

Summary of Research Program:

My lab has a longstanding interest in the behavioral and neural-circuit effects of metabolic states and metabolic hormones at the CNS, with focus on ingestive behavior, neural regulation of metabolism and obesity. Historically, we spent about 15 years studying the effects of the hormones insulin and leptin on various facets of food reward. Currently, we are shifting the focus a little bit to the effects of specific dietary fatty acids on not just food reward, but on potential mechanisms for regulation of gene expression and epigenetic phenomena. Thus we are using our sucrose reward model to initially establish these effects using a behavior and circuitry very familiar to us, but hope to branch out to other systems (e.g., hippocampus/learning; limbic circuitry such as amygdala and BNST/anxiety, fear, stress).



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[Faculty Profile](#)