

# Barbara Chapman

## Neuroscience Award



### Lindsay Cameron

FY 2020-21 Award Recipient

Lindsay Cameron is a fifth year neuroscience Ph.D. student in Dr. David Olson's lab at UC Davis. Lindsay's research focuses on understanding if the hallucinogenic properties of psychedelics are necessary to achieve therapeutic effects, or if these two phenomena are dissociable. Using primary neuronal cell culture and animal behavior studies, Lindsay has determined that the perceptual disturbances (hallucinations) and therapeutic properties can indeed be decoupled. Together, Lindsay and her colleagues have developed and tested novel rapid-acting antidepressants that are non-hallucinogenic. These data provide an important starting point for the design of safer next-generation therapeutics for treating depression and addiction.

### Impact of Philanthropy

*The Barbara Chapman Neuroscience Award enabled Lindsay to attend the virtual International Behavioral Neuroscience Society meeting. Lindsay gained a greater understanding of the neuroscience of behaviors and engaged in meaningful conversations about diversity, equity and inclusion that impact her as a female scientist.*

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### *Special thanks from Lindsay Cameron:*

Thank you for your support of the Barbara Chapman Neuroscience Award, which allowed me to attend the International Behavioral Neuroscience Society (IBNS) meeting virtually.

I joined UC Davis as a lab tech for Dr. Hwai-Jong Cheng in 2014, right after Barbara's passing. I worked closely with Sam and Zac after they switched to Dr. Cheng's lab. Though I didn't meet Barbara herself, I learned a lot about her from Sam and Zac's stories. I loved their projects and I knew without a doubt I would've loved to join Barbara's lab if that had been an option. The projects that came from her lab were the first time I studied plasticity and were the inspiration for much of my graduate work now involving using plasticity to rewire circuits for treating neuropsychiatric disorders.

This IBNS conference brings all the top researchers in the field together to understand the neuroscience of all sorts of behavior – from decision making computational models to investigating sex differences in anxiety, this conference had it all. As someone who studies depression, anxiety, PTSD and addiction, thoroughly understanding the behaviors that result from these illnesses are critical. I was able to learn from researchers who study rodents (like myself) all the way up to humans and how therapeutics (like the ones I study) can be translated for human use. This year had a large focus on the prefrontal cortex – a part of the brain heavily implicated in the aforementioned illnesses. This opportunity allowed me to step back from the detailed oriented day-to-day life of lab and focus on the broader picture of emotional processing.

The virtual conference was very well organized during the COVID-19 pandemic. I was impressed at how many other professionals in the field I got to interact with. Importantly, there was a heavy emphasis on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) at this conference, including presentations from Black in Neuro, Women in Learning and many more. This personally means a lot to me as a woman scientist, that people are able to speak more openly about the landscape of academia and how to make it more inclusive.

In all, I truly appreciate the opportunity you provided me to attend this conference. I wouldn't have been able to go without your support. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Lindsay P. Cameron