

Christina Camilleri

Franciscan University of Steubenville
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Education

Franciscan University of Steubenville – Steubenville, OH B.S. in Biology, <i>cum laude</i>	2015-2017
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
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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

- 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.**, Perry, J.T., and Sammut, S. (2021). Compulsive Internet Pornography Use and Mental Health: A Cross-Sectional Study in a Sample of University Students in the United States. *Frontiers in Psychology* 11(3870). doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2020.613244.
2. **Camilleri, C.**, Buskmiller, C., and Sammut, S. (2021). Pregnancy-induced long-term uterine vascular remodeling in the rat. *Reproductive Biology* 21(1). doi: 10.1016/j.repbio.2020.100466.
3. **Camilleri, C.**, Beiter, R.M., Puentes, L., Aracena-Sherck, P., and Sammut, S. (2019). Biological, Behavioral and Physiological Consequences of Drug-Induced Pregnancy Termination at First-Trimester Human Equivalent in an Animal Model. *Frontiers in Neuroscience* 13(544), 544. 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

- 1st 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