

Kristen Amico

954-804-9365 | Kristen.Amico@uga.edu

EDUCATION

- 2019-Present Ph.D., Neuroscience, Department of Physiology & Pharmacology, Biomedical and Health Sciences Institute, University of Georgia, Athens, GA
- 2017 Bachelor of Science, Psychology, *Magna cum Laude*, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL
Minor: Biological Sciences, Concentration in Neuroscience and Neuropsychology

RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistant

University of Georgia, Department of Physiology & Pharmacology, Neuroscience Program, Athens, GA
Principal Investigator: Dr. Jesse R. Schank

- Examining the relationship between stress, neuropeptide signaling, and opioid use disorder
- Investigating the neural circuitry and molecular pathways differentially mediating single substance use and polysubstance use with a specific focus on alcohol and opioids

Research Assistant

University at Buffalo, State University of New York, Department of Neurosurgery, Buffalo, NY
Principal Investigators: Dr. Adnan Siddiqui, Dr. Ciprian N. Ionita

- Investigated the relationship between imaging biomarkers of neurovascular disease and Parkinson's Disease in humans
- Used human CT perfusion maps as a novel tool to conduct comparative analyses of cerebral blood flow measurements in stroke and neurodegenerative disease

Laboratory Assistant

Florida State University, Department of Biology, Program in Neuroscience, Tallahassee, FL
Principal Investigator: Dr. Lisa C. Lyons

- Investigated the role of signaling and circadian rhythms on associative memory in *Aplysia californica*
- Examined the role of circadian dysregulation on aging and substance abuse in *Drosophila melanogaster*

Undergraduate Research Assistant

Florida State University, Department of Psychology, Program of Cognitive Neuroscience, Tallahassee, FL
Principal Investigator: Dr. Colleen Kelley

- Studied roles of context, repetition, and timing in human memory, using an AB-AD experimental paradigm in human participants

Undergraduate Research Assistant

Florida State University, Department of Psychology, Florida Center for Reading Research, "Florida Twin Project", Tallahassee, FL

Principal Investigators: Dr. Jeanette Taylor, Dr. Sara Hart

- Researched the influence of genetic and environmental factors on academic achievement, development of personality disorders, antisocial behavior, and substance abuse
- Specialized in SALT (Systematic Analysis of Language Transcripts) coding of writing samples obtained from human participants

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Amico KN, Solomon MG, Dourron MS, Schank JR. The effect of chronic oxycodone consumption and oxycodone-paired cues on alcohol intake in mice. Research Society on Alcoholism, June 2021 (*Virtual due to COVID-19*)

Solomon MG, Amico KN, Nennig SE, Cotton MR, Schank JR. Role of neurokinin-1 receptor in stress induced social avoidance and alcohol intake. Research Society on Alcoholism, June 2021 (*Virtual due to COVID-19*)

AWARDS

2021 UGA Graduate School Interdisciplinary and Innovative Research Grant

2021 UGA Neuroscience Program Diversity MATTERS Scholarship

2013-2017 Florida State University Freshman Scholarship

2013-2017 Florida Bright Futures Medallion Scholar Scholarship

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Phi Beta Kappa

Order of Omega

Phi Eta Sigma

SERVICE AND INVOLVEMENT

2021 **Summer Undergraduate Research Experience in Neuroscience (NSURE) Mentor**
University of Georgia, Neuroscience Program

- Act as a near-peer mentor to undergraduate students in the program, providing resources and training on behavioral and molecular techniques, assays, and tools used in the field

2013-2017 **St. Jude Children's Research Hospital**
Florida State University, Tri Delta, Alpha Eta Chapter

- Organized and participated in several philanthropic fundraising events directly benefiting the hospital

2015 **Peer Academic Leader**
Florida State University, Phi Eta Sigma

- Acted as academic mentor to incoming first year students
- Educated students on courses and academic tracks offered at Florida State University
- Guided individual student course selections by suggesting particular courses that would allow the students to achieve academic success for their chosen path and interests, while also fulfilling university requirements.
- Assisted students in the computer-based enrollment process

2014

Team Hamilton Intern

Hamilton Group Funding, Community Outreach Program

- Coordinated and organized company sponsored events benefiting several non-profit organizations including: Feed South Florida, American Cancer Society, and Autism Speaks