

Faculty Member Contact Information

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Contact Info	
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Department	Biological Sciences

1 Funded, 2 Unfunded URCA Assistant

	This position is ONLY open to students who have declared a major in this discipline.	M
	This project deals with social justice issues.	
	This project deals with sustainability (green) issues.	
X	This project deals with human health and wellness issues.	
	This project deals with community outreach.	
	This mentor's project is interdisciplinary in nature.	I

Are you willing to work with students from outside of your discipline? If yes, which other disciplines?

Yes

How many hours per week will your student(s) be required to work in this position?

(Minimum is 6 hours per week; typical is 9)

at least 6hr/wk

Will it be possible for your student(s) to earn course credit?

BIOL493 0-4

Location of research/creative activities:

Brief description of the nature of the research/creative activity?

We use *Drosophila* (fruit flies) to explore the neurogenetic underpinnings of alcohol use disorder. This work requires behavioral, molecular, and bioinformatic analyses.

Brief description of student responsibilities?

New students learn basic lab etiquette and learn common fly lab tasks - make fly food, flip stocks, set up crosses, wash dishes, autoclave, etc. Weekly lab meetings and one-on-one guidance meetings provide experience reading relevant science papers and project design skills. Typically it takes a student one semester to get their bearings before taking on independent project. Not only do students get a real science lab experience (not like in a classroom), they also can use their project as a senior capstone for BIOL492m and present at local/regional meetings, which are great resume items.

URCA Assistant positions are designed to provide students with *research or creative activities* experience. As such, there should be measurable, appropriate outcome goals. What exactly should your student(s) have learned by the end of this experience?

Learn the ins and outs of a fly lab. Work together with other undergrads and masters students to better understand how alcohol impacts the brain and decision-making.

Requirements of Students

If the position(s) require students to be available at certain times each week (as opposed to them being able to set their own hours) please indicate all required days and times:

Some weekends and morning times may be needed.

If the location of the research/creative activities involves off campus work, must students provide their own transportation?

Primarily on campus, maybe visits to Alton dental school if interested.

Must students have taken any prerequisite classes? Please list classes and preferred grades:

Preferred B or better in BIOL220 Genetics.

Other requirements or notes to applicants: