

Brandon Fricker

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Research Interests

To understand how circuits of the brain result in the social behaviors seen across organisms. Social motivation, aggression/prosocial behavior, and autism are of particular interest.

EDUCATION

B.S. Behavioral Neuroscience & B.S. Social Psychology **Fall 2015-Spring 2019**
Lehigh University, Bethlehem PA 18015

- Working on Honors thesis during senior year
- GPA: 3.97

RESEARCH/TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Undergraduate Research with Dr. Julie Haas **August 2016- Present**
Department of Biological Sciences, Lehigh University

- Examine activity dependent plasticity of electrical synapses in rat brain slices via electrophysiology and optogenetics.
- Working towards first Authorship on Long Term Potentiation of Electrical Synapses Paper
- Work in the lab during school year and summers

Research Intern for St. Luke's Hospital **May 2017- August 2017**
St. Luke's, Bethlehem PA

- Participated in conducting a clinical study as well as gained experience with statistical analysis of research data using SPSS.

PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

St. Luke's IRB Member **May 2017- Present**
St. Luke's, Bethlehem PA

- Review and vote on upcoming clinical studies to be conducted at St. Luke's as a member of the board.

Peer Tutor **August 2017- Present**
Lehigh University, Bethlehem PA

- Tutor students in Organic Chemistry 1 & 2, as well as Intro Biology Courses

AUTHORSHIPS

Activity-dependent long-term potentiation of electrical synapses in the mammalian thalamus
Brandon Fricker, Emily Heckman, Patrick C. Cunningham, & Julie S. Haas

**Submitted
for Review**

PRESENTATIONS

Long Term Potentiation of Electrical Synapses Poster Presentation
Neuroscience 2018, San Diego, California

November

Long Term Potentiation of Electrical Synapses
Biological Sciences Undergraduate Research Symposium

Spring 2018

HONORS & AWARDS

Dean's List

All Semesters since Fall 2015

Undergraduate Research Grant

Fall 2017-Spring 2018

Lehigh Student Opportunity Fund Grant

Fall 2018

Epstein Family Undergraduate Research Award

Fall 2018- Spring 2019

Eagle Scout, Troop 99

SKILLS & CERTIFICATIONS

Multiple Citi Trainings for Research

Electrophysiology skills- dual whole cell patch clamping

Profusions

Basics of Matlab

Brain Tissue manipulation

Basics of Cell Culturing

Understanding of plasticity and electrical synapses

Calcium imaging experience

MEMBERSHIPS

Peer Health Advisors

- Recruitment Chair for 2017

Peer Academic Advisor

St. Luke's IRB member