

Kylie Wright
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 Gainesville, FL 32601
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Education

-
- Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology** In Progress
 Advisor: Dr. Natalie C. Ebner
 Dual Specialization:
 Developmental Psychology & Behavioral and Cognitive Neuroscience
 University of Florida
- Master of Science in Psychology** Fall 2023
 Advisor: Dr. Natalie C. Ebner
 Dual Specialization:
 Developmental Psychology & Behavioral and Cognitive Neuroscience
 University of Florida
 Thesis: *Effects of Chronic Intranasal Oxytocin Administration on Stress and Loneliness in Aging*
- Bachelor of Science in Psychology** Spring 2021
 Specialization: Life Sciences
 The Pennsylvania State University

Research Experience

-
- The Social-Cognitive and Affective Development Lab** August 2021-Present
Graduate Research Assistant
 Primary Investigator: Dr. Natalie C. Ebner
 University of Florida
- The Cognitive Aging and Neuroimaging Lab** January 2020-May 2021
Undergraduate Research Assistant
 Primary Investigator: Dr. Nancy Dennis
 The Pennsylvania State University

Grants

-
- Pilot Research Grant:** January 2025-December 2025
 Scientific Research Network on Decision Neuroscience in Aging (SRNDNA)
 (NIH 1R24AG076847-03)
Project Title: Age-Related Deception Detection Deficits in Face-to-Face Dyadic Interactions
Co-PI: Kylie Wright, MS
PI: Alayna Shoenfelt, MS (Mentor: Natalie C. Ebner, Ph.D.)
Award: \$24,000
- Research Supplement to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research** December 2023-2025
 (NIA 3R01AG072658-01A1S1, PI: Ebner)
Project Title: Characterizing and modulating neurocognitive processes of learning to trust and distrust in aging
Named Trainee: Kylie Wright, MS
Mentor/PI: Natalie C. Ebner, Ph.D.
Award: \$141,204

Honors and Awards

Jacquelin Goldman Research Award University of Florida Award: \$4,992 Project: <i>Mechanisms of Oxytocin's Analgesia in Older Adults</i>	January 2025
Scientific Research Network on Decision Neuroscience and Aging Travel Award Award: Travel and Lodging Workshop: Computational Modeling of Decision-Making	April 2024
Trish Calvert Ring Graduate Student Research Award University of Florida Award: \$3,000 Project: <i>Oxytocin and Aging Study</i>	April 2024
Department of Psychology Travel Award University of Florida Award: \$750 Conference: Spring 2024 World Congress on Neurohypophysial Hormones	March 2024
Graduate Student Council Travel Award University of Florida Award: \$350 Conference: Spring 2024 Social & Affective Neuroscience Society Conference	February 2024
Department of Psychology Travel Award University of Florida Award: \$750 Conference: Spring 2024 Social & Affective Neuroscience Society Conference	December 2023
Jacquelin Goldman Research Award University of Florida Award: \$5,000 Project: <i>Oxytocin and Aging Study</i>	December 2022
Sallie P. Ashe Travel Award Dallas Aging and Cognition Conference Award: \$500 Conference: Spring 2023 Dallas Aging and Cognition Conference	December 2022
Department of Psychology Travel Award University of Florida Award: \$750 Conference: Spring 2023 Dallas Aging and Cognition Conference	December 2022
Jacquelin Goldman Recruitment Scholar University of Florida Award: \$6,000 Funding for Summer Research	August 2021-Present

Department of Psychology Travel Award

December 2021

University of Florida

Award: \$600

Conference: Spring 2022 Dallas Aging and Cognition Conference in Dallas, TX
(Canceled due to COVID-19)**Graduate Student Council Travel Award**

December 2021

University of Florida

Award: \$350

Conference: Spring 2022 Dallas Aging and Cognition Conference in Dallas, TX
(Canceled due to COVID-19)**University Park Provost's Scholar**

August 2017-May 2021

The Pennsylvania State University

Award: \$16,000

Tuition and student fees

Publications****Denotes shared first authorship***

Wright, K. A., Polk, R., Lin, T., Feifel, D., & Ebner, N.C. (2023). Four-week intranasal oxytocin administration reduces attachment avoidance in older women. *Hormones and Behavior*, 155. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.yhbeh.2023.105413>

Polk, R.J.*, **Wright, K.A.***, Lin, T., Krol, K., Perkeybile, A., Nazarloo, H.P., Carter, C. S., Connelly, J., & Ebner, N.C. (2025). Interplay of plasma oxytocin and oxytocin receptor gene methylation levels on empathy in older adults. *Scientific Reports*, 15. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-025-07353-3>

Manuscripts Under Review and Invited Contributions

Horta, M., **Wright, K.A.**, Lighthall, N.R., & Fillingim, R.B. (2025). Choosing well: A scoping review on chronic pain and decision-making. Manuscript under revised review. https://doi.org/10.31219/osf.io/9c2hb_v1

Wright, K. A., Polk, R., Lin, T., Chen, S., Yang, J., Krol, K., Perkeybile, A., Connelly, J., & Ebner N.C. (2025). Unraveling the interplay between stress, inflammation, and methylation of the oxytocin receptor gene in aging. Manuscript under review.

Wright, K.A., & Ebner, N.C. (In prep). Examining the effects of intranasal oxytocin on stress and inflammation in aging. Invited contribution to *Neuroscience and Biobehavioral Reviews Special Issue on Oxytocin*. Manuscript in preparation.

Teaching Experience**Guest Lecturer**

October 2024

Stress and Memory: When Stress is Good and When it's Bad

University of Florida

Department of Psychology

Invited by: Eliany Perez, MS

Graduate Instructor

Spring 2024

University of Florida

Department of Psychology
 Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Laura Shambaugh
 Course: Introduction to Psychology

Guest Lecturer

September 2022

Language Development
 University of Florida
 Department of Psychology
 Invited by: Dr. Shani Kerr

Teaching Assistant

Fall 2022

University of Florida
 Department of Psychology
 Instructor: Dr. Shani Kerr
 Course: Developmental Psychology

Teaching Assistant

Fall 2021 & 2023, Spring 2022 & 2023

University of Florida
 Department of Psychology
 Instructor: Dr. Marina Klimenko
 Course: Developmental Psychology

Leadership Experience**Psychology Graduate Student Organization President**

Summer 2025-Present

Supervisor: Dr. Darragh Devine
 Department of Psychology
 University of Florida

Graduate Student Council Representative for Department of Psychology

Spring 2024-Present

Secondary Representative
 Supervisor: Dr. Nicole Stedman
 The Graduate School
 University of Florida

Graduate Student Research Conference Coordinator

Fall 2022-Present

Supervisor: Dr. Meredith Rowe
 Institute for Learning in Retirement
 University of Florida

Psychology Graduate Student Organization Treasurer

Summer 2024-Spring 2025

Supervisor: Dr. Darragh Devine
 Department of Psychology
 University of Florida

Undergraduate Send Off Organizer

Spring 2021

Supervisor: Dr. Cathleen Hunt
 Department of Psychology
 The Pennsylvania State University

Undergraduate Research Conference Coordinator

Spring 2020-2021

Supervisor: Dr. Alicia Drais-Parillo

University Park chapter of Psi Chi
The Pennsylvania State University

Undergraduate Assistant Research Conference Coordinator Spring 2020
Supervisor: Dr. Cathleen Hunt
University Park chapter of Psi Chi
The Pennsylvania State University

Service

Brain Awareness Week Volunteer Spring 2025
Northern Central Florida Chapter of the Society for Neuroscience

Letters to a Pre-Scientist STEM Professional Pen-Pal Fall 2024-Present

Invited Reviewer (in training) Spring 2024
Primary Reviewer: Dr. Didem Pehlivanoglu
Psychology and Aging

Junior Science & Humanities Symposium Competition Reviewer Spring 2024
Supervisor: Dr. Matthew Phillips
University of Florida

Invited Reviewer (in training) Fall 2022
Primary Reviewer: Dr. Natalie C. Ebner
Canadian Journal of Pain

Invited Talks

Intranasal oxytocin as a modulator of stress and pain in aging Fall 2024
University of Florida
Department of Psychology
Developmental Area Colloquium
Invited by: Dr. Natalie Ebner

Trainings and Workshops Attended

Multilevel Analysis with R Summer 2025
ICPR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods
University of Michigan, Live Online (Dr. Ling Zhu)

Missing Data Analysis: Why and How Spring 2025
University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, USA (Dr. Joerg Luedicke)

fMRI Acquisition and Analysis Course Spring 2025
Live Online, (Drs. Kent Kiehl, Vince Calhoun, Tor Wager)

Workshop on Computational Modeling of Decision-Making Summer 2024
Scientific Research Network on Decision Neuroscience in Aging (SRNDNA)
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, USA (Drs. Krishna Bera, Alana Jaskir, Angela Radulescu, Gregory Samanez-Larkin, Robert Wilson, and Debbie Yee)

Machine Learning using Matlab University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, USA (Dr. Robert Wilson)	Spring 2024
Dynamic Models of Decision-Making University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, USA (Dr. Peter Kvam)	Fall 2022
Introduction to Python Workshop University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, USA (Informatics Institute)	Fall 2021

Mentorship

Mentee: Sarah Verdecia-Zabala

University of Florida

Program: University Scholars

Project: Undergraduate Honors Thesis

PI: Natalie C. Ebner, PhD

Undergraduate students directly supervised:

Janie Yang, Sarah Verdecia-Zabala, Diana Monterroso-Guzman

Conference Presentations

**Denotes an undergraduate mentee*

Verdecia-Zabala, S. *, **Wright, K. A.**, Lin, T., Feifel, D., Cruz-Almeida, Y., & Ebner, N. C. (April 2025). The effects of chronic intranasal oxytocin in aging: A modulation of pain and stress. Poster at the Psychology Graduate Student Organization undergraduate poster forum in Gainesville, FL.

Yang, J. J. *, **Wright, K. A.**, Polk, R., Lin, T., Kroll, K., Perkeybile, A., Connelly, J., Mendez, A., & Ebner, N.C. (April 2025). Oxytocin receptor methylation as an epigenetic modulator of stress-related inflammation in older adults. Poster at the annual Psychology Graduate Student Organization's undergraduate research forum in Gainesville, FL.

Wright, K. A., Polk, R., Lin, T., Kroll, K., Perkeybile, A., Connelly, J., & Ebner N.C. (May 2024). *Unraveling the interplay between stress, inflammation, and methylation of the oxytocin receptor gene in aging*. Poster at the World Congress on Neurohypophysial Hormones in Atlanta, GA.

Wright, K. A., Polk, R., Lin, T., Kroll, K., Perkeybile, A., Connelly, J., & Ebner N.C. (April 2024). *Unraveling the interplay between stress, inflammation, and methylation of the oxytocin receptor gene in aging*. Poster at the annual Social and Affective Neuroscience Society conference in Toronto, CA.

Yang, J. *, **Wright, K.A.**, Polk, R., Lin, T., Feifel, D., & Ebner, N.C. (April 2024). *Intranasal oxytocin promotes the positive association between social engagement and life satisfaction in avoidantly attached older adults*. Poster at the Levitt Awards for Student Research on Aging, Gainesville, FL, USA.

Polk, R. J., Lin, T., **Wright, K.**, Krol, K., Perkeybile, A., Nazarloo, H. P., Carter, C. S., Connelly, J., & Ebner, N. C. (2023, April). *Endogenous oxytocin in aging: interaction of plasma levels and receptor gene methylation on empathy*. Poster presented at the annual Social and Affective Neuroscience Society conference in Santa Barbara, CA.

Wright, K., Lin, T., Feifel, D., Cruz-Almeida, Y., & Ebner, N.C. (March 2023). *Chronic intranasal oxytocin dissociates the relationship between pain and stress in older adults*. Poster at the Institute for Learning in Retirement Robert Levitt Awards for Student Research on Aging, Gainesville, FL, USA.

Polk, R. J., Lin, T., **Wright, K.**, Krol, K., Perkeybile, A., Nazarloo, H. P., Carter, C. S., Connelly, J., & Ebner, N. C. (2023, February). *Endogenous oxytocin in aging: interaction of plasma levels and receptor gene methylation on empathy*. Poster presented at the North Central Florida Society for Neuroscience Conference, in Gainesville, FL.

Wright, K., Lin, T., Feifel, D., Cruz-Almeida, Y., & Ebner, N.C. (February 2023). *Chronic intranasal oxytocin dissociates the relationship between pain and stress in older adults*. Poster at the Dallas Aging and Cognition Conference, Dallas, TX, USA.

Wright, K., Horta, M., Rung, J., Polk, R., Heemskerk, A., Feifel, D., & Ebner, N.C. (March 2022). *The modulatory role of chronic intranasal oxytocin administration on affiliative processes and its tolerability in aging*. Poster at the Robert Levitt Awards for Student Research on Aging Poster Session, Gainesville, FL, USA.

Wright, K., Horta, M., Rung, J., Polk, R., Heemskerk, A., Feifel, D., & Ebner, N.C. (January 2022). *Safety and tolerability of chronic oxytocin administration and the modulatory role on affiliative processes in aging*. Poster at the 2022 North Central Florida Society for Neuroscience Conference, Gainesville, FL, USA.

Wright, K., Horta, M., Rung, J., Polk, R., Heemskerk, A., Feifel, D., & Ebner, N.C. (January 2022). *Safety and tolerability of chronic oxytocin administration and the modulatory role on affiliative processes in aging*. Poster at the 2022 Dallas Aging and Cognition Conference, Dallas, TX, USA. **(Conference canceled due to COVID-19)**

Wright, K. & Pearson, N. (April 2021). *The effects of cortisol on learning*. Poster at the 2021 Psi Chi Undergraduate Research Conference, University Park, PA, USA.

Wright, K. & Pearson, N. (April 2020). *The effects of cortisol on learning*. Poster at the 2021 Psi Chi Undergraduate Research Conference, University Park, PA, USA. **(Canceled due to COVID-19)**

Organizations

Psychology Graduate Student Organization Graduate Student Officer	Summer 2024-Present
Graduate Student Council Secondary Representative for the Department of Psychology	Spring 2024-Present
Social & Affective Neuroscience Society Graduate Student Member	Spring 2024-Present
Graduate Assistants United Gainesville Chapter Graduate Student Member	Spring 2024-Present
Society for Neuroscience	Spring 2022-Present

Northern Central Florida Chapter
Graduate Student Member

The Women's Network National
Gainesville Chapter
Graduate Student Member

Spring 2022-Present

Psi Chi- International Honor Society in Psychology
University Park Chapter
International Member

Fall 2019-Present

Computer Competence

- Behavioral Data Analysis: R/Rstudio, Jasp, Jamovi, SPSS, Mplus
- Statistical Models: Multilevel modeling, structural equation modeling, analysis of variance, linear regression modeling, moderation and mediation