

MARTINA K. HOLLEARN, PhD

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SUMMARY

Neuroscientist and NSF Graduate Research Fellow with eight years of experience leading human clinical research, coordinating multi-site studies with surgical and clinical teams, and translating complex science for non-specialist audiences. Built the research infrastructure and protocols for a new intracranial neuromodulation lab and trained every subsequent member. Secured competitive federal and institutional funding as lead writer, advised 20+ fellowship applications with 6 funded, and directed departmental community outreach for 5 years. Seeking to apply project management, proposal development, and science communication skills in supervisory roles in industry.

EDUCATION

University of Utah — PhD, Psychology (Cognition & Neural Sciences), GPA 4.0 / 4.0 Aug 2026
University of Utah — MS, Psychology (Cognition & Neural Sciences), GPA 4.0 / 4.0 Dec 2023
California State University, Long Beach — BA, Psychology, GPA 3.84 / 4.0 May 2019

RESEARCH & PROJECT MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE

Graduate Researcher | Human Neuromodulation Lab, University of Utah Aug 2021 – Aug 2026

- Designed and ran a five-year program of studies on direct electrical stimulation of the human amygdala in epilepsy patients undergoing intracranial monitoring, identifying what drives variability in memory outcomes.
- Established the lab's infrastructure as the advisor's first graduate student: authored study protocols and data-collection standards, built the analysis pipelines, and onboarded and trained every subsequent student.
- Coordinated bedside data collection in epilepsy monitoring units with neurosurgeons, epileptologists, and clinical staff three four collaborating institutions.
- Collected and analyzed intracranial human electrophysiology using Blackrock Neurotech systems and Responsive Neurostimulation (RNS) devices.
- Produced 4 peer-reviewed publications and 6 national and international conference presentations
- Wrote and won an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship funding the project, plus \$16,000+ in awards.

Research Coordinator | Translational Neurobiology Lab, University of California, Irvine Sept 2018 – Aug 2021

- Coordinated concurrent NIH-funded aging and dementia studies: recruited, screened, consented, scheduled, and tested older adults, including participants with mild cognitive impairment, early Alzheimer's disease, and Down syndrome.
- Administered neuropsychological and cognitive test batteries and collected MRI, PET, blood, and saliva data, managing sensitive participant information and protocol compliance.
- Learned basic volumetric MRI analyses and built specialist expertise in medial temporal lobe anatomy
- Collaborated on post-mortem pathological correlates of dementia and their relationship to neuropsychological and neuroimaging measures.
- Contributed to 5 peer-reviewed publications during the appointment while supporting day-to-day study operations.

Summer Research Intern | Cellular Neuroscience Lab, Yale School of Medicine May – Aug 2018

- Studied anxiety in newborn and adolescent mouse models using perfusion, brain extraction, sectioning, immunostaining, and confocal microscopy to assess pre- and post-synaptic protein co-localization.

Volunteer Research Assistant | Cellular Neuroscience Lab, University of California, Irvine Dec 2017 – Aug 2018

- Performed stereotaxic neurotracer injections in anesthetized mice and ran behavioral stress paradigms supporting retrograde tracing of long-range circuits in a newly established lab.

TEACHING & SCIENCE COMMUNICATION

Instructor, Teaching Assistant & Guest Lecturer | University of Utah Aug 2021 – Dec 2023

- Designed and taught four cognitive neuroscience courses as instructor, two of them fully online.
- Served as teaching assistant for Brain & Behavior (4 terms) and Research Methods (2 terms)
- Guest lectured in Adult Development, Brain & Behavior, and Psychology as a Profession.

Public Science Communication & Outreach | Salt Lake City, UT 2022 – 2026

- Delivered 12+ invited talks, exhibits, and workshops to K–12 students, incarcerated youth, memory-care residents and families, and museum visitors, including a neuroscience exhibit at the Natural History Museum of Utah.
- Authored a peer-reviewed article for Frontiers for Young Minds translating memory research for readers aged 8–15.
- Raised over \$10,000 for fellow graduate students' Emergency Fund program in collaboration with other volunteers

LEADERSHIP & PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

President, Diversity Graduate Student Application Assistance Program University of Utah	2024 – 2025
• Assisted in a volunteer program pairing prospective applicants with current graduate students for application review and coaching.	
Leader, Psychology Department Outreach Committee University of Utah	2022 – 2025
• Built and managed the department’s outreach portfolio: coordinating volunteers, partner institutions, and event logistics.	
Leader, Cognition Seminar Series & Journal Club University of Utah	2024 – 2026
Student Leader, Psychology Diversity Committee University of Utah	2024 – 2025
Outreach & Recruitment Lead, Neuroscience BrainBee University of Utah	2023 – 2025
Committee Member, Mutual Aid Fund; Psychology Issues & Ethics Committee University of Utah	2023 – 2025

MENTORSHIP & SUPERVISION

- Supervised three Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program students and mentored two undergraduate honors theses from proposal through completion (2021–2026).
- Advised 20+ NSF Graduate Research Fellowship applications, six of which were funded; supported seven students from underrepresented backgrounds into PhD programs.
- Served as a one-on-one mentor in the Science with U mentorship program (2023–2024).

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship —author of the funded proposal (\$53,000/year) for 3 years	2022 – 2025
NIH BUILD Scholar Program, CSULB — two-year funded research training award (\$21,912/year)	2017 – 2019
Earl & Elies Skidmore Endowed Graduate Fellowship — awarded twice for research and community engagement (\$10,000)	2022, 2023
Nancy Patterson Klekas Outstanding Service Award — nominated by students, faculty, and staff (\$1,000)	2023
Society for Neuroscience Scholars Program Enrichment Fund — neuroanatomy training at WashU St. Louis (\$1,000)	2023
Aging & Brain Health Tutorial Workshop Fellowship — fully funded invited presentation, Aspen, CO	2023
Clayton Summer Research Award; four competitive travel awards (\$3,600)	2021 – 2023
Research & Service Commendation, University of Utah Psychology faculty	2022 – 2025

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

Five of 11 peer-reviewed publications; full list available on [here](#).

- Hollearn, M. K.**, Manns, J. R., Blanpain, L., Hamann, S. B., ... Willie, J. T., Inman, C. S. (2024). Exploring individual differences in amygdala-mediated memory modulation. *Cognitive, Affective, & Behavioral Neuroscience*, 25, 188–209.
- Inman, C. S., **Hollearn, M. K.**, Augustin, L., Campbell, J. M., Olson, K. L., Wahlstrom, K. L. (2023). Discovering how the amygdala shapes human behavior: From lesion studies to neuromodulation. *Neuron*, 111(24), 3906–3910.
- Wahlstrom, K. L., Campbell, J. M., **Hollearn, M. K.**, ... Inman, C. S. (2026). Direct electrical stimulation of the human amygdala enhances recognition memory for objects but not scenes. *Communications Biology*.
- Campbell, J. M., Cowan, R., Wahlstrom, K. L., **Hollearn, M. K.**, ... Willie, J. T. (2025). Human single-neuron activity is modulated by intracranial theta burst stimulation of the basolateral amygdala. *eLife*.
- Kim, S., Chappel-Farley, M., Keator, D. B., ... Hollearn, M. K., Mikhail, A., Yassa, M. A. (2023). Examining the diagnostic utility of the mnemonic discrimination task for classification of cognition and amyloid-β burden. *Neuropsychologia*, 191.
- Hollearn, M. K.** & Inman, C. S. (2025). Optimizing the personalization of human direct brain stimulation for memory enhancement. *Submitted to Brain Stimulation*.

Eight conference presentations, including Society for Neuroscience (2022, 2023), Cognitive Neuroscience Society (2025), and the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (Vienna, 2024), Neurobiology of Learning and Memory (2023-2026)

SKILLS & CERTIFICATIONS

- Project & research management:** protocol and IRB development and submission, clinical study coordination, REDCap and Qualtrics data capture, Asana project tracking, participant recruitment and retention, cross-disciplinary collaboration with medical teams, patient-facing data collection, volunteer and event coordination.
- Writing & communication:** federal grant writing (NSF GRFP), proposal review and coaching, peer-reviewed manuscript preparation, curriculum design, public speaking, science writing for lay, youth, and donor-facing audiences.
- Technical:** Python, R, MATLAB, FreeSurfer, intracranial EEG (Blackrock Neurotech, RNS), MRI operation, neuroanatomy, data wrangling and visualization, Microsoft Office.
- Certifications:** CITI Human Subjects Research, Good Clinical Practice (GCP), HIPAA.