

IBNS Candidates for 2020 Election *(listed alphabetically)*

Candidates for President:

Jill McGaughy

Jill Silverman



Jill McGaughy, PhD
Professor, Department of Psychology, University of New Hampshire

I received my BA from Bradley University in my home state of Illinois, and my MA and PhD from the Ohio State University. After a post-doc at the University of Cambridge with Barry Everitt and Trevor Robbins on a long-term fellowship from the Human Frontier Science Program, I completed a second post-doc at Boston University with Howard Eichenbaum and Michael Hasselmo. I joined the faculty at University of New Hampshire in 2004 where I am currently a Professor of Psychology, the coordinator of the Neuroscience and Behavior Program, and a faculty fellow in the Engagement and Faculty Development Office.

My research has centered on understanding the neural circuits underlying attention during development and how these circuits are disrupted in major neuropsychiatric disorders. To improve the translational value of rodent models of attention, I have developed three novel paradigms to assess sustained attention, divided attention and conflict monitoring. My lab has used these tasks to 1. Provide evidence of analogous function between that sub-regions of the prefrontal cortex in rats and primates 2. Identify the unique attentional impairments produced by early life insults. Recently we have shown that prenatal protein malnutrition (PPM) alters corticopetal noradrenergic systems and produces cognitive rigidity in rats similar to that found in humans after PPM. Because PPM remains a leading cause of emotional and cognitive impairments in adults, these studies are expected to inform treatment of many major neuropsychiatric disorders. I collaborate with psychiatrists, Janina Galler at Harvard Medical School and primatologists, Doug Rosene at Boston University Medical Center, and Jerome Sallet at Oxford University to continually strengthen the translational validity of my research. My work has been funded by the National Institute of Health and published in top-tier journals e.g. Biological Psychiatry and the Journal of Neuroscience.

I have been an actively involved IBNS member since 2016, organizing symposia and recruiting international colleagues to attend meetings and currently serve on the Program Committee. I enjoy the collegial atmosphere of the meeting, emphasis on great science and the active support of young scientists. My experience in a variety of universities, from massive research institutions like the University of Cambridge to smaller universities like Bradley University, gives me an appreciation for the importance of linking researchers from both communities to fill critical gaps in the training of scientists. IBNS is an ideal environment to make these connections that benefit faculty and students alike. My work in faculty development has provided insights into ways to increase both the recruitment and retention of more diverse faculty, to support faculty throughout their careers and to foster cross-disciplinary collaborations. If elected President of IBNS, I will work to use my faculty development skills to build on the excellent foundation provided by IBNS to support scientists at all stages of career development. Moreover, I will continue to increase outreach to international scholars to emphasize the unique opportunities provided by IBNS to connect to top-tier research in the field in an environment that encourages cross-disciplinary thinking and fosters international collaborations.



Jill L Silverman, PhD
Associate Professor, MIND Institute and Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, University of California Davis School of Medicine

I have 20 years of experience with rodent model systems, striving to perform successful translational research using behavior to study neurodevelopmental disorders. I trained in behavioral phenotyping mouse models within the NIMH under past president Dr. Crawley, where I fell in love with behavior and I knew how I wanted to spend the rest of my career. Then, I joined the faculty of the UC Davis MIND Institute in 2012, and extended our mouse program to genetic and environmental exposure rat models. We expanded our *in vivo* phenotype analyses to EEG, sleep and circadian rhythms. I am an Associate Editor for *Molecular Autism* and frequently review grant applications for private, state and federal (NIH) funding. I am fortunate to have funding for my laboratory at each level, in this difficult climate.



I am active in several scientific societies but IBNS will always be special to me. I have watched IBNS stay strong through the hardships of “the failure to translate” in neuropsychiatric disease and sadly watched behavior take the blame, such failure does not lie only with behavior. For successful translation to clinical trials, behavior will always be essential. Downplaying behavior’s role/decreasing its trainees is the wrong strategy – we have to be active, vocal and unified. We do not want to lose a generation of behavioral experts by undervaluing the discipline in a system rewarding tech savvy only proposals. I am still here to improve mental health and lessen symptom severity for affected individuals and believe that behavior is irreplaceable. IBNS is therefore where I hope to be of the most service and am honored to be considered for role of president.

Since 2012, I’ve been an active participant and visible leader in IBNS, serving a variety of roles (e.g., chairing Education and Training Committee, fundraising, and USA councilor). I have attended the annual meetings consistently and chaired symposia on many topics critical to translation. I am proud of who are and elated to watch us grow. It has been a highlight to work with Dr. Young and form the idea of the IBNS Diversity Committee and see it come to fruition. I do not have to look too far to understand a strong commitment to diversity, given my own story and the stories of the 4 women students in my laboratory. My leadership philosophy for the IBNS is aligned with the past 2 presidents, and I hope this will give us a head start as we would have continuity of goals. I would continue to elevate the quality aspect of IBNS that it is an “all access” group providing trainees a large amount of one-on-one time with leaders in their respective fields. I will continue our Society’s rise above funding/publishing politics and continue to highlight the message that behavioral outcomes remain critical to neurobiological research. All of us, as student or full members, have found the excitement of research to be unparalleled. Let’s continue these goals together! The world needs us now more than ever.

Candidates for Treasurer:

Kim Gerecke

F. Scott Hall



Kim M. Gerecke, PhD
Associate Professor, Department of Psychology and Behavioral Neuroscience, Randolph-Macon College

The core theme of my research has been to identify factors that protect the brain against damage. Because neurons cannot be replenished, the brain is exquisitely sensitive to insult, and there are very few effective treatments for most neurodegenerative disorders. Therefore, the most effective strategy often is prevention. I have investigated risk and protective factors at the molecular and behavioral levels in a model of severe oxidative-stress induced degeneration (MPTP, a model for Parkinson’s disease), as well as in a chronic oxidative stress model (chronic stress). Thus, in my work I have shown protective effects against an intense physiological insult, as well as against damage caused by chronic low-level stress, the type of stress that most of us regularly experience.

My current research focuses on elucidating the mechanisms by which chronic stress damages the brain, and how exercise protects the brain from this toxic damage. We are also investigating if exercise can rescue mice from the toxic effects of early life stress, and if exercise is neuroprotective in a two-hit model of chronic stress, plus a sub threshold dose of the inflammation inducing lipopolysaccharide. Another project is testing if the anti-inflammatory cannabiniol, is similarly protective against chronic psychological stress. I have maintained a high level of research productivity throughout my career, publishing 12 articles, many in high impact journals, and presenting 35 times at conferences. My research has been cited nearly 450 times, and I have demonstrated a consistent record of grant support for my research via competitive internal and extramural grants. Importantly, in all my work as a primary investigator, undergraduate students are co-authors on my publications, and conference presentations

I am a longstanding member of International Behavioral Neuroscience society, and have long served on several committees within the society. I first joined IBNS as a student member in my Master’s program in the mid 1990’s, and have been a regular member since becoming a faculty member in 2006. I have been a member, and the chair, of the Education and Training committee, I have served as the USA Councilor, and I was Program Chair for the meeting in 2016. Currently I am serving on the Nominations and Awards Committee for IBNS. I am also an IBNS fellow, thus, I have also been formally recognized for my significant contributions to the society.

If elected, I pledge to oversee the finances of the Central Office, keep an accounting of the of the financial condition of the Society, and to communicate that accounting to the President and Council, as

well as to the active members of the society. I look forward to continuing to play an active role in our vibrant professional society.



F. Scott Hall, PhD
Associate Professor, Department of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, The University of Toledo

I am an Associate Professor of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics at the University of Toledo where my laboratory studies addiction and related psychiatric disorders using animal models. I received my PhD in neurobiology from Cambridge University in 1994, where I worked with Trevor Robbins. After a postdoc at NIAAA/NIMH I spent 15 years in the Intramural Research Program at NIDA. I am currently the IBNS Past-President and was President for the 2018 and 2019 meetings, in Boca Raton and Cairns. I have been a member of IBNS since 1996 and have attended most of the meetings since then, chairing numerous symposia, committees and otherwise contributing to my favorite scientific society as well. Like most long-standing IBNS members, and many of our younger members as well, I was attracted to IBNS for many reasons: the strength of the science, the focus on behavior, the more intimate nature of the meetings, the strong emphasis on scientific mentorship and career development, and the open and active social life of the Society that facilitates all of these goals. As President, I sought to maintain these strengths of the Society, and to “grow” the Society, both in terms of membership and meeting attendance. My intention was not to increase the size of the Society to the point of losing the benefits of a “smallish” meeting, but to have the Society more broadly represent the field, in terms of all aspects of representation (from throughout the world, and from all the areas of neuroscience that involve behavior). However, I also wished to increase the size of the Society because I felt that a slightly larger Society would be more financially secure, and would be better able to accomplish many of the goals that many of us have discussed for a long time: stronger support of mentoring, career development, education, and outreach. The security and future of our Society is now challenged by our current world-wide circumstances, the pandemic and the resulting economic upheaval. Although we all have many other more immediate concerns, we (certainly I) also wish to look to securing the future of IBNS in these trying times. Because this is something to which I am dedicated, I am standing this year in the election for IBNS Treasurer, and will work toward securing the financial and scientific success of IBNS in years to come. Our IBNS leaders have attempted to keep the Society on a strong financial footing for a very long time. This has included financially successful meetings while still trying to limits costs to attendees as much as possible and putting away money for a rainy day. Something that is certainly fortuitous given the current dark clouds. I will work to cautiously preserve and improve that position, even in these uncertain times.

Candidates for USA Councilor:

Janine Kwapis

Brian McMillen



Janine Kwapis, PhD
Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, Pennsylvania State University

She earned her PhD in behavioral neuroscience at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and completed a postdoc in molecular neuroscience at the University of California, Irvine. Dr. Kwapis has been involved in IBNS since 2017 and has been chair of two symposium sessions in this time. Her lab studies the epigenetic and molecular mechanisms that underlie long-term memory formation and updating, with an emphasis on understanding how these mechanisms are altered in the aging brain. Her work has shown that individual circadian genes function in the dorsal hippocampus to modulate memory across the 24h day, a process that is disrupted with aging. Her lab uses a combination of sophisticated behavior and cutting-edge molecular techniques to manipulate individual genes and epigenetic

mechanisms during distinct phases of memory formation. She is also involved in the Pavlovian Society, the Society for Neuroscience, the International Society for Behavioral Neuroscience (ISBN) and the Eastern Psychological Association.

Dr. Kwapis is particularly interested in mentoring and promoting diversity in science. She is a board member of the nonprofit organization Women in Learning (WIL), which aims to help support and advance women in science. As part of WIL, Dr. Kwapis helps facilitate a forum where young neuroscientists can get advice and guidance from established female scientists. She also serves as a mentor in the WIL mentoring program, providing one-on-one guidance to graduate students in the field. Dr. Kwapis is also proud to participate in multiple undergraduate programs that aim to improve diversity in STEM at Penn State, including the Millennium Scholars Program and the Summer Research Opportunities Program. If elected as a USA Councilor for IBNS, Dr. Kwapis would work to improve diversity within the organization and organize new trainee networking events and mentoring programs to build on the strong tradition of trainee involvement at the annual meeting.



Brian McMillen, PhD
Professor Emeritus, Pharmacology & Toxicology, Brody School of Medicine, East Carolina University.

In addition to teaching medical students and other health professionals, I conducted research on alcohol and other drugs of abuse that has been funded by NIH and pharmaceutical grants and contracts and have more than 100 scholarly publications that have received more than 3,000 citations. Also, for 25 years I was Director of the Science Education Partnership Program that brings selected high school seniors into the medical school labs for the entire year for course credit. I have attended about two out of every three IBNS meetings since I joined in 1995, including Australia 2019, and served on five of the Society's committees. The meetings consistently have had excellent symposia that provide focus on a few areas while the rest of the meeting provided great breadth. My own research has attempted to correlate biochemical changes with behavioral changes. It was this interface that was central to the founding of IBNS. For our symposia, I

believe it is important to continue to identify research areas that incorporate both the integrated systems and the molecular/biochemical approaches in order to answer important neurobehavioral problems. This will require continued recruitment of strong international scientists for symposia and keynotes and that will require more money for support. We need more members and a larger attendance in order to attract more vendors and to work hard to obtain more money from other resources. Anything that we can do to get more students and junior scientists to the meeting will be important for the Society and our field. At recent meetings, I have noticed many of the students who attended years ago are now back as faculty or senior scientists. I will work with the other members of Council to continue to strengthen IBNS.



Candidate for European Councilor:

Markus Fendt

Jodi Pawluski



Markus Fendt, PhD

Professor, Otto-von-Guericke University, Magdeburg, Germany

Markus is a group leader and adjunct professor at the Institute of Pharmacology and Toxicology, Medical Faculty, Otto-von-Guericke University Magdeburg, Germany. He studied biology and received his Ph.D. from the University of Tübingen, Germany. After a 2-year postdoc period, he became a junior group leader in Tübingen, where he also obtained his habilitation on animal physiology in 2002. In 2006, Markus joined Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research in Basel, Switzerland, as a senior research investigator in the Neuropsychiatry unit. After the closure of this unit in 2012, he decided to go back to academic research and accepted his current position in Magdeburg, where he has now a research group with the current main focus on the role of different neuropeptides in behavioral endophenotypes of neuropsychiatric diseases (using rodent models). Current projects: Neuropharmacological mechanisms of event learning; Orexin's role in mouse behavioral

endophenotypes for neuropsychiatric diseases; Social transmission of fear & ultrasonic vocalization; Neuropharmacology of cognitive flexibility; Role of G-protein coupled receptors in innate and learned fear.

<http://www.ipt.ovgu.de/en/Research/Neuropharmacology+of+emotional+systems.html>

Markus attended his first IBNS meeting 2004 in Key West. Since then, he has attended nine IBNS meetings and also organized symposia at several meetings.

In his downtime, he enjoys bird watching, running and reading.



Jodi Pawluski, PhD

Research Associate, Rennes University

I'm a behavioral neuroscientist and more recently a therapist. I completed my Master of Arts in Psychology at the University of Toronto (2003), my PhD at the University of British Columbia (2007) and my Habilitation degree (HDR) at the University of Rennes 1 (2019). Since 2015 my research has been affiliated with the Research Institute for Environmental and Occupational Health (Irset) at the University of Rennes 1 in Rennes, France.

For over a decade my research has focused on the behavioral neuroscience of motherhood and the effects of maternal mental illness and antidepressant medications on the mother and offspring. One key theme that has come from my research experience is that behavioral neuroscience research is vital to

improving our understanding of maternal mental illness and its impact on mother and child. I have published a number of peer-reviewed articles on this topic with students and collaborators. I regularly speak nationally and internationally about my research findings as well as the fascinating effects of motherhood on the maternal brain.

I have been involved with IBNS for a number of years, first as a student member then as a member and Chair of the **Membership & Communications Committee**. **Most recently, in 2019-2020, I served as a member of the local organizing committee.** I believe that behavioral neuroscience is vital to our understanding of the brain in basic research and clinical settings and I am passionate about linking behavioral research findings to human health.

I am excited about the opportunity to be the European Councilor for IBNS - to continue to support and promote the importance of behavioural neuroscience research in Europe and abroad.



Candidates for Student (Trainee) Councilor:

Nicholas Everett

Johnny Kenton

Stela Petkova

José Luis Reyes González



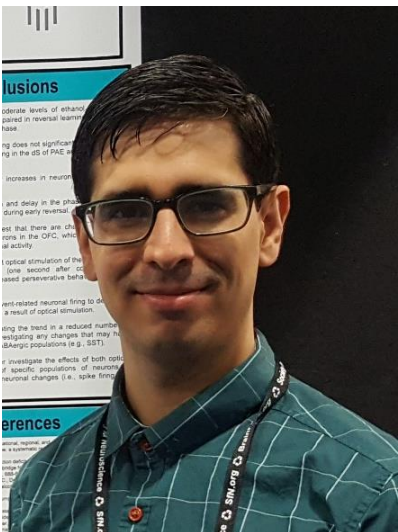
Nicholas Everett, PhD
PostDoc, University of Sydney, Australia

I completed my PhD in under Prof Jennifer Cornish at Macquarie University, Australia, where I investigated the behavioural and neurobiological effects of the neuropeptide oxytocin as a therapy for methamphetamine addiction. I am now a Post-Doctoral researcher in the lab of A/Prof Michael Bowen at the University of Sydney, where I am researching the neurobiology of opioid withdrawal; developing withdrawal therapies; and identifying the neural mechanisms by which these therapies work. I am also involved in projects investigating the oxytocin system in sleep disturbances, and the use of cannabidiol as an opioid withdrawal therapy, and machine-learning analysis of withdrawal symptoms.

My research uses rodent models of drug addiction, primarily intravenous drug self-administration in conjunction with neurobiological techniques including immunofluorescence, microinjections, fibre photometry, and DREADDs. A recent emphasis has been *in vivo* recording of neural substrates involved in addiction and withdrawal, to evaluate the efficacy of novel addiction therapies at the circuit level.

The first conference I attended was IBNS in Malahide (2013), during my final undergraduate year, which was a major catalyst for my decision to become a researcher. I still remember the plenary which flipped that switch! Since then, I have attended IBNS as often as possible, including Budapest (2016), Hiroshima (2017), and Cairns (2019). Since 2018 I have been on the Membership and Communications Committee, and in 2019 on the Membership Recruitment subcommittee. As IBNS came to Australia in 2019, I enthusiastically advertised IBNS throughout my networks, and was able to encourage many Australian research students to attend IBNS for their first time.

IBNS has been essential to the development of early research career. IBNS provided me with my first international oral presentation opportunity and led to collaborations which have accelerated my technical research skills. This would not have been possible without the selfless work of the trainee representatives. As I have benefited greatly from the service of others within IBNS, I would love to be elected as the Council Representative for Trainees, so that I can continue this work focused on growing opportunities for PhDs and ECRs. My connection with the rapidly growing behavioural neuroscience community in Australia will also help us to grow and diversify the international membership.



Johnny A. Kenton, BA, BS
PhD Candidate, Department of Neurosciences, University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center

As a junior investigator moving into the next phase of my research career, I strongly believe that as Council Representative for Trainees, I can work diligently to promote the goals of the International Behavioral Neuroscience Society. During my time as a graduate student in the Biomedical Sciences Graduate Program at the University of New Mexico (UNM), I have gained experiences and skills that enable me to contribute a unique perspective to IBNS. In 2019, I was fortunate enough to receive a graduate travel award to attend the IBNS 28th Annual Meeting in Cairns, Australia, where I had the opportunity to present some of my findings. This was a great experience, as the smaller, more intimate nature of the meeting presented the opportunity to meet regularly with junior and senior researchers from various institutions. I look forward to attending the IBNS meeting in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico in the summer of 2021.

As a graduate researcher in the lab of Dr. Jonathan Brigman, IBNS Fellow, I have focused on integrating translational touchscreen-based behavioral tasks with both *in vivo* and *ex vivo* techniques to determine the mechanisms underlying alterations to cognition after moderate prenatal alcohol exposure. Most importantly, I have utilized both *in vivo* neural recordings and optogenetic techniques to restore normal behavioral flexibility in adult mice after prenatal alcohol exposure (PAE). Additionally, in an attempt to further the development of translational tasks for assessing PAE effects, I have also established attention



and spatial touchscreen tasks. I intend both to take these skills and apply them in my future research as a post-doctoral fellow, as well as to expand my skillset overall.

During my graduate training, I have served as a student representative for both the UNM Health Sciences Center and the Graduate & Professional Student Association, acting as liaison between my graduate program and the larger UNM community. In addition, for the past 3 years, I have been a member of the organizing committee for the New Mexico Brain Bee through the New Mexico Chapter of the Society for Neuroscience. In this role, I helped to plan and run events, as well as recruit and mentor the participants. As a Council Representative for Trainees, I look forward to making use of the skills I have acquired through my experiences and becoming more involved with IBNS. Through this appointment, I can further the goals of IBNS by helping to organize and promote both the “Meet the Professionals” luncheon and the Mentoring Program. As a past participant in these incredibly helpful activities, I believe I can help them to continue and improve for the benefit of future junior investigators.

In conclusion, I believe being elected as a Council Representative for Trainees will allow me to be a more active IBNS member, so that I may help to increase membership and participation in the meetings, and oversee and improve the activities available for each member.



Stela Petkova, BA
PhD Candidate, MIND Institute at University of California, Davis

I am a current PhD candidate and budding behavioral neuroscientist under the tutelage of Dr. Jill Silverman at the MIND Institute at University of California, Davis. In Dr. Silverman’s lab, I have had a chance to delve into models and therapeutics for various neurodevelopmental disorders (NDDs) using a variety of behavioral tools and assays. My current work has two focuses: behavioral phenotyping of novel genetic mouse models for NDDs and investigating motor domain behaviors in established NDD models as reliable outcomes for preclinical therapeutics. I am a strong supporter of translational behavioral neuroscience! Of particular interest to me is examining developmental trajectories in gain of motor skills, namely those involved in walking, in mouse models for NDDs; these skills can be more readily translational to clinical research than more complex and nuanced cognitive behaviors. I spend a lot of time making mice walk on

a little treadmill.

Being in a very small behavioral neuroscience community at my university, presenting at the 2019 International Behavioral Neuroscience Society (IBNS) meeting in Cairns, Australia opened my eyes to the breadth and depth of this community. Attending the meeting invigorated my love for the field and the community the society fosters. In accordance with that sentiment, I was honoured to be nominated for the chance to serve as a Student Councilor. I want to give back to the organization by helping strengthen and expand it. As a Student Councilor, I will promote community and engagement amongst trainees, developing and supporting a network that can fuel collaborations, career development and mentoring, and outreach events. I have experience in organizing big events such as panels and networking socials which I will employ in this role. Additionally, I’m an advocate for retention and advancement of women in neuroscience. I went to a women’s college and have worked in predominantly female labs which has had a tremendous impact on me. I’d like to pass this on by forming a strong community amongst women in the society – at all levels of their careers and across all locations and research interests. One potential way is hosting a panel to share stories and advise trainees how to step into their desired roles. I eagerly await the chance to represent trainees and what they wish to gain from the society as a Student Councilor.



José Luis Reyes González, BS
PhD Candidate, Department of Neurosciences, Universidad Central del Caribe, Puerto Rico

I obtained a bachelor's degree in Biology from the *Pontificia Universidad Católica de Puerto Rico*. Currently, I am working on a Ph.D. in Neurosciences at the Universidad Central del Caribe, Puerto Rico.

Last year, I had the distinction of receiving the *International Behavioral Neuroscience Society* (IBNS) Travel Award which allows me to attend the IBNS Annual Meeting held in Cairns, Australia. In this important event, I was able to present my work which focused on improving an animal model for Gulf War Illness and testing the effectiveness of a novel drug to treat spatial memory problems in C57 mice using Barnes Maze. I also had the opportunity to assist Patricia de la Tremblaye in

her duties as Student Councilor. Currently, I am working on a new technique that will allow the sin quantification of proteins in different synaptic vesicle pools at the ultrastructural level. In the future, I plan to add a lecture focused on conducting and analyzing data from behavioral experiments in the training program for undergraduate students of the *Universidad Central del Caribe* to promote the use and advantages of such experiments in my country.

The position of Council Representative for Trainees will allow me to meet and help wonderful and interesting people and contribute to an event that gives me an opportunity to demonstrate the science of my university to the world. I believe in the importance of educational events and being able to be part of the next IBNS Annual Meeting would be a real honor.