

(Last revision November 2021)

## CURRICULUM VITAE

**Amy H. Than**

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## EDUCATION

### University of California, Los Angeles

(September 2021- )

Ph.D., Interdepartmental Neuroscience Program

### University of California, San Diego

(August 2016-March 2020)

B.S in Physiology and Neuroscience, Minor in Business with emphasis in Organizational Behavior

- Global Seminar Participant, Sydney, Australia (July 2019-August 2019)
- Jane Hett Scholarship (August 2019)
- Cesar Chavez Scholarship (April 2018)
- Provost Honors (Fall 2017, Spring 2018, Spring 2019, Fall 2019, Winter 2020)

## PUBLICATIONS

Nedelescu H, Wagner GE, De Ness GL, Carroll A, Kerr T, Wang J, Zhang S, Chang S, **Than A**, Emerson N, Suto N, Weiss. CBD suppresses cocaine seeking and associated neuronal activation in a cell type specific manner with a distinct U-shaped dose-response profile. **Biological Psychiatry Global Open Science**. (in press)

Nedelescu H, Wagner GE, **Than A**, Buczynski MW, Azuma S, Mayford M, Hope BT, Weiss F, Suto N. Afferent-specific neurochemical profiling of BLA->NAC neuronal ensembles that mediate opioid approach and avoidance behavior. (in press)

Nedelescu H, Wagner GE, **Than A**, Carroll A, Hope BT, Glaser J, Weiss F, Suto N. Promotion and suppression of drug seeking are linked to distinct afferent ensembles to the medial prefrontal cortex (in prep).

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

### Research Assistant II, Weiss-Suto Lab

(November 2020 – May 2021)

### Lab Assistant I, Weiss-Suto Lab

(May 2020 –October 2020)

*The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, CA*

Principal Investigators: Friedbert Weiss, PhD. and Nobuyoshi Suto, PhD.

Mentors: Hermina Nedelescu, PhD and Zbigniew Mikulski, PhD (La Jolla Institute of Immunology)

### Research Focus:

- Neurobiological basis of abnormal behavioral and brain with emphasis on motivation and reinforcement.

### Projects:

- Characterizing neuroadaptive changes in drug/alcohol dependence using lever-press operant responding of male and female Wistar rats.
- Compile behavioral and immunohistochemical data and translate into figures using Prism Software.

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- Operate and optimize procedures using EVOS and Vectra Polaris cell imaging systems to provide publication-quality images.
- Train, delegate tasks, and oversee projects of four lab interns from UC San Diego, University of San Diego, and Mesa College
- Manage scheduling and COVID-19 compliance protocols.

Techniques: experiment design, self-administration training, drug dependence induction (IP/SC injections, vapor chamber), behavioral testing, rodent surgery (perfusion, IV catheter implantation), RNAscope, confocal imaging, data collection and presentation.

### **Research Intern, Suto Lab**

(January 2020 – April 2020)

*The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, CA*

Principal Investigator: Nobuyoshi Suto, PhD

Research Focus:

- Bidirectional modulation of appetitive drug behavior and the source of c-FOS expressing cue-reactive neuronal ensembles projecting to the infralimbic cortex.

Projects:

- Assist in validating prototype for novel unified optogenetics and microdialysis system that facilitates detailed analysis of neurochemical interactions using behavioral neuroscience and analytical chemistry.
- Develop a high-throughput 3D brain-wide profiling for rats with single cell resolution using immunohistochemical techniques and computational biology.

Techniques: rodent handling, tissue harvesting, optogenetics, microdialysis

### **Student Intern, Suto Lab**

(March 2019 – December 2019)

*The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, CA*

Principal Investigator: Nobuyoshi Suto, PhD

Mentor: Hermina Nedelescu, PhD

Projects:

- Immunohistochemical staining of rodent brain tissue for AAV2 viral retrograde tracing and cFos (marker for neural activity) cue-reactive neuronal ensembles
- Organization of new molecular laboratory bench
- Refine and digitalize protocols for other lab members to achieve consistently robust immunohistology signals.

Techniques:

immunohistochemistry, tissue sectioning (microtome, cryostat) and mounting, lab maintenance

### **Research Assistant, Calif. Smokers' Helpline**

(January 2017 – January 2018)

*Moore's Cancer Center, La Jolla, CA*

"Research Assistant of the Month"

(December 2017)

"Top 4 RA's with most evaluations conducted in one day in the last 10 years"

(April 1, 2017)

Principal Investigator: Shu-Hong Zhu, PhD

Mentor: Edgar Melendrez

Research Focus:

- Individual- and population-based approaches to smoking cessation and the effects of social norms on smoking behavior.

Projects:

- Collect smoking relapse data of English and Vietnamese recipients of counseling and/or nicotine replacement therapy to compare the effectiveness of different smoking cessation interventions.

Techniques:

science communication, clinical trials, SQL database data collection

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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**Tutor**

(September 2017 – December 2019)

TRIO Student Support Services Program, University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, CA

- Provided one-on-one and group tutoring in Physics, Biochemistry, and Physiology courses for students who are low-income, first-generation college students and/or students with disabilities.

**Mentor**

(March 2017 – June 2018)

Triton Community Leadership Institute, UC San Diego, La Jolla, CA

- Facilitated seminars in relation to diversity and social justice issues to 150 incoming first generation college students.

Most Valuable Mentor

(June 2018)

## COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

**College Readiness Coach**

(October 2019 – April 2020)

California Student Opportunity and Access Program, San Diego, CA

- Provide counseling for high school students and give classroom presentations about financial aid and the college application process.
- Empower low-income, first-generation, and/or undocumented students to achieve social mobility through higher education.

**Pathmaker Intern**

(September 2018-January 2020)

Palomar Medical Center, San Diego, CA

- Volunteered weekly with quarterly rotations among different departments within the hospital network.
- Assisted in patient care such as bathing, changing, feeding, ambulating, transporting, and discharging.

**Sponsorship Intern**

(March 2017 – January 2019)

Medical, Educational Missions & Outreach, Orange County, CA

M.E.M.O is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, student-run, humanitarian organization that provides medical access and educational opportunities for underserved communities of San Diego, Orange County, and rural Vietnam.

- Managed corporate sponsorships and coordinated free health clinics
- Volunteered for the 2018 Summer Mission Trip in rural Vietnam- translating, taking vitals, and assisting with patient intake.
- Among 5 of 50 volunteers chosen to shadow cardiothoracic surgeons and observe sponsored congenital heart surgery.

**Volunteer**

(October 2018 – May 2019)

Shiley-Marcos Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, La Jolla, CA

- Assisted in recruitment and cognitive testing of individuals with Down syndrome for Anti-Amyloid Vaccine research study

**Volunteer**

(June 2017 – September 2017)

Lestonnac Free Clinic, Orange County, CA

- Take vitals and assist in patient intake in traveling free clinics that serve undocumented and/or underinsured families.

## REFERENCES

Friedbert Weiss, PhD | Professor  
*The Scripps Research Institute*  
[bweiss@scripps.edu](mailto:bweiss@scripps.edu)

Nobuyoshi Suto, PhD | Assistant Professor  
*The Scripps Research Institute*  
[nsuto@scripps.edu](mailto:nsuto@scripps.edu)

Zbigniew Mikulski, PhD | Core Director  
*La Jolla Institute of Immunology*  
[zmikulski@lji.org](mailto:zmikulski@lji.org)

Hermine Nedelescu, PhD | Postdoctoral Fellow  
*The Scripps Research Institute*  
[hneledes@scripps.edu](mailto:hneledes@scripps.edu)

Edgar Melendrez | Research Assistant Department Supervisor  
*UC San Diego Moore's Cancer Center, California's Smokers Helpline*  
[emelendrez@health.ucsd.edu](mailto:emelendrez@health.ucsd.edu)

Berenice Jau | Director  
*UC San Diego TRiO Student Support Services Program*  
[bjau@ucsd.edu](mailto:bjau@ucsd.edu)

Frida Alvear | Associate Director  
*UC San Diego, Triton Community Leadership Institute*  
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Evelyn Kheo | Associate Director  
*California Student Opportunity and Access Program (Cal-SOAP)*  
[pkheo@sandi.net](mailto:pkheo@sandi.net)