A.** (2024). Estrogenic contributions to female risk aversion. *Research presented at the Society for Neuroscience meeting,* Chicago, IL.

Wheeler, A-R., Kelly, M., Truckenbrod, L.T., Garner, M., **Orsini, C.A.** (2024). Relationships between

fentanyl self-administration and risk-taking behavior in rats. *Research presented at the Society for Neuroscience meeting*, Chicago, IL.

Orsini, C.A., Wheeler, A., Truckenbrod, L.M., Garner, M. (2024). Relationship between risk-taking behavior and synthetic opioid use in a rodent model. *Research presented at the Fifth Annual Korean-American Kavli Frontiers in Science Symposium,* Irvine, CA.

Pyon, W., Blaes, S.L., **Orsini, C.A.,** Viera, O., Gonzalez, K., Joseph, S., Barrett, J., Betzhold, S., Diedrich, J., Athavale, S., Samanta, R., Berrios, B., Cao, L., Petrisek, A., Singhal, S., Frazier, C.J., Bizon, J.L., Setlow, B. (2023). Contributions of ventral tegmental area dopamine neurons to decision making under risk of punishment. *Research presented at the Society for Neuroscience meeting,* Washington D.C.

Truckenbrod, L.M., Garner, M., Carlos, N.R., Gore, A.C., **Orsini, C.A.** (2023). Contributions of estradiol and progesterone to female risk aversion. *Research presented at the Society for Neuroscience meeting,* Washington D.C.

Wheeler, A-R., Truckenbrod, L.M., Garner, M., **Orsini, C.A.** (2023). Relationships between fentanyl self administration and risk-taking behavior in rats. *Research presented at the Society for Neuroscience meeting,* Washington D.C.

Pyon, W., Blaes, S.L., **Orsini, C.A.,** Viera, O., Gonzalez, K., Joseph, S., Barrett, J., Betzhold, S., Diedrich, J., Athavale, S., Samanta, R., Berrios, B., Cao, L., Petrisek, A., Singhal, S., Frazier, C.J., Bizon, J.L., Setlow, B. (2023). Contributions of ventral tegmental area dopamine neurons to decision making under risk of punishment. *Research presented at the Pavlovian Society meeting,* Austin, TX.

Truckenbrod, L.M., Garner, M., Carlos, N.R., Gore, A.C., **Orsini, C.A.** (2023). Contributions of estradiol and progesterone to female risk aversion. *Research presented at the Pavlovian Society meeting,* Austin, TX.

Wheeler, A-R., Truckenbrod, L.M., Garner, M., **Orsini, C.A.** (2023). Relationships between fentanyl self administration and risk-taking behavior in rats. *Research presented at the Pavlovian Society meeting,* Austin, TX.

Truckenbrod, L.M., Garner, M., Carlos, N.R., Gore, A.C., **Orsini, C.A.** (2023). Contributions of estradiol and progesterone to female risk aversion. *Research presented at the International Behavioral Neuroscience Society meeting,* Niagara Falls, Canada.

Wheeler, A-R, Truckenbrod, L.M., Cooper, E., Setlow, B., **Orsini, C.A.** (2023). Effects of fentanyl self administration on risk-taking behavior in rats. *Research presented at the International Behavioral Neuroscience Society meeting,* Niagara Falls, Canada.

Pyon, W., Blaes, S.L., **Orsini, C.A.,** Viera, O., Gonzalez, K., Joseph, S., Barrett, J., Betzhold, S., Diedrich, J., Athavale, S., Samanta, R., Berrios, B., Cao, L., Petrisek, A., Singhal, S., Frazier, C.J., Bizon, J.L., Setlow, B. (2022). Contributions of ventral tegmental area dopamine neurons to decision making under risk of punishment. *Research presented at the Society for Neuroscience meeting,* San Diego, CA.

Truckenbrod, L.M., Cooper, E., Wheeler, A.R., **Orsini, C.A.** (2022). Cocaine intake affects estrous cycling and correlates with risk-taking behavior in female rats. *Research presented at the Society for Neuroscience meeting,* San Diego, CA.

Wheeler, A.R., Truckenbrod, L.M., Cooper, E., Setlow, B., **Orsini. C.A.** (2022). Fentanyl self administration increases risk taking behavior in male rats. *Research presented at the Society for Neuroscience meeting,* San Diego, CA.

Wheeler, A.R., Truckenbrod, L., Boehnke, A., Cooper, E., **Orsini, C.A.** (2022). Sex differences in dopaminergic regulation of risky decision making. *Research presented at the International Society for Behavioral Neuroscience,* Glasgow, Scotland.

Truckenbrod, L., Cooper, E., Wheeler, A.R., **Orsini, C.A.** (2022). Cognitive relationships underlying risky decision making in male and female rats. *Research presented at the International Society for Behavioral Neuroscience,* Glasgow, Scotland.

Setlow, B., Blaes, S.L., Shimp, K.G., Betzhold, S.M., Bizon, J.L., **Orsini, C.A.** (2021). Chronic cocaine causes age-dependent increases in risk taking in rats of both sexes. *Research and poster presented at the 60th Annual American College of Neuropsychopharmacology meeting,* Virtual.

Pyon, W., Blaes, S.L., **Orsini, C.A**., Barrett, J., Holik, H.M., Singhal, S., Frazier, C.J., Setlow, B., Bizon, J.L., (2021). Temporally-specific inhibition of ventral tegmental area dopamine neurons during decision making under risk of punishment. *Research and poster presented at the Society for Neuroscience,* Virtual.

Wheeler, A.R., Truckenbrod, L., Boehnke, A., Cooper, E., **Orsini, C.A.** (2021). Sex differences in dopaminergic regulation of risky decision making. *Research and poster presented at the Society for Neuroscience,* Virtual.

Truckenbrod, L., Cooper, E., Wheeler, A.R., **Orsini, C.A.** (2021). Cognitive relationships underlying risky decision making in male and female rats. *Research and poster presented at the Society for Neuroscience,* Virtual.

Truckenbrod, L.M., Cooper, E., **Orsini, C.A.** (2021). Sex differences in dopaminergic regulation of decision making. *Waggoner Center for Alcohol and Addiction Research Advance symposium, UT Austin,* Virtual.

Orsini, C.A., Blaes. S.L., Hernandez, C.M., Betzhold, S.M., Perera, H., Wheeler, A.R., Bizon, J.L., Setlow, B. (2019). Hormonal regulation of risky decision making in male and female rats. *Research and poster presented at the 58th Annual American College of Neuropsychopharmacology meeting in Orlando, FL.*

Setlow, B., **Orsini, C.A.,** Betzhold, S.M.,Wheeler, A.R., Ten-Eyck, T.W., Shallcross, J., Singhal, S., Hardin, S., Schwendt, M., Frazier, C.J., Bizon, J.L. (2019). Dissecting the role of the nucleus accumbens in risk taking with optogenetics. *Research and poster presented at the 58th Annual American College of Neuropsychopharmacology meeting in Orlando, FL.*

Wheeler, A.R., Hernandez, C.M., **Orsini, C.A.,** Ten Eyck, T.W., Labiste, C.C., Setlow, B., Bizon, J.L. (2019). Contributions of gonadal hormones to intertemporal choice in male rats. *Research and poster presented at the Society for Neuroscience in Chicago, IL.*

Blaes, S.L., **Orsini, C.A**., Betzhold, S.M., Holik, H.M., Wilson, J., Singhal, S.M., Frazier, C.J., Bizon, J.L., Setlow, B. (2019). Regulation of risky decision making via activity in dopaminergic neurons in the ventral tegmental area. *Research and poster presented at the Society for Neuroscience in Chicago, IL.*

Dragone, R.J., **Orsini, C.A.,** Pompilus, M., Wheeler, A.R., Febo, M., Setlow, B., Bizon, J.L. (2019). Aging is associated with risk-averse decision making in Fischer 344 X Brown Norway F1 Hybrid Rats. *Research and poster presented at the Society for Neuroscience in Chicago, IL.*

Orsini, C.A., Betzhold, S.M.,Wheeler, A.R., Ten-Eyck, T.W., Shallcross, J., Singhal, S., Hardin, S., Schwendt, M., Frazier, C.J., Bizon, J.L., Setlow, B. (2019). Dissecting the role of the nucleus accumbens in risk taking with optogenetics. *Research and poster presented at the Society for Neuroscience in Chicago, IL.*

Orsini, C.A., Betzhold, S.M.,Wheeler, A.R., Ten-Eyck, T.W., Shallcross, J., Singhal, S., Hardin, S., Schwendt, M., Frazier, C.J., Bizon, J.L., Setlow, B. (2019). Dissecting the role of the nucleus accumbens in risk taking with optogenetics. *Research and poster presented at Collaborative Research on Addiction at NIH Mentored K Career Development Meeting*.

Blaes, S.L., **Orsini, C.A.,** Holik, H., Bizon, J.L., Setlow, B. (2018). Effects of inactivation of the lateral habenula on risky decision making. *Research and poster presented at the Society for*

Neuroscience in San Diego, CA.

Orsini, C.A., Blaes, S.L., Bizon, J.L., Setlow, B. (2018). Sex differences in the relationship between risk-taking preference and escalation of cocaine self-administration in rats. *Research and poster presented at the Society for Neuroscience in San Diego, CA.*

Wheeler, A.R., Hernandez, C.M., **Orsini, C.A.,** Ten Eyck, T.W., Labiste, C.C., Setlow, B., Bizon, J.L. (2018). Female rats show greater impulsive choice than males in an intertemporal choice task. *Research and poster presented at the Society for Neuroscience in San Diego, CA*

Ten Eyck, T.W., Hernandez, C.M., McQuail, J.M., Wheeler, A.R., **Orsini, C.A.**, Ghay, S., Bruner, M.M., Labiste, C.C., Setlow, B., Bizon, J.L. (2018). Altered $GABA_B$ receptor signaling in the basolateral amygdala may contribute to age-associated differences in intertemporal choice. *Research and poster presented at the Society for Neuroscience in San Diego, CA*

Hernandez, C.M., **Orsini, C.A.,** Labiste, C.C., Wheeler, A.R., Ten Eyck, T.W., Bruner, M.M., Singhal, S.M., Frazier, C.J., Setlow, B. Bizon, J.L. (2018). Aged rats do not use basolateral amygdala during outcome evaluation in an intertemporal choice task. *Research and poster presented at the Society for Neuroscience in San Diego, CA.*

Orsini, C.A., Hernandez, C.M., Singhal, S. Kelly, K.B., Frazier, C.J. Bizon, J.L., Setlow, B. (2017). Optogenetic inactivation of the basolateral amygdala during risky decision making in rats. *Research and poster presented at the 56th Annual American College of Neuropsychopharmacology meeting in Palm Springs, CA.*

Hernandez, C.M., **Orsini, C.A.,** McQuail, J.A., Labiste, C., Wheeler, A.R., Ten Eyck, T., Singhal, S., Burke, S.N., Frazier, C.J., Setlow, B., Bizon, J.L. (2017). Optogenetic inactivation of the basolateral amygdala in young rats recapitulates aged rats' ability to delay gratification in an intertemporal choice task. *Research and poster presented at the Society for Neuroscience in Washington, D.C.*

Blaes, S.L., **Orsini, C.A.,** Garman, T.S., Bizon, J.L, Setlow, B. (2017) Regulation of risky decision making by gonadal hormones. *Research and poster presented at the Society for Neuroscience in Washington, D.C.*

Orsini, C.A., Hernandez, C.M., Singhal, S. Kelly, K.B., Frazier, C.J. Bizon, J.L., Setlow, B. (2017). Optogenetic inactivation of the basolateral amygdala during risky decision making in rats. *Research and poster presented at the Society for Neuroscience in Washington, D.C.*

Orsini, C.A., Hernandez, C.M., Singhal, S. Kelly, K.B., Frazier, C.J. Bizon, J.L., Setlow, B. (2017). Optogenetic inactivation of the basolateral amygdala during risky decision making in rats. *Research and poster presented at Amygdala Function in Emotion, Cognition & Disease Gordon Research Conference in Easton, MA.*

Orsini, C.A., Heshmati, S.C., Wall, S.C., Bizon, J.L., Setlow, B. (2016). The medial prefrontal cortex is critical for the flexibility necessary for adaptive risky decision making. *Research and poster presented at the 55th Annual American College of Neuropsychopharmacology meeting in Hollywood, FL.*

Setlow, B., Blaes, S.L., **Orsini, C.A.**, Ferguson, S.N., Heshmati, S.C., Wall, S.C., Febo, M., Bruijinzeel, A.W., Bizon, J.L. (2016). Effects of acute exposure to cannabis smoke on working memory. *Research and poster presented at the 55th Annual American College of Neuropsychopharmacology meeting in Hollywood, FL.*

Blaes, S.L., **Orsini, C.A.**, Spurrell, M.S., Bizon, J.L., Setlow, B. (2016). Differential effects of D2 and D3 dopamine receptor ligands on risky decision making. *Research and poster presented at the Societyfor Neuroscience in San Diego, CA.*

Vetere, L.M., **Orsini, C.A.**, McQuail, J.A., Burke, S.N., Setlow, B., Bizon, J.L. (2016). Age-related alterations in working memory and intertemporal choice in Fischer 344 x Brown Norway Hybrid

rats. *Research and poster presented at the Society for Neuroscience in San Diego, CA.*

Orsini, C.A., Heshmati, S.C., Wall, S.C., Bizon, J.L., Setlow, B. (2016). The medial prefrontal cortex is critical for the flexibility necessary for adaptive risky decision making. *Research and poster presented at the Society for Neuroscience in San Diego, CA.*

Orsini, C.A., Simon, N.W., Febo, M., Bizon, J.L, Setlow, B. (2015). Neural activity in the basolateral amygdala in a risky decision-making task in rats. *Research and poster presented at the 54th Annual American College of Neuropsychopharmacology meeting in Hollywood, FL.*

Febo, M., **Orsini, C.A.**, Colon-Perez, L., Heshmati, S., Knackstedt, L., Setlow, B. (2015). Resting state functional connectivity in rat brain during extended daily access to cocaine and abstinence. *Research and poster presented at the 54th Annual American College of Neuropsychopharmacology meeting in Hollywood, FL.*

Setlow, B., Wall, S.C., Heshmati, S., Jagnarine, D., Ravula, A., Simpson, K., **Orsini, C.A.**, Febo, M., Bruijnzeel, A. (2015). Effects of Chronic Adolescent Exposure to Cannabis Smoke on Adult Behavioral Outcomes. *Research and poster presented at the 54th Annual American College of Neuropsychopharmacology meeting in Hollywood, FL.*

Orsini, C.A., Febo, M., Bizon, J.L, Setlow, B. (2015). Neural activity in the basolateral amygdala in a risky decision-making task in rats. *Research and poster presented at the Society for Neuroscience in Chicago, IL.*

Orsini, C.A., Trotta, R.T., Bizon, J.L., Setlow, B. (2014). Lesions of the orbitofrontal cortex decrease risk taking in rats. *Research and poster presented at the 53rd Annual American College of Neuropsychopharmacology meeting in Phoenix, AZ.*

Orsini, C.A., Trotta, R.T., Bizon, J.L., Setlow, B. (2014). The basolateral amygdala and the orbitofrontal cortex have functionally dissociable roles in a rodent model of risky decision-making. *Research and poster presented at Society for Neuroscience in Washington D.C.*

Setlow, B., **Orsini, C.A.**, Bizon, J.L. (2014). Aging is associated with reduced choice of risky options in Fischer 344 rats. *Research and poster presented at Society for Neuroscience in Washington D.C.*

Orsini, C.A. & Setlow, B. (2014). The effects of traumatic stress on risky decision-making in rodents. *Research and poster presented at the National Center for Gaming Conference in Las Vegas, NV.*

Orsini, C.A., Setlow, C.A. (2013). Lesions of the basolateral amygdala induce elevations in risk taking. *Research and poster presented at Gordon Amygdala in Health and Disease in Easton, MA.*

Orsini, C.A., Setlow, C.A. (2013). Lesions of the basolateral amygdala induce elevations in risk taking. *Research and poster presented at the 52nd Annual American College of Neuropsychopharmacology meeting in Hollywood, FL.*

Orsini, C.A., Wallis, D., Setlow, B. (2013). Behavioral and neurochemical characterization of mutant mice lacking Lphn3, a gene implicated in ADHD and addiction. *Research and poster presented at Society for Neuroscience in San Diego, CA.*

Orsini, C.A., Yan, C., Josselyn, S.A., Maren, S. (2012). Context-dependent neuronal ensembles in the amygdala, prelimbic cortex and ventral hippocampus after fear extinction in rats. *Research and poster presented at the Society for Neuroscience in New Orleans, LA.*

Orsini, C.A., Yan, C., Josselyn, S.A., Maren, S. (2012). Context-dependent neuronal ensembles in the amygdala, prelimbic cortex and ventral hippocampus after fear extinction in rats. *Research and poster presented at the 51st Annual American College of Neuropsychopharmacology meeting in Hollywood, FL.*

Orsini, C.A., Kim, J.H., Knapska, E., Maren, S. (2011). Hippocampal and prefrontal projections to the basolateral amygdala mediate contextual regulation of fear after extinction in rats. *Research and poster presented at the Society for Neuroscience in Washington, D.C.*

Regmi, N.L., **Orsini, C.A.**, Maren, S., Greene, R.W. (2011). Dysfunctional dorsal hippocampal NMDA receptors are sufficient to induce abnormal renewal of previously extinguished fear. *Research and poster presented at Society for Neuroscience in Washington, D.C.*

Orsini, C.A., Maren, S. (2011). Hippocampal and prefrontal projections to the basal amygdala mediate contextual regulation of fear after extinction in rats. *Research and poster presented at Gordon Amygdala in Health and Disease in Waterville, ME.*

Chang, C.H., **Orsini, C.A.** & Maren, S. (2010). Delayed, but not immediate, fear extinction induces fos in basolateral amygdala interneurons. *Research and poster presented at the Society for Neuroscience in San Diego, CA.*

Orsini, C.A. & Maren, S. (2010). Disconnection of the ventral hippocampus and prelimbic cortex does not disrupt renewal of fear after extinction in rats. *Research and poster presented at the Society for Neuroscience in San Diego, CA.*

Orsini, C.A. & Maren, S. (2009). Disconnection of the basolateral amygdala and ventral hippocampus disrupts the renewal of fear after extinction. *Research and poster presented at the Society for Neuroscience in Chicago, IL.*

Orsini, C.A. & Maren, S. (2008). Glutamate receptors in the medial geniculate nucleus are necessary for expression and extinction of conditioned fear in rats. *Research and poster presented at Pavlovian Society conference in Weehawken, NJ.*

Orsini, C.A. & Maren, S. (2008). Glutamate receptors in the medial geniculate nucleus are necessary for expression and extinction of conditioned fear in rats. *Research and poster presented at the Society for Neuroscience in Washington, D.C.*

Orsini, C.A., Burns, K., McCully, S. & Schaefer, G. (2005). Is there a relationship between letter span capacity and the ability to multi-task? *Research and poster presented at the Maryland Psychological Association, MD.*

Orsini, C.A., Burns, K., McCully, S. & Schaefer, G. (2005). Is there a relationship between letter span capacity and the ability to multi-task? *Research and poster presented at the Eastern Psychological Association in Boston, MA.*

Spilich, G.J. & **Orsini, C.A.** (2005). Visuospatial performance: sex and sexual orientation effects on the JLAP. *Research and poster presented at the Eastern Psychological Association, Boston, MA.*

REGIONAL CONFERENCE ABSTRACTS

Kheradbin, N., Kahanek, P., Fonken, L., **Orsini, C.A.** (2024). Stress as a Catalyst: How Traumatic Stress Influences Decision Making Related to Substance Use. *Research and poster presented at the annual Center for Molecular Carcinogenesis and Toxicology Symposium, UT Austin.*

Cutright, H., Truckenbrod, L., Garner, M., Carlos, N., Gore, A., **Orsini, C.A.** (2024). Effects of ERα and ERβ agonists on female risky decision making. *Research and poster presented at the Undergraduate Research Forum, College of Natural Sciences, UT Austin.*

Ju, A., Kelly, M., **Orsini, C.A.** (2024). Modeling delayed probabilistic punishment in risk-based decision making. *Research and poster presented at the Undergraduate Research Forum, College of Natural Sciences, UT Austin.*

Wheeler, A-R, Truckenbrod, L.M., Cooper, E., Setlow, B., **Orsini, C.A.** (2023). Effects of fentanyl self administration on risk-taking behavior in rats. *Research and poster presented at the Waggoner Center for Alcohol and Addiction Research annual symposium in Austin, TX.*

Wheeler, A-R., Truckenbrod, L.M., Boehnke, A., Cooper, E., **Orsini, C.A.** (2022). Sex differences in the dopaminergic regulation of risky decision making. *Research and poster presented at the Waggoner Center for Alcohol and Addiction Research annual symposium in Austin, TX.*

Truckenbrod, L.M., Wheeler, A-R., Cooper, E., **Orsini, C.A.** (2022). Cocaine intake affects estrous cycling and correlates with risk-taking behavior in female rats. *Research and poster presented at the Waggoner Center for Alcohol and Addiction Research annual symposium in Austin, TX.*

Truckenbrod, L., Wheeler, A.R., Cooper, E., **Orsini, C.A.** (2021). Sex differences in the dopaminergic regulation of risky decision making. *Research and poster presented at the Waggoner Center for Alcohol and Addiction Research annual symposium in Austin, TX.*

Orsini, C.A., Blaes, S.L., Garman, T.S., Bizon, J.L., Setlow, B. (2018). Regulation of risky decision making by gonadal hormones. *Research and poster presented at the Center for Addiction and Research Education symposium at the University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.*

Orsini, C.A., Hernandez, C.M., Singhal, S., Kelly, K.B., Frazier, C.J., Bizon, J.L., Setlow, B. (2017). Optogenetic inhibition of the basolateral amygdala during risky decision making in rats. *Research and poster presented at the Center for Addiction and Research Education symposium at the University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.*

Orsini, C.A., Heshmati, S.C., Wall, S.C., Bizon, J.L., Setlow, B. (2016). The medial prefrontal cortex is necessary for the flexibility required for adaptive risky decision-making. *Research and poster presented at the Center for Addiction and Research Education symposium at the University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.*

Orsini, C.A., Shimp, K., Bizon, J., Setlow, B., Deng, J. (2014). Risky decision-making modulates the epigenetic factor MECP2. *Research and poster presented at UF College of Medicine Celebration of Research in Gainesville, FL.*

Trotta, R., **Orsini, C.A.**, Bizon, J., Setlow, B. (2014). Lesions of the orbitofrontal cortex induce decreased risk taking in rats. *Research and poster presented at the North Central Florida Society for Neuroscience Symposium in Gainesville, FL.*

Trotta, R., **Orsini, C.A.**, Bizon, J., Setlow, B. (2014). Lesions of the orbitofrontal cortex induce decreased risk taking in rats. *Research and poster presented at the UF College of Medicine Celebration of Research in Gainesville, FL.*

Orsini, C.A., Setlow, B. (2013/2014). Lesions of the basolateral amygdala induce elevations in risk taking. *Research and poster presented at North Central Florida Society for Neuroscience Symposium in Gainesville, FL.*

Orsini, C.A., Setlow, B. (2013/2014). Lesions of the basolateral amygdala induce elevations in risk taking. *Research and poster presented at UF College of Medicine Celebration of Research in Gainesville, FL.*

Orsini, C.A., Ginton, G., Shimp, K.G., Avena, N.M, Gold, M.S., Setlow, B. (2013). The effects of chronic amphetamine exposure on consummatory behavior during withdrawal. *Research and poster presented at the UF College of Medicine Celebration of Research in Gainesville, FL*.

Orsini, C.A., Ginton, G., Shimp, K.G., Avena, N.M, Gold, M.S., Setlow, B. (2013). The effects of chronic amphetamine exposure on consummatory behavior during withdrawal. *Research and poster presented at the Center for Addiction Research and Education symposium, in Gainesville, FL*.

CONTINUED EDUCATION

- Mentoring Best Practices Course, developed and conducted by Drs. Yael Niv and Laura Murray, Princeton University, February 2023-May 2023
- Collaborative Research on Addiction at NIH Mentored K Career Development Meeting, August 2019
- The CAJAL Advanced Neuroscience Training Programme: Linking Neural Circuits and

Behaviour, October 2018
- Cold Spring Harbor Cellular Biology of Addiction course, August 2013

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Kavli Fellow, National Academy of Science (2024-Pres)
- American College of Neuropsychopharmacology, Associate Membership, (2022-Pres)
- UT Austin Faculty Travel Grant (2019, 2021, 2022)
- Center for Addiction Research Education Travel Award (2016, 2017, 2018)
- North Central Florida Society for Neuroscience Travel Award (2016)
- McKnight Brain Institute Travel Award (2016)
- Winter Conference on Brain Research Travel Fellowship (2015)
- North Central Florida Society for Neuroscience Travel Award (2014)
- International Behavioral Neuroscience Society Travel Award (2014)
- North Central Florida Society for Neuroscience Chapter Award (2013)
- American College of Neuropsychopharmacology Travel Award (2012)
- Rackham Travel Award, University of Michigan (2008, 2009, 2010, & 2011)
- National Science Foundation Honorable Mention, University of Michigan (2008)
- George Washington Medal, Washington College (2007)
- Psi Chi Honor Society (2006–2007)
- Board of Governor and Visitor's Award, Washington College (2007)
- Sophomore Alumni Medal, Washington College (2006)
- Fox Freshman Scholarship Award, Washington College (2005)
- Freshman Chemistry Achievement Award, Washington College (2004)
- Dean's List, Washington College (2003–2007)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

North Central Florida Society for Neuroscience Chapter
- *Conference Coordinator* (2014 – 2016)

Gordon Research Conference
- Chair for the 2015 *Amygdala in Health and Disease* Gordon Research Seminar
- Associate Chair for the 2013 *Amygdala in Health and Disease* Gordon Research Seminar

Center for Addiction Research and Education, University of Florida
- *External Speaker Committee member* (July 2018-July 2019)

Manuscript Reviewer
Neuroscience, British Journal of Pharmacology, Brain Structure & Function, Behavioral Neuroscience, PLoS One, Psychopharmacology, Learning & Memory, Neurobiology of Aging, Neurobiology of Learning and Memory, The Journal of Neuroscience, Neuropsychopharmacology, Journal of Psychopharmacology, Journal of Neuroscience Research, Frontiers of Behavioral Neuroscience, Psychoneuroendocrinology, Neuroscience and Biobehavioral Reviews, Cognitive, Affective and Behavioral Neuroscience, Behavioural Brain Research, Physiology & Behavior

Grant Reviewer
- *National Center for Responsible Gaming* (2016-2018)
- *College of Medicine Thomas H. Maren Fellowship* (2017, 2019)
- *Cutting-Edge Basic Research Awards (R21), National Institute on Drug Abuse* (October 2019)

- *Cutting-Edge Basic Research Awards (R21), National Institute on Drug Abuse* (June 2020)
- *W.M. Keck Foundation (2021)*
- *Pathway to Independence Awards (K99/R00), National Institute of Mental Health (*July 2022*)*
- *Pathway to Independence Awards (K99/R00), National Institute of Mental Health (*December 2022*)*
- *Pathway to Independence Awards (K99/R00), National Institute of Mental Health (*March 2023*)*
- *HEAL Initiative Advanced Postdoctoral-to-Independent Career Transition Award (K99/R00) in PAIN and SUD Research to Promote Diversity, National Institute on Drug Abuse* (March, 2024)
- *Center for Medicinal Cannabis Research Grants Program, UCSD* (June 2023, 2025)

Editorial Boards

- *Frontiers in Integrative Neuroscience* (January 2021-present)
- *PLoS* (January 2021-2023)
- *Frontiers in Systems Neuroscience* (June 2023-present)

Committees

- *Department Academic Affairs Committee, Department of Neurology, Dell Medical School, The University of Texas at Austin* (2025-Present)
- *Chair, BEVOS Committee, Department of Psychology, The University of Texas* (2025-Present)
- *Graduate Advisory Committee, Department of Psychology, The University of Texas* (2025-Present)
- *Education and Training Committee, American College of Neuropsychopharmacology (*2025-Present)
- *BEVOS Committee, Department of Psychology, The University of Texas* (2024-Present)
- *Society for Advancing Gender Equity in STEM, Faculty Mentor* (2023-Present)
- *Promotion and Tenure Reorganization Committee, Department of Psychology, The University of Texas at Austin* (2022-2023)
- *Chair, Department Colloquium Committee, Department of Psychology, The University of Texas at Austin* (2022-2023)
- *Executive Committee, Department of Psychology, The University of Texas at Austin* (2022-2023)
- *Executive Committee, Waggoner Center for Alcohol and Addiction Center, The University of Texas at Austin* (2022-Present)
- *Central Texas Veterans Health Care System/UTA Institutional Biosafety Committee* (2022-Present)
- *Institutional Biosafety Committee, The University of Texas at Austin* (2020-Present)
- *Executive Committee, Department of Psychology, The University of Texas at Austin* (2020-2021)
- *IDEAS Committee, Department of Psychology, The University of Texas at Austin* (2020-2024)

TEACHING & MENTORING EXPERIENCE

The University of Texas at Austin (Austin, TX)

Teaching:

- Behavioral Neuroscience module of Neuroscience Bootcamp, Institute for Neuroscience, The University of Austin (August 2021, 2022, 2023, 2025)
- Psychopharmacology (PSY353K; Fall 2019, Spring 2021, Fall 2021, Spring 2023, Fall 2023, Spring 2024, Spring 2025, Spring 2026)
- Current Topics in Behavioral Neuroscience (PSY394P, Fall 2020; PSY 191E, Fall 2024, Spring 2025, Fall 2025, Spring 2026)
- Neuroscience of Motivation and Reward (PSY332M, Fall 2025)

Graduate Students:

- Leah Truckenbrod, Interdisciplinary Neuroscience Program (2020-2024)
  - *Awarded a Bruce/Jones Fellowship (2021-2022)*
  - *Awarded a predoctoral NIH NRSA (2022-2025)*
  - *Awarded a Travel Award, International Behavioral Neuroscience Society (2023)*
  - *Awarded Outstanding Women in Learning Graduate student, Pavlovian Society (2023)*
- Alexa Rae Wheeler, Interdisciplinary Neuroscience Program (2021-2026)
  - *Awarded a Bruce/Jones Fellowship (2023-2026)*
- Zorana Opachich, Interdisciplinary Neuroscience Program, (2024-Present)
- Payton Kahanek, Pharmacology and Toxicology Graduate Program (2024-Present)
  - *Awarded a Bruce/Jones Fellowship (2024-2026)*
- Hannah Bow, Interdisciplinary Neuroscience Program (2025-Present)

Membership on Graduate Student Dissertation Committee:

- Kenji Nishimura, Interdisciplinary Neuroscience Program
- Sydney Lee, Department of Psychology
- Adriana Vasquez, Department of Psychology
- Bailey Remmers, Interdisciplinary Neuroscience Program
- Kathryn Mahach, Department of Psychology
- Sophie Buchmaier, Interdisciplinary Neuroscience Program

Undergraduate students:

- Stephanie Root, Psychology, 2020-2021
- Xinyu Jia, Psychology, 2020-2021.
- Adrian Boehnke, Neuroscience, 2020-2022.
- Merrick Garner, Neuroscience, 2020-2022.
- Megan Thomas, Neuroscience, 2020-2022.
- Kyla Gruenberger, 2020-2022.
- April Sunyoung Ju, Neuroscience, 2020-2024.
- Nadia Carlos, Neuroscience, 2022-2024.
- Allison Greer, Neuroscience, 2022-2023.
- Isabelle Tseng, Psychology, 2022-2023.
- Allison Lau, Psychology, 2022-2024.
- Erin Brill, Neuroscience, 2022-2023.
- Hannah Cutright, Biology, 2022-2025.
- Sydney Tu, Neuroscience, 2023-2025.
- Giselle Pedraza, Neuroscience, 2023.
- Emily Zoorob, Psychology, 2023-2024.
- Katie Kitto, Psychology, 2023-2025.
- Kathy Tran, Neuroscience, 2023.
- Isabel Csitkovits, Neuroscience, 2023-2024.
- Sree Darma, Biology, 2023.
- Marion Mochache, Psychology, 2023.
- Amirtha Jayakumaran, Biology, 2024.
- Anagha Natarajan, Neuroscience, 2024-
- Nicki Kheradbin, Psychology, 2024-2025.
- Pooneh Rahimi, Neuroscience, 2024-2025.
- Zain Zeitouni, Biochemistry, 2024-2025.
- Taydem Ligon, Psychology, 2024-2025.
- Ariba Badarpura, Neuroscience, 2024-
- Ethan Eanes, Public Health, 2024-
- Mira Bhakta, Neuroscience, 2024-
- Alessandro Bernini, 2025-
- Jaeden Gomez, Neuroscience, 2025-
- Jana Saad, Psychology, 2025-
- Jewel Parrel, Neuroscience, 2025-
- Namrata Boggaram, 2025-
- Monil Parekh, 2025-
- Nitya Kondaveeti, Psychology, 2025-
- Reeda Karowadia, 2025-
- Vincent Nguyen, 2025-
- Samyak Girish, Neuroscience, 2025-
- Trisha Govind, 2025-
- Shrinika Govin, 2025-
- Berkeley Keller, 2026-
- Aslesha Barik, 2026-
- Swasti Sogani, 2026-
- Luke Fehlis, 2026-
- Sophie Vuong, 2026-

Undergraduate Honors Thesis Students

- Adrian Boehnke (2021-2022)
- April Sunyoung Ju (2023-2024)
- Emily Zoorob (2023-2024)

Women in Neuroscience Undergraduate Internship Program

- Sydney Tu (Summer 2023)
- Erin Riley (Summer 2025)

University of Michigan (Ann Arbor, MI)

- Graduate Student Instructor & Head Mentor, "Introduction to Biopsychology" (2009)
- Biopsychology Concentration Advisor, Department of Psychology (2009)
- Psychology Student Academic Affairs Advisor (2009)
- Grader, "Biopsychology of Learning and Memory" (2009)
- Grader, "Neuropsychology of Learning and Memory" (2011)

Washington College (Chestertown, MD)

- Course Mentor, Computer Science Department (2003–2006)
- Psychology TA (2004–2005)
- Peer Mentor (2004–2005)

PAST LEADERSHIP/ACADEMIC ROLES

University of Michigan (Ann Arbor, MI)

- Research Fellow, Biopsychology Department (2007-2012)
- Biopsychology Departmental Associate (2009-2010)

University College, London (London, UK)

- Research Intern, Psychology Department (2006)

Washington College (Chestertown, MD)

- Speaker of the Senate (2006)
- Psychology Research Assistant, Psychology Department (2003-2005)

George Washington University (Washington, DC)

- Intern – School of Public Health and Health Services (Summer 2005)

Mental Health Initiatives, Non-Profit Organization (Washington, DC)

- Intern (Summer 2005)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Society for Neuroscience (2008-Present)
- American Psychological Association (2009-2011)
- International Behavioral Neuroscience Society (2012-Present)
- Pavlovian Society (2007-Present)
- Molecular Cellular Cognition (2010-2012)

MEDIA COVERAGE

- Featured in the podcast Neuroscientists Talk Shop hosted by University of Texas at San Antonio to discuss the neurobiology of risky choice
- Featured in the podcast BrainPod hosted by the journal Neuropsychopharmacology to discuss

recent publication in the journal (January 2025).

METHODOLOGICAL AND LABORATORY EXPERIENCE

- Behavioral pharmacology
- Stereotaxic surgery
- Immunohistochemistry
- *In situ* hybridization
- Fluorescent and confocal microscopy
- *In vivo* electrophysiology
- Drug self-administration
- Optogenetics