

Jennifer Rena Weikard Koehler

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EDUCATION

University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, AL

B.S. Psychology, 2017, *Summa Cum Laude*, GPA: 4.0

Honors Thesis: Development and Validation of a Novel Fibromyalgia
Model in Mice

B.S. Mathematics, 2017, *Summa Cum Laude*, GPA: 3.9

Minor in Anthropology, 2017, GPA: 4.0

M.A. Psychology, expected 2021, current GPA: 3.97

Thesis: Examining the Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic and
Social Distancing on Children and Their Play and Social Development

Ph.D. Psychology, expected 2023

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

UAB Department of Psychology, Regional Autism Network, Dr. Sarah O’Kelley, Lizzie Taylor, 2021

Data Analyst, working on a mixed-methods secondary data analysis on Dr. Clesi’s dissertation data seeking to assess the effectiveness of the UAB Regional Autism Network’s Community Education Workshop. Responsibilities include coding transcripts of focus groups and conducting quantitative analyses of the data.

UAB Department of Psychology, Sparks Clinic, Christian Clesi, Dr. Fred Biasini, 2019-2020
Psychology Research Assistant, Assisted with a project seeking to examine the efficacy and parent impact of a novel psychoeducation program for parents and caregivers of individuals with ASD. Collected data, conducted in-depth interviews, coded transcripts, and assisted with quantitative and qualitative data analysis.

UAB Department of Psychology, Sparks Clinic, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Dr. Fred Biasini, 2018-2021

Data Analyst, determined the effectiveness, feasibility, and acceptance by staff and parents of using Learn the Signs, Act Early developmental monitoring materials in a Head Start and Early Head Start setting. Responsibilities included transcribing interviews and focus groups, analyzing

qualitative data from focus groups, and analyzing qualitative data. The research was conducted in conjunction with the CDC and AUCD as part of a larger multistate project.

UAB Department of Psychology, IMPACT Lab, Dr. Robert Sorge, 2014-2017

Research Assistant, established the effects of the inflammasome LPS on touch sensitivity, depression, and fatigue in mice in order to create a new animal model of fibromyalgia.

Responsibilities included using the Von Frey, forced swim, and Rota-rod tests on the mice to collect the data and then interpret the data using SPSS.

UAB Department of Anthropology, Dr. Peter Verbeek, 2016

Independent observational research, conducted observational study on three co-housed orangutans (a mother and her infant with the father) at the Birmingham Zoo to collect data on mother-infant relationships in orangutans, peaceful behaviors in co-housed orangutans and the effects of the presence of the infant, and the frequency and duration of peaceful behaviors as exhibited by the male. Responsibilities included a minimum of 4 hours of observation a week, transcription of observation notes, and interpretation of the data collected.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (*maiden name)

Koehler, J., Griffith, E., O' Kelley, S., Houser, J., Clesi, C., Brisendine, A., & Biasini, F. (2019, November). "Assessing the Feasibility and Impact of the CDC's 'Learn the Signs, Act Early' Program in an Early Head Start Setting." Poster presented at the 2019 Association for University Centers on Disabilities Annual Conference, Washington, D.C.

***Weikard, J.**, Totsch, S., Quinn, T., & Sorge, R. "Development and Validation of a Novel Fibromyalgia Model in Mice." Poster presented at the 2016 University of Alabama at Birmingham Undergraduate Research Expo. Birmingham, AL. **First Place Poster.**

***Weikard, J.**, Totsch, S., Quinn, T., & Sorge, R. "Development and Validation of a Novel Fibromyalgia Model in Mice." Presented at the 2016 University of Alabama System Honors Conference. Huntsville, AL.

***Weikard, J.**, Totsch, S., Quinn, T., & Sorge, R. "Development and Validation of a Novel Fibromyalgia Model in Mice." Poster presented at the 2016 Ost Undergraduate Research Competition. Birmingham, AL.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

PY212 (Introduction to Developmental Psychology); University of Alabama at Birmingham; Spring 2021

Instructor of Record, created lectures, tests, and assignments and taught approximately 30 students in a hybrid environment during the pandemic.

PY212 (Introduction to Developmental Psychology); University of Alabama at Birmingham; Fall 2020

Guest Lecture, presented a lecture via Zoom on development in the school setting to undergraduate students for a synchronous online class during the pandemic.

PY415/783 (Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities); University of Alabama at Birmingham; Spring 2018

Guest Lecturer, presented a lecture on Early Intervention services as well as resources available in the state of Alabama to undergraduate and graduate students.

PY390 (Animal Behavior); University of Alabama at Birmingham; Spring 2016

Teaching Assistant, held supplementary instruction (SI) sessions before tests and projects, graded tests and assignments, and gave a lecture on the use of signals as a form of communication in animals to undergraduate students.

ACADEMIC HONORS AND AWARDS

Blazer Graduate Research Fellow, 2018-2019

Psi Chi National Honors Society, 2014-Present

Psychology Departmental Honors Program, 2015-2017

University Honors Program, 2013-2017

President's List, 2013-2017

Presidential Scholarship, full tuition, 2013-2017

First Place Poster Presentation, UAB Undergraduate Research Expo, 2016

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Society for Pediatric Psychology, Member, 2019

The Association for the Study of Play, Member, 2018

Psi Chi National Honors Society, Member, 2014

CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT

Undergraduate Research Ambassador, 2016-2017

UAB Undergraduate Research EXPO Council Representative, 2016-2017

UAB Undergraduate Research EXPO Judge, Fall 2017

UAB Undergraduate Research EXPO Judge, Fall 2019

UAB OST Research Competition Judge, Fall 2021

STUDY ABROAD

Observing Primate Behavior, Utrecht Summer School, 2016

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Fluent in English and German

Proficient in SPSS, SAS, NVivo, Excel, and Graphpad Prism

PEERS for Adolescents Certified Provider

PEERS Certified Telehealth Provider

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Maria Hopkins, PhD

Professor, UAB Lifespan Developmental Psychology

Director, Undergraduate Program

(205) 975-9456

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Dr. Despina Stavrinos, PhD

Associate Professor and Program Director, UAB Lifespan Developmental Psychology

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Lizzie Griffith, LMSW

Director, UAB Regional Autism Network

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