

# TARA RAAM, PH.D

Postdoctoral Fellow  
Department of Neurobiology  
University of California, Los Angeles

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## EDUCATION

- 2012 – 2018 Ph.D., Neurobiology, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA  
2008 – 2012 B.S., Physiology & Neuroscience, UC San Diego, San Diego, CA

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2019 – Present Postdoctoral Research Fellow, University of California, Los Angeles  
Project: *Neural basis of collective response to environmental challenge*  
Mentor: Weizhe Hong
- Fall 2022 Adjunct Teaching Professor, Dept of Psychology, Chapman University, Orange County, CA
- 2018 – 2019 Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Johns Hopkins University  
Project: *Cholinergic modulation of auditory cortex during sensorimotor learning*  
Mentor: Kishore Kuchibhotla
- 2012 – 2018 Graduate Student, Harvard University  
Dissertation: *The contribution of hippocampal oxytocin receptors to social memory processing*  
Mentor: Amar Sahay, Thesis Committee: Brad Lowell (chair), Mark Andermann, Chris Cowan  
Defense Committee: Mark Andermann (chair), Naoshige Uchida, Gloria Choi, Serena Dudek
- 2010 – 2012 Undergraduate Research Assistant, UC San Diego  
Project: *3D reconstruction of hippocampal synapses in a mouse model of Alzheimer's Disease*  
Mentor: Anirvan Ghosh

## FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

- 2023 – 2028 NIH BRAIN Initiative K99/R00 Advanced Postdoctoral Career Development Award, NIMH  
*"Neural basis of collective behavior during environmental stress,"* \$991,530
- 2022 – 2024 BBRF Young Investigator Grant (NARSAD), Brain and Behavior Research Foundation  
*"Examining prefrontal projections to the mesolimbic system during social reward,"* \$70,000
- 2021 – 2023 NIH F32 Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award, NIMH  
*"Neural circuit dissection of prefrontal projections in social dominance behavior,"* \$132,756
- 2020 – 2021 NIH T32 Training Grant in Neurobehavioral Genetics, NINDS
- 2018 – 2019 Hartwell Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship Award, Johns Hopkins University, \$50,000

## AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2024 Salk Institute Rising Stars Fellow  
2024 Conan Kornetsky Memorial Travel Award, Winter Conference on Brain Research (Colorado, US)  
2023 Postdoctoral Travel Award, UCLA Brain Research Institute (SfN, Washington DC)  
2023 Outstanding Poster Finalist Award, Winter Conference on Brain Research (Snowbird, UT)  
2023 Travel Fellow, Winter Conference on Brain Research (Snowbird, UT)  
2023 Elected Chair for 2023 Neuromodulation Gordon Research Seminar  
2019 Travel Award, Neuromodulation Gordon Research Conference (Les Diablerets, Switzerland)  
2017 Travel Award, Wisconsin Symposium on Emotion (Madison, WI)  
2011 Chancellor's Undergraduate Research Scholarship, UC San Diego (\$3,000)  
2011 Showcase Writer, UC San Diego Eleanor Roosevelt College (undergraduate research project)  
2008 – 2011 Provost's Honors, UC San Diego

## PUBLICATIONS

(\*equal contribution)

**Raam T.**, Hong W. (2021) Organization of neural circuits underlying social behaviors: a consideration of the medial amygdala. *Current Opinion in Neurobiology*, 68: 124-36.

Kingsbury L.\*, Huang S.\*, **Raam T.**, Cheng L., Wei D., Hu R.K., Ye L., Hong W. (2020) Cortical representations of conspecific sex shape social behavior. *Neuron*, 107: 1-13.

**Raam T.** (2020) Oxytocin-Sensitive Neurons in Prefrontal Cortex Gate Social Recognition Memory. *Journal of Neuroscience*, 40(6) 1194-1196. (Commentary)

**Raam T.**, McAvoy K.M., Besnard A., Veenema A., Sahay A. (2017) Hippocampal oxytocin receptors are necessary for discrimination of social stimuli. *Nature Communications*, 8(1): 1-14.

Wilke S.A., **Raam T.**, Antonios J., Bushong E., Koo E., Ellisman M., Ghosh A. (2014) Specific disruption of hippocampal mossy fiber synapses in a mouse model of familial Alzheimer's disease. *PLOS ONE*, 9(1), 1-7.

## MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

**Raam T.**, Li Q., Gu L., Lim K., Elagio G., Correa S., Hong W. Neural basis of collective response to environmental challenge.

## INVITED TALKS

- 2024 (*upcoming*) Mt. Sinai Neuroscience External Postdoc Seminar Series. New York, NY.  
2024 (*upcoming*), Salk Institute Rising Stars Symposium. La Jolla, CA.  
2024 (*upcoming*), Society for Social Neuroscience (S4SN). Tsukuba, Japan.  
2024 Department of Biological Chemistry Seminar Series, UCLA, Los Angeles  
2024 Speaker and Panel Chair, "Impact of Stress and Social Isolation on Behaviors Critical for Survival." Winter Conference on Brain Research. Breckenridge, CO.  
2023 Neuroendocrinology Seminar Series, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA.  
2023 Neuromodulation Gordon Research Conference. Les Diablerets, Switzerland.  
2022 Loyola University of Chicago, Neuroscience Seminar Series. (*virtual*)  
2022 Arizona State University, Behavioral Neuroscience Seminar Series. (*virtual*)  
2019 Neuromodulation Gordon Research Conference. Les Diablerets, Switzerland.

- 2018 The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Baltimore, MD.  
 2018 The Johns Hopkins University, Department of Brain and Psychological Sciences. Baltimore, MD.  
 2018 Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences. Cambridge, MA.  
 2018 UC San Francisco, Department of Psychiatry. San Francisco, CA.  
 2017 Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Department of Physiology. Chicago, IL.  
 2017 Harvard Medical School, Department of Neurobiology. Boston, MA.  
 2015 Massachusetts General Hospital, Center for Regenerative Medicine. Boston, MA.

## CONFERENCE ABSTRACTS (\*primary poster presenter)

**Raam T\***, Li Q, Gu L, Li K., Ramesh N, Correa S, Hong W (2023) Prefrontal encoding of group huddling behavior during cold stress. Annual Meeting, Society for Neuroscience. Washington, DC.

**Raam T\***, Gu L, Li Q, Ramesh N, Correa S, Hong W (2023) Prefrontal encoding of group huddling behavior during cold stress. Modulation of Neural Circuits and Behavior GRC. Les Diablerets, CH.

**Raam T\***, Gu L, Li Q, Ramesh N, Correa S, Hong W (2023) Neural basis of collective response to cold stress in social groups. Winter Conference on Brain Research. Snowbird, Utah.

Kingsbury L, Huang S, **Raam T**, Ye LS, Wei D, Hu R, Ye L, Hong W (2022) Cortical representations of conspecific sex shape social behavior. Annual Meeting Society for Neuroscience. San Diego, CA.

Laudenbrauer J, **Raam T\***, Desbordes T, Ostojic S, Kuchibhotla KV (2018) Sensory-evoked cholinergic dynamics in auditory cortex during sensorimotor learning. Society for Neuroscience. San Diego, CA.

**Raam T\***, McAvoy K, Besnard A, Veenema A, Sahay A (2017) Oxytocin receptors in CA2/CA3 promote social memory. Annual Meeting Society for Neuroscience. Washington, DC.

**Raam T\***, McAvoy K, Besnard A, Veenema A, Sahay A (2017) Hippocampal oxytocin receptors are necessary for discrimination of social stimuli. Stanley Center Symposium on the Emerging Genetics and Neurobiology of Severe Mental Illness. Cambridge, MA.

**Raam T\***, McAvoy K, Besnard A, Veenema A, Sahay A (2017) The Contribution of hippocampal oxytocin receptors to social memory processing. Wisconsin Symposium on Emotion. Madison, WI.

**Raam T\***, McAvoy K, Besnard A, Veenema A, Sahay A (2016) The Contribution of hippocampal oxytocin receptors to social memory processing. Annual Meeting Society for Neuroscience. San Diego, CA.

**Raam T\***, McAvoy K, Besnard A, Veenema A, Sahay A (2016) The Contribution of hippocampal oxytocin receptors to social memory processing. Molecular and Cellular Cognition Meeting. San Diego, CA.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE (\*Instructor of Record)

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|-------------|--|
| Fall 2022   | Adjunct Professor*, PSYC 333: Physiological Psychology, Chapman University (two sections)        |
| Spring 2020 | Facilitator, Philosophy of Science Graduate Student Reading Group                                |
| Fall 2017   | Teaching Assistant, MCB81: Fundamentals of Neuroscience, Harvard University                      |
| Spring 2017 | Guest Lecturer, NE203: Principles of Neuroscience, BU, " <i>Molecular Mechanisms of Memory</i> " |
| Spring 2017 | Guest Lecturer, NE203: Principles of Neuroscience, BU, " <i>Memory Systems</i> "                 |
| Winter 2015 | Laboratory Teaching Assistant, DRB330QC: Developmental Biology Lab (Harvard University)          |
| Dec 2013    | Guest Teacher, " <i>Learning and Memory</i> ", Boston Day and Evening Academy                    |
| 2009 – 2011 | Course Instructor, SAT Preparatory Courses, Kaplan Test Prep, San Diego, CA                      |

## **MENTORING** (5/9 women, 3/9 people of color)

2023 – present	Gabrielle Elagio, Undergraduate Student, UCLA
Fall 2021	Gabriel Rojas-Bowe, Graduate Rotation Student, UCLA
Spring 2021	Caitlin Goodpaster, Graduate Rotation Student, UCLA
Winter 2021	Ryan Gorzek, Graduate Rotation Student, UCLA
2020-2021	Noelle Wheeler, Undergraduate, UCLA, current Computational Biology MS Student
2020 – 2022	Naren Ramesh, Undergraduate Student, UCLA
2019 – 2020	Letizia Cheng, Undergraduate, current Neuroscience PhD Student at UCLA
2018 – 2019	Sarah Elnozahy, Undergraduate (JHU), current Neuroscience PhD Student at UCL
2018 – 2019	Aaron Wang, Undergraduate, Johns Hopkins University, current MD Candidate, UPenn

## **AD HOC PEER REVIEW**

Nature Neuroscience, PNAS, Neuropsychopharmacology, Current Opinion in Neurobiology, Cell Reports, Scientific Reports, Science Advances, Plos One, Communications Biology, Progress in Neurobiology, Molecular Neurobiology, BioProtocols, Proceedings B

## **SERVICE, DIVERSITY, AND COMMUNITY BUILDING**

2022 – present	co-Founder and Organizer, Women in Neuroscience (WiN) @ UCLA
2022 – present	Organizing Committee, UCLA Seminars for Young Neuroscience Citizen Scholars (SYNCS) Extramural Postdoc Seminar Series
May 2023	co-Chair, Gordon Research Seminar on Neuromodulation, Les Diablerets, Switzerland
March 2022	Guest Speaker, University of Florida Undergraduate Neuroscience Club
2018 – 2019	Colloquium Committee, Psychological and Brain Sciences, Johns Hopkins University
2014 – 2016	Graduate Student Peer Mentor, Harvard University
Dec 2013	Guest Teacher on Learning and Memory, Boston Day and Evening Academy
2008 – present	Weekly Mentor, Junior Youth Empowerment Program Mentor groups of 12-14 year olds in a moral empowerment program that assists them to analyze social forces acting upon them and their communities, develop their ability to express themselves, and design and implement service projects in their neighborhoods
2006 – 2008	Organization of Special Needs Families, Cupertino, CA Weekly volunteer to assist children with neurodevelopmental disorders

## **PRESS**

2017 Boston Globe, “Harvard researchers show how brain distinguishes friends from strangers”  
<https://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2017/12/14/harvard-researchers-show-how-brain-distinguishes-friends-from-strangers/5kJkS9hVlq7knYam24hZO/story.html>

## **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

- 2023 Panelist, “Women of Faith in Science and Technology”, KAICIID International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (*virtual*)
- 2018 Panel Moderator, “Neuroscience, Ethics, and Religion: Moving Beyond Coexistence,” Association for Baha’i Studies, Atlanta, GA
- 2015 – 2016 Outreach Coordinator, Science in the News, Harvard University  
Coordinated a student run lecture series open to the general public.  
Worked with public schools and local science fairs to offer programming