

Lise Abrams, Ph.D.

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Dr. Abrams is an associate professor and undergraduate coordinator of the Psychology Department at the University of Florida. As an undergraduate at Pomona College, Dr. Abrams double-majored in psychology and mathematics and went on to earn her Ph.D. in cognitive psychology from the University of California, Los Angeles. She came to the University of Florida in 1997, where she established the Cognition and Aging Laboratory to investigate memory and language processes in younger and older adults, specifically the processes involved in retrieving words and the changes in these processes that occur with normal aging. Specific areas of interest include: (1) memory retrieval failures such as tip-of-the-tongue (TOT) states, which are naturally-occurring retrieval failures characterized by a temporary inability to recall a known word; and (2) language errors such as the production of spelling errors and homophone substitution errors, such as *bear* instead of *bare*. Her research has been supported by the National Institute on Aging and the National Institute of Mental Health, and Sigma Xi awarded her the 2007 Young Investigator Award. Dr. Abrams has also received recognition for her teaching and mentoring, earning a teaching award from the university's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences as well as mentorship awards from the American Psychological Association Division 20, Women in Cognitive Science, and HHMI Science for Life.

Steve Anton Ph.D.

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Dr. Anton received his graduate degree in Clinical and Health Psychology from the University of Florida, where he received training in health promotion and the delivery of lifestyle interventions designed to modify eating and exercise behaviors. Following his graduate training, Dr. Anton elected to complete a post-doctoral fellowship at the Pennington Biomedical Research Center to further enhance his knowledge of nutritional and lifestyle-based treatments of obesity and age-related disease conditions. In 2007, Dr. Anton began work as an Assistant Professor with a joint appointment in the Department of Aging and Geriatric Research and Department of Clinical and Health Psychology at the University of Florida. Over the past ten years, Dr. Anton has obtained

multiple grants examining the effects that nutritional and lifestyle-based interventions have on biological and functional outcomes relevant to older adults.

Tetsuo Ashizawa, M.D., FAAN

Melvin Greer Professor

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Dr. Tetsuo Ashizawa is Professor and Chairman of the Department of Neurology at the University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida. Dr. Ashizawa also holds the Melvin Greer Professor of Neurology. Dr. Ashizawa received his medical degree from the Keio University School of Medicine in Tokyo in 1973. He completed his neurology residency training and subsequent clinical and basic science fellowships at Baylor College of Medicine. In 1981 he joined the faculty at Baylor, where he climbed to the academic rank of tenured Professor 1997. In 2002 Dr. Ashizawa was recruited to the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) in Galveston, Texas to chair the Neurology Department, and then moved to Gainesville, Florida in April 2009 as Chair of the Department of Neurology at UF. He has published over 180 papers in leading scientific and clinical journals and Books. Dr. Ashizawa's basic science research projects have primarily been focusing on neurogenetic disorders caused by expanded short tandem repeats, including myotonic dystrophy, Friedreich's ataxia and autosomal dominant spinocerebellar ataxias. His current research is to investigate the pathogenic mechanism of spinocerebellar ataxia type 10 (SCA10). Dr. Ashizawa is also the principal investigator of a nationwide consortium for clinical research on SCA1, SCA2, SCA3 and SCA6. This consortium is one of the Rare Disease Clinical Research Consortia (RDCRC) organized and funded by the National Institute of Health (NIH). This consortium will establish the infrastructure and database to prepare for future clinical trials of new therapies for SCAs.

Cristina Bañuelos, M.S.
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Cristina Bañuelos received a BS in Biology from Cornell University and a MS in Biology from the University of Texas at Brownsville. Her Master's thesis explored the effects temporal lobe epilepsy on medial septal neuronal populations in a rodent model. In the fall of 2008, she entered the Behavioral and Cellular Neuroscience Ph.D. program at Texas A&M University in Dr. Jennifer Bizon's aging research laboratory. Her first year project examined the spatial learning abilities of rats in a model of human third trimester binge ethanol exposure. She was also involved in a study in which systemic injections of a GABA_B antagonist was shown to reverse age related learning deficits in aged Fisher 344 rats. Cristina transferred into the Interdisciplinary Program in Biomedical Sciences at the University of Florida College of Medicine with the Bizon laboratory in the fall of 2010. Currently, she is completing a project in which basal forebrain neurons were quantified using design-based stereology in behaviorally characterized aged Fisher 344 rats.

Jennifer L. Bizon, Ph.D.
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Dr. Jennifer Bizon is an Associate Professor in the Department of Neuroscience, University of Florida, College of Medicine. She received her Ph.D. from University of California, Irvine (1998) and received postdoctoral training at Johns Hopkins University (1998-2003). She was a faculty member at Texas A&M University prior to joining the neuroscience department at University of Florida in 2010. Her primary research program uses animal models and a combination of behavioral, anatomical and pharmacological approaches to investigate age-related dysfunction across multiple cognitive domains (learning and memory, executive function). Her laboratory has a particular interest in age-related changes associated with modulatory neurotransmitter systems and how such changes may contribute to medial temporal lobe and prefrontal cortical-dependent cognition. A second theme in Dr. Bizon's laboratory is the early detection of age-related cognitive dysfunction.

Dawn Bowers, Ph.D.

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Dr. Bowers is an Professor of Clinical and Health Psychology in the College of Public Health and Health Professions, a UF Research Foundation Professor, and Division Head of the Neuropsychology area. She directs the Cognitive Neuroscience Laboratory at the McKnight Brain Institute, and holds a joint appointment in the Department of Neurology. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Florida, interned at Boston University/ Veterans Administration Hospital, and completed a post-doctoral fellowship in behavioral neurology at the University of Florida. Dr. Bowers serves on the Editorial Boards of the *Journal of the International Neuropsychological Society* and *The Clinical Neuropsychologist*, provides peer review for various NIH and VAMC research panels, and has been funded by NIH since 1981. She has over 150 research publications, over 200 peer-reviewed research presentations, 1 book, and 1 clinical test (Florida Affect Battery). Current research focuses on emotional and cognitive changes associated with Parkinson disease and aging, predictors of decline and wellbeing, and novel treatment approaches for apathy and executive dysfunction. She and Dr. Michael Marsiske head up the MBR-funded VITAL study examining the trajectory of aerobic and activity pre-dosing on cognitive training in healthy elders.

Lauren E. Crump, MPH

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Lauren Crump, MPH is the Associate Director of the Institute on Aging (IOA) and Vice Chair for Administration and Finance in the Department of Aging and Geriatric Research at the University of Florida. Previously she was the Administrator of the Wake Forest University School of Medicine (WFUSM) Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Center (OAIC) from 2000 through January 2005, and was the Administrative Director in the section of Geriatrics serving as administrator over all section budgets, grants and studies since 1998.

During this time, she has managed over 93 independently funded studies, which have resulted in over \$170 million in total costs. Thus, she is very experienced and knowledgeable in her role. Ms. Crump prepares and oversees the sponsored research grant budgets, monitors compliance with budgetary guidelines and human subject and animal care and use provisions. She facilitates internal communication within the IOA, and coordinates communication with other universities and the National Institute on Aging. She is responsible for writing all required reports. In addition to her role as Administrator of the UF OAIC, she works closely with the project managers in our Aging and Rehabilitation Research Center to ensure budgetary compliance with all clinical trials. This helps to assure integration and success of the OAIC and future studies that result from the OAIC.

Vonetta M. Dotson, Ph.D.

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Dr. Dotson is an Associate Professor in the Department of Clinical and Health Psychology (CHP) and an affiliate faculty member in the Department of Neuroscience at the University of Florida. She received her Ph.D. from CHP in 2006 with a specialization in neuropsychology and a certificate in gerontology. She completed her postdoctoral training in the Laboratory of Personality and Cognition in the National Institute on Aging Intramural Research Program under the mentorship of Drs. Susan Resnick and Alan Zonderman. Her research program focuses on studying the underlying neurobiology of late-life depression and its relationship to cognitive changes and functional deficits in the elderly. Currently, work in her lab is aimed at 1) using cognitive and neuroimaging methods to examine the depressive spectrum hypothesis—whether depression is best conceptualized as a continuum, starting with subthreshold depressive symptoms and dysthymia and ending with major depression, 2) investigating whether particular symptom dimensions of depression (e.g., somatic vs. affective symptoms) have distinct cognitive and neural correlates, and 3) examining whether aerobic exercise improves memory functioning and alters memory-related brain functioning in depressed older adults.

Megan T. Farrell, M.S.

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Meagan Farrell is a fourth year graduate student in psychology and a member of the Predoctoral Aging Training Program funded by the National Institute on Aging. Her research is focused on the cognitive processes that enable the production and comprehension of language in young and older adults, with an emphasis on age-related changes to speech production and the retrieval of words from memory. One of older adults' most frustrating cognitive problems is an age-linked increase in word retrieval failures, or tip-of-the-tongue (TOT) states. Meagan is interested in identifying specific word characteristics that exacerbate age differences in TOT states, i.e., do older adults have greater difficulty in producing particular types of words or sounds? Her recent work demonstrated that relative to young adults, older adults are more likely to experience TOTs for words beginning with infrequently-used syllables, but not words beginning with a high-frequency syllables. She hopes to expand this line of research to develop more advanced models of why word retrieval processes become more problematic with age. More specifically, Meagan's dissertation will examine how phonological factors influence older adult's most notorious cognitive complaint, the retrieval of proper names. Upon completion of her Ph.D., Meagan will continue investigating age-associated changes to language and memory processes at an academic research institution.

Thomas C. Foster, Ph.D.

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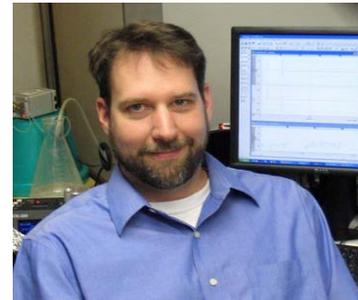


Dr. Foster's research program utilizes a combination of behavioral characterization with biochemical, molecular, and electrophysiological techniques to obtain a vertically integrated perspective on neural aging, from the molecular to the cognitive level. The two main goals of the lab are to identifying mechanisms for age-related memory impairment and to test treatments to alleviate memory deficits. Electrophysiological recording, gene arrays, and enzyme activity assays are employed to identify biological markers of memory decline and examine the mechanisms for

age-related changes in synaptic plasticity and signaling cascades that are thought to mediate memory consolidation. This work has provided evidence for a model linking age-related memory decline with altered Ca^{2+} homeostasis and increased oxidative stress associated with aging. A second area of research is directed at examining the therapeutic window for beneficial effects of hormone replacement on memory function. Estrogen has effects on the hippocampus that are diametrically opposite to changes observed in aged memory impaired animals; however, estrogen responsiveness declines with advanced age and the duration of hormone deprivation. Finally, Dr. Foster's lab employs behavioral treatments and gene therapy in an attempt to rejuvenate the brain and preserve cognitive function.

Charles J. Frazier, Ph.D.

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I earned a Bachelor's degree in Neuroscience in 1991 at Oberlin College and a Ph.D. in Neuroscience in 1997 at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. An early interest in age related memory dysfunction led me to the study of cholinergic systems in the mammalian hippocampus. My graduate work, supervised by Dr. Thomas V. Dunwiddie, used primarily electrophysiological techniques to study nicotinic acetylcholine receptors expressed in area CA1. During my post-doctoral years, I studied cholinergic systems in the hilar region of the dentate gyrus, and also spent some time studying the detailed biophysics of channel gating in specific voltage gated potassium and calcium channels. I joined the faculty in the College of Pharmacy at the University of Florida in 2003. Since that time my lab has used electrophysiological and optical techniques to study the effects of endocannabinoid mediated signaling and ambient GABA in the dentate gyrus. This work is motivated by a broad interest in cellular and synaptic mechanisms that contribute to regulation of cortical excitability, and by a desire to expose specific mechanistic problems associated with aging, drug abuse, or disease. Synaptic mechanisms that promote memory formation and/or prevent epileptogenesis have been of particular interest to the lab. Consistent with these goals and interests, our most recent project seeks to better identify the role of calcium activated potassium channels in geriatric memory dysfunction.

Jacob Jones, B.S.

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Jacob Jones is a first year neuropsychology graduate student in the Department of Clinical & Health Psychology at the University of Florida. Prior to starting graduate school, Jacob received his B.S. from California State University-Channel islands in 2010 where he completed studies on emotion psychophysiology. He currently works in the Cognitive Neuroscience Laboratory of Dr. Dawn Bowers at the McKnight Brain Institute and is a recipient of a 4-year Alumni fellowship. Jacob is actively involved in various research projects including the VITAL study, a project with older adults examining the trajectory of aerobic exercise pre-dosing effects on cognitive training. Other projects include ERP signatures of emotional reactivity in Parkinson patients and the impact of health comorbidities on executive and memory profiles in older adults with Parkinson disease and other movement disorders (master's thesis). After earning his doctoral degree from UF, Jacob would like to continue his research as a faculty member in an academic setting.

Ashok Kumar, Ph.D.

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The central focus of my research program is directed towards understanding how the dysregulation of Ca^{2+} homeostasis during senescence impact synaptic function and cell excitability as well as its influence on age-related memory loss. Aging is associated with a shift in synaptic plasticity favoring long-term depression (LTD) over long-term potentiation (LTP) and we have shown that the magnitude of the Ca^{2+} -dependent, K^{+} mediated afterhyperpolarization (AHP) plays a critical role in setting the threshold for induction of synaptic plasticity. Our results demonstrates that Ca^{2+} release from intracellular Ca^{2+} stores and voltage-gated Ca^{2+} channels contribute to the enhanced AHP and regulates the threshold for synaptic plasticity induction. There is a shift in susceptibility to induction of long-term depression during aging; however, the asymptotic level of synaptic modification (LTP/LTD) does not change with age. Rather, induction impairments are observed using weak stimulation parameters. In addition, Dr. Kumar is interested in investigating the impact of environmental

enrichment and exercise on biological markers of brain aging and its effect on cognitive performance during senescence. The AHP, which is enhanced during aging, regulates the induction of LTP, in part by limiting NMDA receptor activation our results suggest that environmental enrichment reduced the increased AHP amplitude in aged animals. Dr. Kumar also study effects of estrogen on hippocampal function across the lifespan, and our results indicate that estrogen rapidly increases neuronal excitability, decreases AHP, and augments the strength of synaptic transmission. Finally, my research will determine the complex interaction of cholinergic transmission on hippocampal synaptic function during senescence and delineate the mechanisms. which contribute to age-related memory loss. The overall broader goal of my research is in pursuit of fundamental knowledge of mechanisms underlying alterations in hippocampal function during aging, as well as the application of that knowledge to extend healthy and successful aging, while reducing the burdens of cognitive aging and age-related neurodegenerative diseases. Dr. Kumar earned his Bachelor and Masters of Sciences and Ph.D. from the University of Lucknow/Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow.

Sooyeon Lee, Ph.D.

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Dr. Lee received an undergraduate degree in biomedical engineering at Columbia University. During graduate student at New York University, she studied the mechanism by which autophagy impairment is a pathogenic process in Alzheimer's disease under the guidance of Dr. Ralph Nixon. Using time-lapse studies in primary neurons to model autophagy defects, she characterized functional, morphological, and biochemical changes that were produced by impaired autophagy. This work established a novel relationship between lysosomal dysfunction and axonal transport deficits in autophagic/lysosomal cargoes. It presented a novel hypothesis for lysosomal dysfunction as a pathogenic process that produces AD-related neuritic pathology.

Recently, Dr. Lee joined Dr. Lucia Notterpek lab to study the role of autophagy in demyelinating peripheral neuropathies with genetic alterations in the PMP22 protein. Her aim is to identify how PMP22-related neuropathies alter autophagy and/or the endo-lysosomal system. Autophagy is a multi-step process that is active in all cell types. How autophagy's concerted activity with the endo-lysosomal system facilitates myelination in Schwann cells, and how this may be disrupted by PMP22, are unknown. Dr. Lee's goal is to combine *in vitro* methods to examine the cell biology of autophagy/endo-lysosomes in Schwann cells and find its relation to myelination, based on explants and *in vivo* studies in neuropathic animals. In addition, she is interested in studying the aging-related changes of the endocytic/autophagic/lysosomal system in Schwann cells that may contribute to loss of myelination that occurs with normal aging.

Todd M. Manini, Ph.D.

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A native of Wintersville, Ohio, Dr. Manini attended Ohio University in Athens, OH where he graduated with honors in Biology, Exercise Science, and Biochemistry. He received his M.S. and Ph.D. as well as a Certificate of Advanced Studies in Gerontology from Syracuse University. He completed a post-doctoral fellowship at the Laboratory of Epidemiology, Demography and Biometry at the National Institute on Aging at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, MD. He now resides at the University of Florida in the Department of Aging and Geriatric Research. Dr. Manini has received numerous awards and accolades. The Gerontological Society of America awarded him an Austin Bloch Post-Doctoral Fellow and named him a Clinical Medicine Research Award Honoree. He has contributed his expertise as a reviewer to numerous journals including The Journal of the American Medical Association, American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, The Journals of Gerontology: Biological & Medical Sciences, The Journal of the American Geriatrics Society, and The British Medical Journal. Dr. Manini has received funding from the National Institute on Aging, Claude D. Pepper Older American Independence Center, American College of Sports Medicine/F.M. Kirby Foundation and McKnight Foundation in support of his research on interventions to preserve physical and cognitive function in late-life.

Michael Marsiske, Ph.D.

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Dr. Marsiske's research has four major foci: (1) modifiability of older adults' cognitive performance due to training interventions and practice; (2) older adults' everyday problem solving abilities and their relationship to basic cognitive and intellectual performance, as well as their improvability via cognitive training; (3) understanding short-term variability and fluctuation in elders' cognition, and its relationship to cognitive status and other time-varying predictors; and (4) understanding the inter-relationship of sensorimotor and cognitive function in later life, with a particular focus on balance and locomotion. Dr. Marsiske is a Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America, and is a past recipient of the Springer Award for Early Career Achievement in Research and Adult Development and Aging from Division 20 of the American Psychological Association. Marsiske is a past-Chair of the NIA-S (Behavioral and Social Sciences) Initial

Review Group for the National Institute on Aging, and he currently serves on the Editorial Boards of the Journals of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences and of Aging, Neuropsychology and Cognition. Presently he serves as a principal investigator on the NIH-funded study ACTIVE, which examines long-term cognitive training effects on elders' everyday function, and he is the Recruitment Core leader for the UF NIA-funded Claude Denson Pepper Older Americans' Independence Center. Marsiske is also the Training Director of a NIA-funded predoctoral training program (T32) entitled "Physical, Cognitive and Mental Health in Social Context".

Lucia Notterpek, Ph.D.

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Dr. Notterpek investigates how the loss of glial insulation around axons, called myelin, contributes to the pathogenesis of neural disorders. Diseases that are specifically linked with defects in myelin include peripheral neuropathies, such as Charcot-Marie-Tooth diseases and multiple sclerosis. Recent studies also suggest an involvement of myelin damage in underlying the painful symptoms of trigeminal neuralgia. Current research is focused on understanding the subcellular changes within neural cells that underlie the progressive nature of these disorders and to identify approaches to restore myelin and neural function. The laboratory is equipped with models and reagents, including small molecule therapeutics and genetic modifications to attain these goals. Other areas of active investigation include the role of gene regulatory mechanisms in peripheral nerve development, and the effects of aging on neuromuscular function.

Dr. Notterpek received a B.A. in Anatomy-Physiology from the University of California at Berkeley. She obtained her Ph.D. in Neuroscience at the University of California at Los Angeles working with Dr. Leonard H. Rome. Her postdoctoral training was under the guidance of Dr. Eric Shooter at Stanford University. Currently, Dr. Notterpek is Professor and Chair in the Department of Neuroscience at the McKnight Brain Institute of the University of Florida. She is recipient of the 2004 Jordi Folch-Pi Memorial Award, from the American Society of Neurochemistry, to a young scientist for research excellence. She has authored and coauthored over forty peer-reviewed publications. She is actively involved in the educational and research missions of the College of Medicine at the University of Florida. Her research efforts are being supported by the NIH, the National Muscular Dystrophy Association and the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

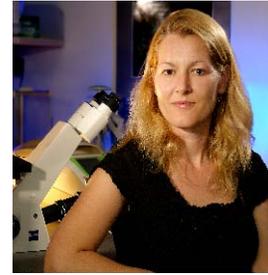
Brandi K. Ormerod, Ph.D.

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Dr. Ormerod obtained a B.Sc. (honors) in Psychology from Queen's University (Kingston, Ontario) where she studied the role of cholinergic systems in recent memory in Dr. Rick Beninger's lab, and a PhD in Neuroscience from the University of British Columbia (Vancouver, BC) where she studied the hormonal regulation and functional role of adult hippocampal neurogenesis in Dr. Lisa Galea's lab. Dr. Ormerod then completed a postdoctoral fellowship with Dr. Theo Palmer at Stanford University in which she studied how neuroinflammation impacts stem cell behavior (both in vivo and in vitro) and hippocampus-dependent behavior in rodents as well as generating several human and non-human primate neural progenitor cell lines. Dr. Ormerod's laboratory at the University of Florida currently asks whether age-related cognitive decline is impacted by age-related changes in hippocampal neurogenesis, whether there are stress- or neuroinflammation-related markers of age-related cognitive decline that can be measured in blood serum or in brain tissue, what factors set up a neurogenic versus non-neurogenic niche (with emphasis on vascular and ECM proteins) and whether transplantable cells impact neural activity in healthy primary cultures or following experimental stroke. The Ormerod laboratory uses a combination of immunohistochemistry and light/confocal microscopy to measure hippocampal neurogenesis, Bioplex multiplex sandwich fluorokine technology to examine biomarkers (such as stress and neuroinflammation), microelectrode array technology to examine how transplanted cells affect neural activity and behavioral testing (typically water maze) is employed in many of our experiments.

Sabra Pelham, M.A.

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Sabra Pelham is a graduate student in Behavioral and Cognitive Neuroscience in the Psychology Department at the University of Florida. As an undergraduate at the University of Kansas, Sabra double-majored in linguistics and anthropology and then went on to complete her Master of Arts degree in applied linguistics at K.U. Following that, she taught English as a Second Language at Daytona State College where she became an Associate Professor before leaving to pursue her doctoral degree. While teaching ESL, Sabra independently followed up her master's thesis research in first language acquisition and the results of that research were presented at Chicago

Linguistic Society and then published in the Journal of Child Language. During her tenure at Daytona State College, she also became interested in cognitive neuroscience and began taking psychology classes so that she would be prepared to pursue her doctorate in cognitive neuroscience. In 2008, she was accepted into the doctoral program in psychology at University of Florida where she studies under the supervision of Dr. Lise Abrams. Specific areas of interest include: (1) language acquisition (2) language production (3) bilingualism and its effect attention and language production. She is currently completing data collection for a study comparing monolinguals, lifelong bilinguals and late bilinguals on language production and executive function tasks. Her research has been supported by Sigma Xi awarded and The Jacquelin Goldman Scholarship Program in Developmental Psychology.

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Karienn Montgomery graduated with a BS in Biochemistry (2006) from Texas A&M University. She was accepted to the Behavioral and Cellular Neuroscience Ph.D. program at Texas A&M in Dr. Jennifer Bizon's aging research laboratory. Findings from her first year project indicated that prenatal exposure to methylmercury in mice, even at the lowest dose examined to date, can have long-lasting motor and cognitive consequences for adults. Based on this publication, Mrs. Montgomery was selected nationally for a Young Investigator's Award from the American Psychological Association. During her second year of graduate school, she was also involved in the characterization of aged Fisher 344 rats in behavioral tasks with the goal of developing a rodent model of mild cognitive impairment. During this time, she also collaborated with Dr. Barry Setlow's laboratory in a study focused on the long term deleterious effects of cocaine on learning and memory. More recently, Mrs. Montgomery has established a transfer learning task in mice which is analogous to a human clinical test that appears to be an early cognitive assessment for Alzheimer's Disease. This novel task is a promising tool for behavioral characterization of rodent models of neurodegenerative disease, and is well-suited for clinically relevant within-subject intervention studies. Data from this project was submitted for a NRSA fellowship, which Mrs. Montgomery was awarded in the Fall of 2010. Mrs. Montgomery transferred to the University of Florida College of Medicine with the Bizon laboratory in 2010.

Kelsey Thomas, B.S.

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Kelsey Thomas is a first year neuropsychology graduate student in the Department of Clinical & Health Psychology at the University of Florida. Kelsey completed her undergraduate education at the University of California, San Diego, and graduated in 2008 with majors in biochemistry and psychology. Upon graduation, Kelsey worked at the San Diego VA as a study coordinator for a cognitive intervention and work outcomes study of Iraq/Afghanistan veterans returning with mild to moderate traumatic brain injury. She currently works in the Cognitive Aging Laboratory of Dr. Michael Marsiske and is a recipient of a T32 training fellowship through the National Institute on Aging. Kelsey is actively involved in various research projects including the VITAL study, a project examining the trajectory of aerobic exercise pre-dosing effects on cognitive training in older adults. She is also working on her master's thesis, which will investigate everyday cognition in older adults with mild cognitive impairment (MCI), as well as how verbal prompts effect everyday cognition in both non-impaired and MCI groups. In the future, she hopes to conduct applied clinical neuropsychological research as a faculty member in an academic setting or at a medical center. She is particularly interested in researching cognitive interventions that can be easily implemented to reduce or delay the cognitive decline associated with both normal and pathological aging.

Michael F. Waters, M.D., Ph.D.

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Michael F. Waters, M.D., Ph.D. is Director of the Stroke Program in the Department of Neurology at the University of Florida & Shands Hospital. He directs the acute stroke team helping to ensure that Shands remains at the forefront of acute stroke care. With other members of the stroke team, he directs the implementation of the American Stroke Association's Get with the Guidelines national stroke database and quality assurance program and serves as site principal investigator for clinical trials designed to improve clinical outcomes in stroke.

Dr. Waters received a master's degree in genetics from Penn State University. He attended medical school at the University of Florida, where he also earned his Ph.D. in biochemistry and molecular biology. He received formal neurological training at David Geffen School of Medicine at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and completed a fellowship in neurogenetics with Dr. Stefan Pulst. Prior to coming to the University of Florida, Dr. Waters served as the director of the Stroke Program at Cedars Sinai Medical Center and Assistant Professor of Medicine at UCLA.

Dr. Waters' research interests include genetic mechanisms of stroke, including cerebral cavernous malformations, CADASIL, and sickle cell anemia. In addition, he has active research in gene discovery and the pathophysiology of dominant cerebellar ataxias. Dr. Waters is a member of the American Academy of Neurology and the American Society of Human Genetics.