

CARLI L. POISSON, PhD

Trinity College
(207) 478-8526 • carli.poisson@trincoll.edu

CURRENT POSITION

Trinity College, Hartford, CT
Lecturer in Neuroscience
Neuroscience Program

Fall 2025

EDUCATION

University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN
Graduate Program of Neuroscience
Supervisor: Benjamin T Saunders

July 2024

Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT
Bachelor of Arts, GPA: 3.86
Major: Neuroscience, GPA: 4.00

May 2018

TEACHING EXPERIENCE AND MENTORING

Visiting Assistant Professor, *Wesleyan University*, Middletown, CT
PSYC 121F: The Brain, Fact or Fiction?
PSYC 351: Your Brain on Drugs
NS&B 238: Psychological Theories of Learning and Motivation
NS&B 280: Applied Data Analysis

Fall 2024 –
Spring 2025

Visiting Instructor, *Macalester College*, Saint Paul, MN
BIOL 304-L: Neuroanatomy Lecture and Lab

Spring 2023,
Spring 2024

Guest Lecturer, *Macalester College*, Saint Paul, MN
BIOL 494: Seminar in Neural Control of Movement

Spring 2021

Graduate Teaching Assistant, *University of Minnesota*, Minneapolis, MN
NSC 8211: Developmental Neurobiology

Spring 2020

PhD Mentor, *Saunders Lab at University of Minnesota*, Minneapolis, MN
Mentored undergraduate Cassandra Herubin, now pursuing clinical psychology

September 2019 –
July 2024

Teaching Assistant, *Wesleyan University Biology Department*, Middletown, CT
BIOL 192-L: Principles of Biology II, laboratory course

Spring 2018

Tutor and Teaching Assistant, *Wesleyan University Biology Department*, Middletown, CT
BIOL 181: Principles of Biology I, Cell Biology and Molecular Basis of Heredity

Fall 2016

AWARDS AND HONORS

F31 Ruth L Kirschstein National Research Service Award National Institute on Drug Abuse, Award number: 1F31DA055482-01.	April 2022 – July 2024
Dean's Distinguished Graduate Fellowship, University of Minnesota Medical School: College of Biological Sciences	September 2018 – July 2024
T32 Training Grant, National Institute of Drug Abuse Award number: 5T32DA00723434.	July 2020 – April 2022
Student Keynote Speaker, University of Minnesota Elected by Graduate Program of Neuroscience	February 2022
George H. Acheson and Grass Foundation Prize in Neuroscience Wesleyan University, CT	May 2018
Phi Beta Kappa, Connecticut Gamma Chapter Wesleyan University, CT.	May 2018

SERVICE, OUTREACH, AND ACTIVISM

Co-chair of Marketing and Recruitment, <i>University of Minnesota</i>	June 2022 – December 2023
Organizer of Symposium on Computational Neuroscience, <i>University of Minnesota</i>	April 2022
Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Committee, <i>University of Minnesota</i>	July 2020-2021
Community of Practice Member, <i>Leveraging Research for Change</i>	January 2020 – December 2020
Scientist letter writer, <i>Letters to a Pre-Scientist</i>	September 2020 – June 2021

PUBLICATIONS

Poisson C.L., Wolff A.R., Probofsky J., Herubin C., Saunders B.T., Superior colliculus projections drive dopamine neuron activity and movement in the absence of learning (in prep)

Poisson C.L., Engel L and Saunders B.T., Dopamine Circuit Mechanisms of Addiction-Like Behaviors. Front. Neural Circuits 15:752420. doi: 10.3389/fncir.2021.752420 (2021).

Hernandez-Casner C., Woloshchuk C.J., Poisson C.L., Hussain S., Ramos J., Serafine K.M., Dietary supplementation with fish oil reverses high fat diet-induced enhanced sensitivity to the behavioral effects of quinpirole, Behavioural Pharmacology. 30, (2019).

PRESENTATIONS

Poisson C.L., Herubin C.R., Wolff A.R., Saunders B.T., Superior colliculus influences Pavlovian motor learning via excitation of dopamine and GABA neurons in the VTA and SNc. Society for Neuroscience, November 2023, Washington DC.

Poisson C.L., Herubin C.R., Wolff A.R., Saunders B.T., Superior colliculus projections to dopamine centers alter motor output during Pavlovian learning. Society for Neuroscience, November 2022, San Diego CA.

Poisson C.L., Herubin C.R., Wolff A.R., Saunders B.T., Superior colliculus projections to dopamine centers alter motor output during Pavlovian learning. Optogenetic Gordon Research Conference, July 2022, Newry ME.

Poisson C.L., Herubin C.R., Wolff A.R., Saunders B.T., Superior colliculus projections to dopamine centers alter motor output during Pavlovian learning. Basal Ganglia Gordon Research Conference, March 2022, Ventura CA.

Poisson C.L., Herubin C.R., Saunders B.T., The role of superior colliculus inputs to the ventral tegmental area in appetitive Pavlovian conditioning. Society for Neuroscience, Global Connectome, January 2021, Virtual.

Ben-Ezra A., Halter E., Freeland C.M., Poisson C.L., Wang A., Ferrario C.R., Robinson M.J.F., The impact of junk-food on ‘liking’ responses to sucrose, saccharin and salt in obesity-prone and obesity-resistant rats. Society for Neuroscience, November 2017, Washington D.C.

Poisson C.L., Robinson M.J.F., Effects of optogenetic activation of the central amygdala on learning and risky decision making. Wesleyan University, July 2017, Middletown CT.

Ben-Ezra A., Halter E., Freeland C.M., Poisson C.L., Wang A., Ferrario C.R., Robinson M.J.F., The impact of junk-food on ‘liking’ responses to sucrose, saccharin and salt in obesity-prone and obesity-resistant rats. Society for the Study of Ingestive Behavior, July 2017, Montreal.

Poisson C.L., Woloschuk C.J., Hernandez-Casner C., Serafine K.M., Docosahexaenoic acid as a treatment for the negative health consequences of a high fat diet. University of Texas at El Paso, July 2016, El Paso.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

PhD Candidate , <i>Graduate Program of Neuroscience</i> , Minneapolis, MN Dr. Benjamin Saunders’ Laboratory	March 2019 – July 2024
Rotation Student , <i>Graduate Program of Neuroscience</i> , Minneapolis, MN Dr. Benjamin Hayden’s Laboratory	January 2019 – March 2019
Rotation Student , <i>Graduate Program of Neuroscience</i> , Minneapolis, MN Dr. Anna Lee’s Laboratory	October 2018 – December 2018
Research Assistant I and Rotation Student , <i>Lemos Laboratory</i> , Minneapolis, MN Dr. Julia Lemos’ Laboratory	June 2018 – October 2018
Research Assistant I and Lab Manager , <i>Robinson Laboratory</i> , Middletown, CT Dr. Mike Robinson’s Laboratory	October 2015 – May 2018
SMARTMIND Student Researcher , <i>University of Texas at El Paso</i> , El Paso, TX Dr. Katherine Serafine’s Laboratory	May 2016 – August 2016

REFERENCES

Ben Saunders, PhD, Assistant Professor of Neuroscience, University of Minnesota Twin Cities, (612) 626- 5198, bts@umn.edu

Katherine Serafine, PhD, Assistant Professor of Psychology, University of Texas at El Paso, (915) 747-6566, kmserafine2@utep.edu

Elizabeth Jansen, PhD, Assistant Professor of Biology, Macalester College, (651) 696-6247, jansen@macalester.edu