

ROBERT W. FERNANDEZ

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EDUCATION

Graduate Student June 2013
YALE UNIVERSITY, Program in Biochemistry, Biophysics, and Structural Biology, New Haven, CT.

Bachelors of Science Expected in May 2013
YORK COLLEGE/CUNY, Major in Biotechnology, JAMAICA NY

Associates of Arts 2009
UNION COUNTY COLLEGE, Major in Business, CRANFORD NJ

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Associate *Sept. 2011 – Present*
YORK COLLEGE/CUNY, Laboratory of Dr. Anne F. Simon, Jamaica, NY. 20 hours a week
Aim: Examined the social innate avoidance of *Drosophila melanogaster* through variation in VMAT levels and the role of autism-associated gene *rugose* (in collaboration with City College)
Role in project: Basic Husbandry, Making Fly Food, Genetic Crosses, Testing Flies on Behavioral Assays, Analyzing Data, Western Blots
Presented results: YORK COLLEGE/CUNY Research Days, CUSJ Spring Undergraduate Research Symposium 2012, ABRCMS 2012, 54th Annual Drosophila Research Conference (in progress)

Summer Research Associate *June 2012-August 2012*
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY, Laboratory of Dr. Paul Schedl, Princeton, NJ. 40 hours a week.
Aim: Examined the role of BMP Signaling on Germ Cell Survival and Fate during Mid-Embryogenesis of *Drosophila melanogaster*
Role in project: Basic Husbandry, Genetic Crosses, Immunohistochemistry, Embryo Fixation
Presented results: SURP at Princeton University Summer 2012

Independent Study Student *Spring 2009*
UNION COUNTY COLLEGE, Worked with Dr. Felton, Dr. Bramante, & Dr. Keating, Cranford, NJ.
Conduction of several independent study projects on Common Misconceptions on Evolution, the Struggles of Undocumented Students, & the Importance of Funding Down Syndrome Research
Independent study projects included: Several short thesis on topics listed, interviewed professors and students, raised money for Down Syndrome Research through Charity Masquerade Ball in co-joint with Phi Theta Kappa Iota Xi, and presentation of projects completed

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Adjunct CLT

YORK COLLEGE/CUNY, Jamaica NY

Fall 2012-Present

Committed 15 hours a week. Responsibilities included setting up and clearing lab equipment for introductory biology teaching classes, basic husbandry in maintenance of several genotypes of mice including cleaning cages, distributing water and food

Research Mentoring

YORK COLLEGE/CUNY. Laboratory of Dr. Anne F. Simon

Fall 2012-Present

Mentored two undergraduate students: Omaralexis Feliciano & Johana Kutrolli

Taught: Basic Husbandry, Making Fly Food & Solutions, Behavioral Assays, and Analyzing Data

Tutoring:

Academic Achievement Center Tutor

YORK COLLEGE/CUNY, Jamaica, NY

Fall 2011- Fall 2012

Committed 10-20 hours each week to tutor undergraduates in Introductory Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Mathematics

Physics Tutor

YORK COLLEGE/CUNY, Jamaica, NY

Fall 2011 – Fall 2012

Committed 6-15 hours each week to tutor undergraduates in Introductory Physics

Biology Tutor

YORK COLLEGE/CUNY, Jamaica, NY

Spring 2010 – Summer 2010

Committed 10-20 hours each week to tutor undergraduates in Biology

HONORS and AWARDS

Distinguished Graduate Award

\$300

Spring 2013

Award given for Outstanding Academic Achievement and Exemplary Leadership at York Cllege

Victoria Finnerty Undergraduate Travel Award

\$750

Fall 2012

Genetic Society of America Travel Award given to Undergraduate Researchers to attend Spring 2013 54th Annual Drosophila Research Conference

ABRCMS Student Travel Award for 2012 ABRCMS

\$1500

Fall 2012

Accepted to present poster presentation at 2012 ABRCMS

Alliance/Merck Ciencia National Scholarships – College STEM

\$2000

Fall 2012

Hispanic student with good academic standing and majoring in STEM field

Featured student at Queens Courier Publication “El Correo”

Summer 2012

Link:

<http://queenscourier.com/wp-content/digital-editions/EC06222012/index.html#/14/>

Candidate for Graduate with Honors and Honors in Department of Biology

Spring 2012

Eligible candidate for graduation with honors and departmental honors

HONORS and AWARDS CONT.

Featured Student at CUNY YORK COLLEGE		<i>Spring 2012</i>
<i>Link:</i>		
http://www.york.cuny.edu/news/biotech-major-set-for-summer-at-princeton-and-research-day-at-columbia		
CUNY YORK Study Abroad/Study Away Notice	\$361.80	<i>Winter 2012</i>
<i>Funding for MIT QUANTITATIVE BIOLOGY WORKSHOP 2012</i>		
Certificate of Academic Excellence		<i>Fall 2010 - Present</i>
<i>Dean's List at CUNY YORK COLLEGE</i>		
Outstanding Chapter Participation Certificate		<i>Spring 2009</i>
<i>Excellence in participation as a secretary of Phi Theta Kappa Iota Xi Chapter</i>		
Outstanding New Member Award		<i>Spring 2009</i>
<i>Active member of Phi Theta Kappa Iota Xi Chapter</i>		
Distinguished Honor Studies Scholar Award		<i>Spring 2009</i>
<i>Excellent presentation in a honors project/independent study at Union County College</i>		
Who's Who among students in American Universities & Colleges		<i>Spring 2009</i>
<i>Recognition of outstanding merit and accomplishment as a student at Union County College</i>		

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

54th ANNUAL DROSOPHILA RESEARCH CONFERENCE		<i>April 3-7, 2013</i>
Will participate in professional conference for GSA members to attend scientific lectures, present a poster, and take place in academic workshops		
ABRCMS		<i>November 7-10, 2012</i>
Participated at a professional conference for biomedical/behavioral students to attend scientific lectures, presented a poster, and took part in diverse workshops.		
ACADEMIC TRIP TO REGENERON		<i>Spring 2012</i>
Visited the development and manufacturing sites of the Biotechnology Company Regeneron to examine how proteins are purified, genetic crosses in mice, and development of drugs		
MIT QUANTITATIVE BIOLOGY WORKSHOP		<i>January 3-10, 2012</i>
Located at Cambridge, Massachusetts. Workshop designed to prepare students for top PhD programs through the introduction of quantitative methods, computing languages, and statistical methods used in building biological models and analyzing biological data.		

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Biological Sciences Club at CUNY YORK COLLEGE

Fall 2011 – Present

Founding member and President

Responsibilities: Recruited members, overlooking budget, completed paperwork required, hosted weekly meetings, conducted officer meetings, planned events and trips, mentored students, and helped built faculty-student relationships

Organized events: Scientific Lectures, Educational Films, Workshops on Evolution and Resume Writing, Field Trip to Biotechnology Company Regeneron, Alumni Graduate Student Panel

Phi Theta Kappa Iota Xi Chapter at Union County College

Spring 2009

Secretary and Active Member

Responsibilities: Submitting weekly paperwork, assisted in fundraising events, set-up book drives

Organized Events: Black and White Masquerade Charity Ball for Down syndrome Research

PRESENTATIONS

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Fernandez R*, Akinleye A, Feliciano O, Nurilov M, Rouzyi Z, Simon A (2013). *A Step Closer to Understanding Social Behavior: Social Interactions and Dopamine in Drosophila melanogaster*. Drosophila Research and Pedagogy at Primarily Undergraduate Institutions (PUI) Workshop at 54th Annual Drosophila Research Conference. Washington, D.C.

Fernandez R*, Akinleye A, Nurilov M, Rouzyi Z, Simon A (2012). *Levels of dopamine appear to correlate with the capacity to avoid social stress signals in Drosophila melanogaster*. CUSJ Spring Undergraduate Research Symposium 2012, Manhattan, NY.

Fernandez R*, Akinleye A, Nurilov M, Rouzyi Z, Simon A (2012). *Innate social avoidance in the fruit-fly to study model of autism and dopamine involvement*. YORK COLLEGE/CUNY. 3rd Annual Research Day, Jamaica NY.

POSTERS

Fernandez R*, Akinleye A, Feliciano O, Nurilov M, Rouzyi Z, Simon A (2013). *A Step Closer to Understanding Social Behavior: Social Interactions and Dopamine in Drosophila melanogaster*. 2nd Annual CUNY Animal Behavior Initiative. Manhattan, NY.

Fernandez R*, Akinleye A, Feliciano O, Nurilov M, Rouzyi Z, Simon A (2013). *A Step Closer to Understanding Social Behavior: Social Interactions and Dopamine in Drosophila melanogaster*. 54th Annual Drosophila Research Conference. Washington, D.C.

Tenezaca L*, Schatoff E*, Fernandez R, Flores J, Wise, A, Simon A, Venkatesh (2012). *A Drosophila model for studies on Human Autism Spectrum Disorders: Rugose (Neurobeachin) mutants exhibit neuro-developmental disorders, aberrant locomotion, impaired adult social behaviors and activity patterns*. 2012 Champalimaud Neuroscience Symposium. Lisbon, Portugal.

POSTERS CONT.

Fernandez R*, Akinleye A, Nurilov M, Rouzyi Z, Simon A (2012). *A Step Closer to Understanding Social Behavior: Social Interactions and Dopamine in Drosophila melanogaster*. Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students 2012. San Jose, CA.

Fernandez R*, Willis E, Deshpande G, Schedl P (2012). *BMP Signaling is required for germ cell survival and maintenance of the germ cell fate*. SURP at Princeton University. Princeton, NJ.

Fernandez R*, Akinleye A, Rouzyi Z, Simon A (2012). *Loss of function and overexpression of VMAT suggest that the levels of dopamine correlate with the capacity to avoid social stress signals in Drosophila melanogaster*. CUSJ Spring Undergraduate Research Symposium 2012. Manhattan, NY.

Fernandez R*, Akinleye A*, Rouzyi Z*, Simon A (2011). *Examining the effect of loss of function and over expression of VMAT in social interaction of Drosophila melanogaster*. CUNY YORK COLLEGE Research Day, Jamaica, NY.

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES AND ASSOCIATIONS

Genetic Society of America
Biological Sciences Club at York College/CUNY

Fall 2012
Fall 2011-Present