Ling-Lie Chau Graduate Student Award for Brain Research

Lindsay Cameron is a recent Ph.D. graduate of the Neuroscience Graduate Group at UC Davis. She completed her Ph.D. in December 2021 and trained in the lab of Dr. David Olson. Lindsay’s Ph.D. research focused 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 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.

Lindsay will continue to study psychedelics at Stanford University as a joint postdoctoral scholar in the labs of Dr. Robert Malenka and Dr. Karl Deisseroth.

Impact of Philanthropy

The Ling-Lie Chau Graduate Student Award for Brain Research enabled Lindsay to attend the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology in Puerto Rico, where she was invited to speak on a panelist and discussed the future of psychedelic medicine. She also expanded her network and learned from researchers about how therapeutics can be translated for human use.
Thank you for your generous contributions which allowed me to attend the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ACNP) in Puerto Rico this year!

This ACNP conference brings all the top researchers in the field to understand the neuroscience of all sorts of behavior – from novel drug discovery to basic mechanisms underlying neuropsychiatric disorders, 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 can be translated for human use. This year, I was invited to speak on a panel with four other leading researchers in the field. The room was packed, and there were even more virtual attendees online! I presented in this 3-hour panel discussing the future of psychedelic medicine. I am honored to have been invited to present on such a panel, and further excited by the fact that I was surrounded by dozens of researchers that I look up to.

This opportunity allowed me to step back from the detail-oriented day-to-day life of lab and focus on the broader picture of emotional processing. Furthermore, I got to meet and connect with many individuals, including the entire Johns Hopkins Psychedelic Research Center researchers, which has already lead to wonderful and insightful conversations, but also collaborations which are already underway. These connections will only strengthen over time, and I am so grateful for having gone to this conference and make them in the first place!

Importantly, there was a heavy emphasis on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) at this conference. This included presentations and networking sessions for Black in Neuro, Women in STEM, and other groups from historically underrepresented backgrounds. There was at least two DEI events each day, which is more than I’ve ever seen at a conference! 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