

CURRICULUM VITAE

Amy H. Than

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EDUCATION

University of California, Los Angeles
Ph.D., Interdepartmental Neuroscience Program

(September 2021-)

University of California, San Diego
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.

(Last revision November 2021)

- 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 handing, 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 Nedeleescu, 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

(Last revision November 2021)

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
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Nobuyoshi Suto, PhD | Assistant Professor
The Scripps Research Institute
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Zbigniew Mikulski, PhD | Core Director
La Jolla Institute of Immunology
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Hermina Nedelescu, PhD | Postdoctoral Fellow
The Scripps Research Institute
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Edgar Melendrez | Research Assistant Department Supervisor
UC San Diego Moore's Cancer Center, California's Smokers Helpline
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Berenice Jau | Director
UC San Diego TRiO Student Support Services Program
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