

# Christina Camilleri

Franciscan University of Steubenville  
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## Education

**Franciscan University of Steubenville** – Steubenville, OH 2015-2017  
B.S. in Biology, *cum laude*

**Lenoir-Rhyne University** – Hickory, NC 2014-2015

## Research Interests

Behavioral neuroscience is a branch of science that seeks to take into consideration the function of the brain as it relates to behavior. One of the ways to investigate this relationship is through the use of animal models. Broadly speaking, my general interest is in the neuropathology associated with various psychiatric disorders, such as in Parkinson's disease, disorders affecting reward and motivation, as well as those resulting from various physical conditions that may indirectly affect neurological function. In this regard, I am also interested in perinatal behavior and the neurological implications on both the mother and the offspring, including in situations such as pregnancy termination or in cases of complications associated with pregnancy (e.g. ectopic pregnancy, etc.). Given my interests, it is my desire to conduct research in this field at both the behavioral and neurophysiological levels utilizing animal models.

## Laboratory Experience

**Senior Research Assistant** May 2018-Present  
**Senior Research Assistant (volunteer)** Oct. 2017-May 2018  
**Senior Research Assistant** Jan. 2016-Sep. 2017  
**Research Assistant** Aug. 2015-Dec. 2015

Franciscan University – Steubenville, OH

- Conduct research, including data collection, organization and analysis along with principal investigator.
- Contribute to grant writing and preparation of manuscripts for publication.
- Assist in lab management, including record keeping, supply management/ordering and personnel supervision/management.
- Assist with daily running and care of laboratory.
- Care for animals and animal facility, including animal husbandry.

**Laboratory Assistant, Biology Lab** Aug. 2014-May 2015  
Lenoir-Rhyne University – Hickory, NC

- Assisted in set-up/clean-up of laboratory equipment
- Guided students through lab procedures and assisted professor in answering students' questions

## **Teaching Experience**

### **Teaching Assistant**

2016-Present

Franciscan University – Steubenville, OH

- Responsible for mentoring Experimental Psychology students in laboratory and research procedures and techniques.
- Assist with statistical analysis and interpretation of acquired data in Experimental Psychology.
- Responsible for instructing students in Research Statistics in the use of Excel and R.

### **Biology Peer Tutor**

2014-2015

Lenoir-Rhyne University – Hickory, NC

- Ran weekly group study tutor sessions for general biology courses

## **Technique Experience**

### **Behavioral:**

- Locomotor activity monitors
- Drinkometers
- Forced Swim Test

### **Technical:**

- Measurements of weight and vaginal impedance of rats
- Blood, brain, liver and uterus collection of Long-Evans rats
- Blood vessel measurements using stereomicroscope
- Terminal and survival (using Kent Scientific VetFlo™) anesthesia

### **Injections:**

- Intraperitoneal
- Subcutaneous
- Intragastric

### **Other:**

- Spectrophotometry (in Biochemistry)
- Light microscopy
- Buffer and laboratory solution preparation
- Ultrasound imaging of rat embryos/fetuses, including measurement of fetal heart rate

## **Computer/Program Experience**

- Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint
- R/RStudio statistical software
- SigmaPlot statistical software
- TSE Phenomaster (for locomotor and drinkometer testing)
- SMART video tracking software by Panlab Harvard Apparatus ®

## **Professional Society Memberships**

- Society for Neuroscience (SfN)
- American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists (AAPLOG)

## **Ad Hoc Review of Scientific Manuscripts**

Current Psychology; International Journal of Mental Health Systems; Journal of American College Health; Psychological Reports

## **Peer Reviewed Publications**

1. **Camilleri C.**, Buskmiller C, Sammut S. Long-term changes in uterine vasculature in postpartum Long-Evans rats: Implications for the investigation of pregnancy-related vascular pathology. *Reproductive Biology*. In review.
2. **Camilleri C.**, Perry JT, Sammut S. Compulsive Internet Pornography Use and Mental Health: A Cross-sectional Study in a Sample of University Students in the United States. *Front Psychiatry*. In review.
3. **Camilleri C.**, Beiter RM, Puentes L, Aracena-Sherck P, Sammut S. Biological, Behavioral and Physiological Consequences of Drug-Induced Pregnancy Termination at First-Trimester Human Equivalent in an Animal Model. *Front Neurosci* 2019;13. doi: 10.3389/fnins.2019.00544

## **Published Abstracts, Posters & Presentations**

1. **Camilleri C.**, Beiter R., Puentes L., Aracena P., Sammut S. (Copresented with S. Sammut). Behavioral, Biological and Physiological Consequences of Mid-Term Drug-Induced Pregnancy Termination in an Animal Model. April 7, 2019. Marian University Medical School, Indianapolis, IN. *Matthew Bulfin Educational Conference: Joint Conference with the American College of Pediatricians and AAPLOG*.
2. **Camilleri C.**, Buskmiller C., Sammut S. Developing a Surgical Technique for Embryo/Fetal Transfer in Ectopic Pregnancy in an Animal Model: A Preliminary Investigation. April 5-7, 2019. Marian University Medical School, Indianapolis, IN. *Matthew Bulfin Educational Conference: Joints Conference with the American College College of Pediatricians and AAPLOG*.
3. **Camilleri C.**, Beiter R., Puentes L., Aracena P., Sammut S. Behavioral and physiological consequences of mid-term drug-induced pregnancy termination in an animal model. Presentation No. 775.02. 2018 Neuroscience Meeting Planner. San Diego, CA: *Society for Neuroscience, 2018*. Online.
4. **Camilleri C.**, Beiter R., Puentes L., Aracena P., Sammut S. (Copresented with S. Sammut). Chemically-induced Pregnancy Termination: An Animal Model. October 1, 2017. Center for Bioethics and Human Dignity, Trinity International University, Deerfield, IL. *Matthew Bulfin Educational Conference: Joint Conference with the American College of Pediatricians and AAPLOG*.

5. **Camilleri C.**, Sammut S. The Behavioral Consequences of Pregnancy Termination in an Animal Model. April 29, 2017. John Carroll University, University Heights, OH. *2017 Ohio Undergraduate Psychology Research Conference*.
6. **Camilleri C.**, Beiter R., Sammut S. Behavioral Consequences of Pregnancy Termination in an Animal Model. April 7, 2017. *Gallery of Research, Artistry, and Community Engagement*, Franciscan University of Steubenville, OH.
7. **Camilleri C.**, Sammut S. Burnout and mental health in a sample of university students. Presentation No. 69.07. 2016 Neuroscience Meeting Planner. San Diego, CA: *Society for Neuroscience, 2016*. Online.
8. **Camilleri C.** Aging and Parkinson's Disease. September 26, 2016. Franciscan University of Steubenville, Steubenville, OH. *Senior Seminar*.

## **Honors and Awards**

### **2017 Robert McMahon Award**

- For Excellence in Undergraduate Science Research

### **April 7, 2017: Gallery of Research, Artistry, and Community Engagement**

- 1<sup>st</sup> place in The Professor John Korzi Social Sciences Award

### **2017 Annual Student Work Opportunity Program (SWOP) Outstanding Student Employee Award**

### **2016 Annual SWOP Student Employee Award**

- Nominated by supervisor based on work ethic

### **Horatio Alger Scholarship**

- State scholar award winner

## **Campus Leadership and Involvement**

### **Lineberger Fellows Program, member**

Lenoir-Rhyne University

- Academic honors program for personal and professional development

Jan. 2015-May 2015