



**iJOBS Virtual Career Panel:
NIH Research and Non-Research Jobs
Wednesday, October 7, 2020
3:00-4:30 pm**



Hugo Tejada, PhD
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Dr. Hugo Tejada is a Stadtman Investigator and chief of the Unit on Neuromodulation and Synaptic Integration at the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). Dr. Tejada completed his Ph.D. in Neuroscience at the University of Maryland School of Medicine and at the National Institute on Drug Abuse under the mentorship of Drs. Patricio O'Donnell and Toni Shippenberg. His thesis work elucidated the role of neuromodulatory systems, including opioid receptors, in modulating synaptic integration in prefrontal cortical and limbic circuits. He completed a post-doctoral fellowship in the laboratory of Dr. Antonello Bonci at the National Institute Drug Abuse where he elucidated the mechanisms by which monoamine and opioid receptors, as well as stress modulate information processing in the nucleus accumbens. Dr. Tejada joined the National Institute of Mental Health in 2018 as a Stadtman principal investigator. His research focuses on the role of neuromodulation in processing information in limbic neural circuits under physiological conditions and in psychiatric disorders.



Caroline Pantazis, PhD
Scientific Project Manager
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Caroline Pantazis is a scientific project manager at a newly-developed center at NIH called the Center for Alzheimer's and Related Dementias (CARD) funded by NIA/NINDS. As a CARD project manager, she manages large, multi-laboratory projects on Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD) to develop therapeutic strategies for ADRD. Prior to her current position, Caroline was a postdoctoral fellow at NIDA in the laboratory of Dr. George Koob. Her research focused on neurobiological mechanisms underlying withdrawal and negative affect in heroin addiction. She received her PhD in neuroscience from Rutgers in 2019 working with Dr. Gary Aston-Jones on brain regions important for motivation in addiction.



Ashlee Van't Veer, PhD
Director, the Office of Research Training and Career Development in the
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Dr. Ashlee Van't Veer is Director of the Office of Research Training and Career Development in the Division of Neuroscience and Basic Behavioral Science at the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). In this position, she supports research training at the predoctoral, postdoctoral, and early-stage investigator levels to ensure that a sufficient number of highly trained research investigators will be available to address basic research questions pertinent to mental health and mental illnesses. She also contributes to NIH-wide efforts related to research training and career development including the Blueprint for Neuroscience Research and the BRAIN Initiative. Dr. Van't Veer received her BA in Cell Biology and Neuroscience from Rutgers University and her PhD in Neurobiology from Harvard Medical School where she was supported by a National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowship. She received postdoctoral training as a research fellow at McLean Hospital focusing on the role of stress in the etiology and maintenance of mental illnesses. Prior to her position at the NIMH, she served as a program analyst at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke.



Leia Novak, PhD
Program Officer
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Leia Novak, Ph.D., graduated from East Tennessee State University in 2005 with a B.S. in Biology. She then joined Rutgers University as a laboratory technician in the Department of Toxicology until she was accepted into the Rutgers Molecular Biosciences graduate program in 2007. She earned her Ph.D. in 2013 in the Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics in the laboratory of Joseph Dougherty, Ph.D., where she studied molecular mechanisms governing the establishment and maintenance of HIV latency. She then pursued her first postdoctoral training appointment at the National Cancer Institute at the NIH under the mentorship of Marjorie Robert-Guroff, Ph.D., where she received a competitive Cancer Research Training Award to conduct pre-clinical HIV vaccine studies focusing on identifying immune correlates of protection from SIV infection in Rhesus macaques. Following 2.5 years at the NIH, she pursued her second postdoctoral training appointment at the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research at the FDA under the mentorship of Daniela Verthelyi, M.D./Ph.D., where she evaluated Zika infection-induced, immune-mediated, neuropathogenesis in neonatal mice. Following one year at the FDA, she accepted a position at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) at the NIH as the scientific program manager for NHLBI's HIV/AIDS grants portfolio. As the HIV scientific program manager, she developed funding opportunity announcements and led a team charged with prioritizing and recommending HIV grant applications for funding, conducted grants portfolio analyses, attended scientific conferences, and coordinated seminars and workshops to generate interest in HIV-related heart, lung, and blood research. Following 1.5 years at NHLBI, she accepted a position as a Program Officer at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious

Diseases in the Division of AIDS Basic Sciences Program where she manages a ~\$35 million portfolio of research grants focused on HIV immunopathogenesis and HIV cure studies. As a Program Officer, she manages grants, regularly attends grant review meetings, reviews administrative supplements and makes recommendations for funding, presents grant applications for select pay funding, develops funding opportunity announcements, attends scientific conferences, and organizes and leads scientific conferences and workshops in the HIV cure field.