

## Laura J. Blair, PhD

Associate Professor  
USF Health Byrd Alzheimer's Center and Research Institute  
Department of Molecular Medicine  
Morsani College of Medicine  
University of South Florida  
4001 E Fletcher Ave., ALZ 545  
Tampa, FL 33613  
Email: [laurablair@usf.edu](mailto:laurablair@usf.edu)

Research Biologist (GS-14)  
Research Service (151R)  
James A. Haley VAMC  
13000 Bruce B. Downs Blvd  
Tampa, FL 33612  
Email: [Laura.Blair@va.gov](mailto:Laura.Blair@va.gov)

### **Professional Experience**

2024-Present	Research Biologist (GS-14), Research & Development (151R), James A. Haley Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Tampa, FL
2023-Present	Associate Professor (Tenured), Department of Molecular Medicine, Morsani College of Medicine, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL
2019- 2024	Research Biologist (GS-13), Research & Development (151R), James A. Haley Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Tampa, FL
2017-2023	Assistant Professor, Department of Molecular Medicine, Morsani College of Medicine, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL
2016-2017	Research Assistant Professor, Department of Molecular Medicine, Morsani College of Medicine, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL
2014-2016	Postdoctoral Scholar, Department of Molecular Medicine, Morsani College of Medicine, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL (PI: Chad Dickey)
2009-2014	Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Molecular Medicine, Morsani College of Medicine, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL (PI: Chad Dickey)
2008-2009	Research Technician, Department of Molecular Medicine, Morsani College of Medicine, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL (PI: Chad Dickey)
2006-2008	Undergraduate Research, Department of Chemistry, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL (PI: Bill Baker)

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## **Education**

<b>INSTITUTION AND LOCATION</b>	<b>DEGREE</b>	<b>YEAR</b>	<b>FIELD OF STUDY</b>
University of South Florida, Tampa, FL	PhD	2014	Medical Sciences Emphasis: Molecular Medicine
University of South Florida, Tampa, FL	MS	2013	Medical Sciences Emphasis: Molecular Medicine
University of South Florida, Tampa, FL	BA	2009	Chemistry with Biochemistry Emphasis Minors: Public Health and Business

## **Research Support**

Alzheimer's Association

AARG-25-1476652 (PI: LJ Blair)

Aha1: A Promising Drug Target for Tau-Driven Neurodegeneration

The objective of this proposal is to validate Aha1 as a potential target in tau-mediated neurodegeneration.

09/01/2025 - 08/31/2028: \$60,606 direct costs/year

National Institutes of Health/NIA

5R01 AG086245 (PI: Mohapatra, Mohapatra, Bickford) Role: Co-I

Molecular Targets Modulating Neuro COVID Sequelae Linked to Tauopathy

The major goal of this study is to investigate the molecular mechanisms that link long-COVID to Alzheimer's disease.

09/15/2024 – 05/31/2029: \$499,996 direct costs/year

National Institutes of Health/NINDS

5R01 NS073899 (PI: LJ Blair)

The Hsp90 cochaperone FKBP51 regulates tau structure and function

This proposal aims to validate FKBP51 as a target in tauopathy and explore the impact on neuropsychiatric symptoms.

03/01/2023 – 02/29/2028: \$481,635 direct costs/year

Veterans Health Administration

2I01 BX004626 (PI: LJ Blair)

Controlling FKBP51 for the treatment of PTSD

The major goal of this study is to develop novel strategies to deplete FKBP51 and validate FKBP51 as a target for PTSD.

10/01/2019 – 09/30/2028: \$165,000 direct costs/year

## **Pending**

National Institutes of Health/NIA

1R01 TBD (PI: LJ Blair)

Aha1 as a Molecular Target in Tauopathies

This proposal will focus on validating Aha1 as a target for tauopathies while enhancing our fundamental knowledge of this interaction.

04/01/2027 – 03/31/2032: \$557,941 direct costs/year

Veterans Health Administration

1IK6RD001824-01 (PI: LJ Blair)

Research Career Scientist Award

10/01/2026 – 09/30/2031: \$114,239 direct costs/year

Impact Score: 193 Intent to fund received. JIT Approved.

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Florida Department of Health  
Ed and Ethel Moore grant (Florida Health) (PI: LJ Blair)  
Generation of Novel Tauopathy Models to Test Chaperone-Based Therapies  
04/01/2026 – 03/31/2030: \$76,087/direct costs/year

**Completed Research Support:**

Alzheimer's Association  
AARG-22-974562 (PI: LJ Blair)  
Developing risk and resiliency models of neuropsychiatric symptoms in AD  
This proposal aims to generate novel mouse models for neuropsychiatric symptoms in tauopathy.  
10/01/2022 - 09/30/2025: \$45,455 direct costs/year

Harrington Discovery Institute  
2023 Cathy and Paul Douglas Scholar in Alzheimer's Discovery (PI: LJ Blair)  
An Aha(1) Moment for Tauopathies  
The major goal of this study is to characterize Aha1/Hsp90 disruptors in vivo for the treatment of tauopathies.  
01/01/2024 - 07/31/2025: \$150,000 direct costs/year

Florida Department of Health  
Ed and Ethel Moore grant #21A24 (Florida Health) (PI: LJ Blair)  
Exploiting molecular chaperones to understand the impact of tau aggregation on prion-like spreading in AD  
The major goal of this project is to determine if chaperones affect tau seeding and release.  
06/10/2021 – 04/30/2025: \$61,905/direct costs/year

National Institutes of Health/NINDS  
3R01 NS073899-12S1 (PI: LJ Blair)  
The Hsp90 cochaperone FKBP51 regulates tau structure and function  
Administrative supplement for the replacement of a chemiluminescent imager.  
12/16/2024 - 02/28/2025: \$14,024 direct costs/year

USF Strategic Investment Pool (SIP) Award  
Proposal #100374 (PI: LJ Blair)  
07/01/2023 - 06/30/2024: \$161,032 direct costs/year

Veterans Health Administration  
1101 BX003836-TTP GPAA-821012361 (PI: NA Patel) Role: Co-I  
LncRNA-targeting therapeutic in ADRD  
Test a GAS5 stabilizing molecule for the effects on cognition and tau pathology in tau transgenic mice.  
03/01/2023 – 09/30/2023: \$96,138 direct costs/year

USF Proposal Enhancement Grant (PEG) Award (PI: LJ Blair)  
Development and Validation of FKBP51 ASOs for preventing tau pathology  
The major goal of this project is to test novel FKBP51 targeting ASOs for their specificity and tau lowering effects.  
05/01/2022 - 04/30/2023: \$25,000/year direct costs

National Institutes of Health/NINDS  
5R01 NS073899 (PI: LJ Blair)  
The Hsp90 cochaperone FKBP51 regulates tau structure and function  
This proposal aims to evaluate the ability of the molecular chaperone machinery to control tau accumulation in

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the brain.

08/25/2021-12/31/2021: \$307,603 direct costs/year

USF Interdisciplinary Seed Grant (PIs: LJ Blair and J Del Valle)

Targeting tau with peptidomimetic inhibitors

01/15/2019 - 06/30/2020: \$50,000/year direct costs

Alzheimer's Association

AARG-18-566635 (PI: LJ Blair)

ER stress as a mediator of tau-induced neurotoxicity

The major goal of this study is to determine the contribution of neurotoxicity mediated through ER stress in tauopathy and to investigate how ER chaperones can regulate this process.

07/01/2018 - 06/30/2022: \$45,455 direct costs/year

National Institutes of Health/NIA

1RF1 AG055088 (MPI: LJ Blair with P Bickford (contact) and V Uversky)

Controlling tau toxicity from inside and outside of neurons

The major goal of this study is to determine how small heat shock proteins regulate tau inside and outside of the tau to affect tau release, uptake, and neurotoxicity.

06/01/2017 - 08/31/2022: \$309,703 direct costs/year

National Institutes of Health/NIMH

1R01 MH103848 (PI: LJ Blair)

Modeling stress-related psychopathology through FKBP5 manipulation

02/01/2017 - 01/31/2021: \$272,400 direct costs/year

### **Peer-reviewed Publications**

1. Gebru NT, Ramadan AA, Mezquite-Garcia D, Ariza BA, Verdina LA, Hill SE, **Blair LJ\***. "Cross-Species FKBP51-Targeting Antisense Oligonucleotides Reduce Pathogenic Tau in Neuronal Models." **In Revision at Molecular Therapy. \*Corresponding author**
2. Contreras-Marciales A, Mezquite-Garcia D, Verdina LA, Elnahrawy A, Wolf T, Guergues J, Parikh P, Hunter ER, Hernandez Acosta D, Stevens Jr SM, Hill SE, **Blair LJ\***. "FKBP51 Inhibition by SAFit2 Modulates Tau Pathology and Cognitive Deficits in PS19 Mice." **Accepted at Alzheimer's Research & Therapy. \*Corresponding author**
3. Hill SE\*, Guergues J, Parikh P, Wohlfahrt J, Stevens Jr SM, **Blair LJ\***. "Dual Proximity-Based Interactome Mapping of FKBP51 and FKBP52 Uncovers Shared Metabolic Networks." Dual proximity-based interactome mapping of FKBP51 and FKBP52 uncovers shared metabolic networks. **Biochem Biophys Res Commun.** 2026;826:153968. Epub 20260522. doi: 10.1016/j.bbrc.2026.153968. **\*Corresponding author**
4. **Blair LJ\*** and Carpenter R\*. "The 13th International Symposium on Heat Shock Proteins in Biology, Medicine and the Environment: Honoring Legacy, Celebrating Scientific Advances, and Fostering Collaboration." **Cell Stress Chaperones.** 2026 Feb 11;31(2):100147. doi: 10.1016/j.cstres.2026.100147 doi: 10.1016/j.cstres.2026.100147. PubMed PMID: 41628755. **\*Corresponding author**
5. Liang H, Hunt JB Jr, Ma C, Kovalenko A, Calahatian J, Pedersen C, Liu H, Li J, Serrano M, Blazier D, Watler M, Rocha-Rangel P, Saunders C, **Blair LJ**, Breydo L, Nash K, Quadri Z, Kraemer B, Nelson P, Norris C, Abner EL, Uversky VN, Chaput D, Selenica MB, Lee DC. "Probing tau citrullination in Alzheimer's disease brains and mouse models of tauopathy" **Acta Neuropathol.** 2025 Dec 5;150(1):61. doi: 10.1007/s00401-025-02965-5. PubMed PMID: 41350808; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC12680832.
6. Gebru NT, Beaulieu-Abdelahad D, Gulick D\*, **Blair LJ\***. "FKBP51 Overexpression in the Corticolimbic System Stabilizes Circadian Rhythms." **Cell Stress Chaperones.** 2024 Dec 12;30(1):22-32. doi:

- 10.1016/j.cstres.2024.12.003. PubMed PMID: 39674313. PMCID: PMC11750455. **\*Corresponding author**
7. Gebru NT, Guergues J, Verdina LA, Wohlfahrt J, Wang S, Armendariz DS, Gray M, Beaulieu-Abdelahad D, Stevens Jr SM, Gulick D, **Blair LJ\***. "Fkbp5 Gene Deletion: Circadian Rhythm Profile and Brain Proteomics in Aged Mice" **Aging Cell**. 2024 Dec;23(12):e14314. doi: 10.1111/ace1.14314. Epub 2024 Sep 3. PubMed PMID: 39225086; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC11634734. **\*Corresponding author**
  8. Esquivel AR, Hill SE, **Blair LJ\***. "DnaJs are enriched in tau regulators." **Int. J. Biol. Macromol.** 2023 Dec 31;253(Pt 7):127486. doi: 10.1016/j.ijbiomac.2023.127486. Epub 2023 Oct 16. PubMed PMID: 37852393; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC10842427. **\*Corresponding author**
  9. Hill SE, Beaulieu-Abdelahad D, Lemus A, Webster JM, Rodriguez Ospina S, Darling AL, Martin MD, Patel S, Bridenstine L, Swonger R, Paul S, Blackburn R, Calcul L, Dickey CA, Leahy JW, and **Blair LJ\***. "Benzothiazole Substitution Analogs of Rhodacyanine Hsp70 Inhibitors Modulate Tau Accumulation" **ACS Chem. Biol.** 2023 May 19;18(5):1124-1135. doi: 10.1021/acscchembio.2c00919. Epub 2023 May 5. PubMed PMID: 37144894; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC10443619. **\*Corresponding author**
  10. Gebru NT, Hill SE, **Blair LJ\***. "Genetically Engineered Mouse Models of FK506-Binding Protein 5." **J Cell Biochem.** 2024 Dec;125(12):e30374. doi: 10.1002/jcb.30374. Epub 2023 Feb 13. Review. PubMed PMID: 36780339; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC10423308. **\*Corresponding author**
  11. Jiang L, Chakraborty P, Zhang L, Wong M, Hill SE, Webber CJ, Libera J, **Blair LJ**, Wolozin B, Zweckstetter MA. "Chaperoning of specific tau structure by immunophilin FKBP12 regulates the neuronal resilience to extracellular stress." **Sci Adv.** 2023 Feb 3;9(5):eadd9789. doi: 10.1126/sciadv.add9789. Epub 2023 Feb 1. PubMed PMID: 36724228. PubMed Central PMCID: PMC9891691.
  12. Patel RS, Lui A, Hudson C, Moss L, Sparks RP, Hill SE, Shi Y, Cai J, **Blair LJ**, Bickford PC, Patel NA. "Small molecule targeting long noncoding RNA GAS5 administered intranasally improves neuronal insulin signaling and decreases neuroinflammation in an aged mouse model." **Scientific Reports.** 2023 Jan 6;13(1):317. doi: 10.1038/s41598-022-27126-6. PubMed PMID: 36609440. PubMed Central PMCID: PMC9822944.
  13. Green R, Mayilsamy K, McGill AR, Martinez T, Chandran B, **Blair LJ**, Bickford PC, Mohapatra SS, Mohapatra S. "SARS-CoV-2 Infection Increases the Gene Expression Profile for Alzheimer's Disease Risk." **Mol Ther Methods Clin Dev.** 2022 Dec 8;27:217-229. doi: 10.1016/j.omtm.2022.09.007. Epub 2022 Sep 24. PubMed PMID: 36187720; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC9508696.
  14. Zhu Y, Gandy L, Zhang F, Liu J, Wang C, **Blair LJ**, Linhardt RJ, Wang L. "Heparan Sulfate Proteoglycans in Tauopathy". **Biomolecules.** 2022 Nov 30;12(12). doi: 10.3390/biom12121792. Review. PubMed PMID: 36551220; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC9776397.
  15. Hill SE, Esquivel AR, Rodriguez Ospina S, Rahal LM, Dickey CA, **Blair LJ\***. "Chaperoning activity of the cyclophilin family prevents tau aggregation." **Protein Science.** 2022 Nov;31(11):e4448. doi: 10.1002/pro.4448. PubMed PMID: 36305768; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC9597375. **\*Corresponding author**
  16. Criado-Marrero M, Blazier DM, Gould LA, Gebru NT, Rodriguez Ospina S, Armendariz DS, Darling AL, Beaulieu-Abdelahad D, **Blair LJ\***. "Evidence against a contribution of the CCAAT-enhancer binding protein homologous protein (CHOP) in mediating neurotoxicity in rTg4510 mice" **Scientific Reports.** 2022 May 5;12(1):7372. doi: 10.1038/s41598-022-11025-x. PubMed PMID: 35513476; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC9072347. **\*Corresponding author**
  17. Rodriguez Ospina S, Blazier DM, Criado-Marrero M, Gould LA, Gebru NT, Beaulieu-Abdelahad D, Wang X, Remily-Wood E, Chaput D, Stevens S, Uversky VN, Bickford PC, Dickey CA, **Blair LJ\***. Small Heat Shock Protein 22 Improves Cognition and Learning in the Tauopathic Brain. **Int. J. Mol. Sci.** 2022, 23, (2). doi: 10.3390/ijms23020851. PMID: 35055033; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC8775832. **\*Corresponding author**
  18. Lopez A, Dahiya V, Delhommel F, Freiburger L, Stehle R, Asami S, Rutz D, **Blair L**, Buchner J, Sattler M. Client binding shifts the populations of dynamic Hsp90 conformations through an allosteric network. **Sci Adv.** 2021 Dec 17;7(51):eabl7295. doi: 10.1126/sciadv.abl7295. Epub 2021 Dec 17. PubMed PMID: 34919431; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC8682993.

19. Darling AL, Dahrendorff J, Creodore SG, Dickey CA, **Blair LJ**, Uversky VN. "Small heat shock protein 22kDa can modulate the aggregation and liquid-liquid phase separation behavior of Tau." **Protein Sci.** 2021 Jul;30(7):1350-1359. doi: 10.1002/pro.4060. Epub 2021 Mar 15. PubMed PMID: 33686711; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC8197419.
20. Criado-Marrero M, Gebru NT, Gould LA, Blazier DM, Vidal Agular, Y, Smith TM, Abdelmaboud SS, Shelton LB, Wang X, Dahrendorff J, Beaulieu-Abdelahad D, Dickey CA, **Blair LJ\***. "FKBP52 overexpression accelerates hippocampal-dependent memory impairments in a tau transgenic mouse model." **NPJ Aging Mech Dis.** 2021 May 3;7(1):9. doi: 10.1038/s41514-021-00062-x. PubMed PMID: 33941782; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC8093247. **\*Corresponding author**
21. Criado-Marrero, M, Gebru, NT, Blazier, DM, Gould LA, Baker JD, Beaulieu-Abdelahad D, **Blair LJ\***. Hsp90 co-chaperones, FKBP52 and Aha1, promote tau pathogenesis in aged wild-type mice. **Acta Neuropathol Commun.** 2021 Apr 8;9(1):65. doi: 10.1186/s40478-021-01159-w. PubMed PMID: 33832539; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC8033733. **\*Corresponding author**
22. Sandusky-Beltran LA, Kovalenko A, Placides D, Ratnasamy K, Ma C, Hunt JB, Liang H, Calahatian J, Michalski C, Fahnstock M, **Blair LJ**, Darling AL, Baker JD, Fontaine SN, Dickey CA, Gamsby JJ, Nash KR, Abner EL, Selenica MB, Lee DC. "Aberrant AZIN2 and polyamine metabolism precipitates tau neuropathology." **J Clin Invest.** 2021 Feb 15;131(4). doi: 10.1172/JCI126299. PubMed PMID: 33586680; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC7880423.
23. Favretto F, Flores D, Baker JD, Strohäker T, Andreas LB, **Blair LJ**, Becker S, and Zweckstetter MA. "Catalysis of proline isomerization and molecular chaperone activity in a tug-of-war." **Nat Comm.** 2020 Nov 27;11(1):6046. doi: 10.1038/s41467-020-19844-0. PubMed PMID: 33247146; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC7695863.
24. Criado-Marrero M, Smith TM, Gould LA, Kim S, Penny HJ, Sun Z, Gulick G, Dickey CA, **Blair LJ\***. FKBP5 and early life stress affect the hippocampus by an age-dependent mechanism. **Brain Behav Immun Health.** 2020 Dec;9:100143. doi: 10.1016/j.bbih.2020.100143. eCollection 2020 Dec. PubMed PMID: 34589890; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC8474669. **\*Corresponding author**
25. Webster JM, Darling AL, Sanders TA, Blazier DM, Vidal-Aguilar Y, Beaulieu-Abdelahad D, Plemmons DG, Hill SE, Uversky VN, Bickford PC, Dickey CA, **Blair LJ\***. Hsp22 with an N-Terminal Domain Truncation Mediates a Reduction in Tau Protein Levels. **Int J Mol Sci.** 2020 Jul 30;21(15). doi: 10.3390/ijms21155442. PubMed PMID: 32751642; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC7432035. **\*Corresponding author**
26. Favretto F, Baker JD, Strohäker T, Andreas L, **Blair LJ**, Becker S. Zweckstetter M. Molecular basis of the interaction of cyclophilin A with  $\alpha$ -synuclein. **Angew Chem Int Ed Engl.** 2020 Mar 27;59(14):5643-5646. doi: 10.1002/anie.201914878. Epub 2020 Jan 29. PubMed PMID: 31830361; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC7085457.
27. Singh J, Tait B, Hutt DM, Guy NC, Sivils JC, Culbertson D, **Blair LJ**, Dickey CA, Kuo SY, Lu S, Chadli A, Finley D, Dyson HJ, Cox MB, Gestwicki JE, Balch WE. Management of Hsp90-Dependent Protein Folding by Small Molecules Targeting the Aha1 Co-Chaperone. **Cell Chem Biol.** 2020 Mar 19;27(3):292-305.e6. doi: 10.1016/j.chembiol.2020.01.008. Epub 2020 Feb 3. PubMed PMID: 32017918; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC7144688.
28. Criado-Marrero M., Sabbagh J.J., Jones M.R., Chaput D., Dickey C.A., **Blair L.J.\*** Hippocampal Neurogenesis Is Enhanced in Adult Tau Deficient Mice. **Cells** 2020 Jan 14;9(1). doi: 10.3390/cells9010210. PubMed PMID: 31947657; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC7016791. **\*Corresponding author**
29. Garcia L, Lora G, **Blair LJ**, Jinwal UK. Therapeutic Potential of the Hsp90/Cdc37 interaction in Neurodegenerative diseases. **Front. Neurosci.** 2019;13:1263. doi: 10.3389/fnins.2019.01263. eCollection 2019. Review. PubMed PMID: 31824256; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC6882380.
30. Webster JM, Darling AL, Uversky VN, **Blair LJ\***. Small Heat Shock Proteins, Big Impact on Protein Aggregation in Neurodegenerative Disease. **Front Pharmacol.** 2019;10:1047. doi: 10.3389/fphar.2019.01047. eCollection 2019. Review. PubMed PMID: 31619995; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC6759932. **\*Corresponding author**

31. Oroz J, **Blair LJ**, Zweckstetter M. Dynamic Aha1 Co-Chaperone Binding to Human Hsp90. **Protein Science**. 2019 Sep;28(9):1545-1551. doi: 10.1002/pro.3678. Epub 2019 Aug 6. PubMed PMID: 31299134; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC6699087.
32. Sandusky-Beltran LA, Kovalenko A, Ma C, Calahatian JT, Placides DS, Watler MD, Hunt JB, Darling AL, Baker JD, **Blair LJ**, Martin MD, Fontaine SN, Dickey CA, Lussier AL, Weeber EJ, Selenica MB, Nash KR, Gordon MN, Morgan D, Lee DC. Spermidine/spermine-*N*<sup>1</sup>-acetyltransferase ablation impacts tauopathy-induced polyamine stress response. **Alzheimers Res Ther**. 2019 Jun 29;11(1):58. doi: 10.1186/s13195-019-0507-y. PubMed PMID: 31253191; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC6599347.
33. Criado-Marrero M, Gebru NT, Gould LA, Smith T, Kim S, Blackburn RJ, Dickey CA, **Blair LJ\***. Early life stress and high FKBP5 interact to increase anxiety-like symptoms through altered AKT signaling in the dorsal hippocampus. **Int. J. Mol. Sci**. 2019 Jun 4;20(11). doi: 10.3390/ijms20112738. PubMed PMID: 31167373; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC6600369. **\*Corresponding author**
34. Darling A, Breydo L, Rivas EG, Gebru NT, Zheng D, Baker JD, **Blair LJ**, Dickey CA, Koren J, Uversky V. Repeated Repeat Problems: Combinatorial Effect of C9orf72-Derived Dipeptide Repeat Proteins. **Int. J. Biol. Macromol**. 2019 Apr 15;127:136-145. doi: 10.1016/j.ijbiomac.2019.01.035. Epub 2019 Jan 9. PubMed PMID: 30639592.
35. **Blair LJ\***, Criado-Marrero M, Zheng D, Wang X, Kamath S, Nordhues BA, Weeber EJ, Dickey CA. The Disease-Associated Chaperone FKBP51 Impairs Cognitive Function by Accelerating AMPA Receptor Recycling. **eNeuro**. 2019 Mar 1;6(1): ENEURO.0242-18.2019. doi: 10.1523/ENEURO.0242-18.2019. eCollection 2019 Jan-Feb. PubMed PMID: 30963102; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC6450497. **\*Corresponding author**
36. **Blair LJ**, Genest O, Mollapour M. The multiple facets of the Hsp90 machine. **Nat. Struct. Mol. Biol**. 2019 Feb;26(2):92-95. doi: 10.1038/s41594-018-0177-7. PubMed PMID: 30617298; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC6365192.
37. Baker JD, Ozsan I, Rodriguez Ospina S, Gulick D, **Blair LJ\***. Hsp90 heterocomplexes regulate steroid hormone receptors: From stress response to psychiatric disease. **Int J Mol Sci**. 2018 Dec 25;20(1). doi: 10.3390/ijms20010079. Review. PubMed PMID: 30585227; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC6337637. **\*Corresponding author**
38. Oroz J, Chang BJ, Wysoczanski P, Lee, CT, Pérez-Lara, Á, Chakraborty, P, Hofele, RV, Baker, JD, **Blair, LJ**, Biernat, J, Urlaub, H, Mandelkow, E, Dickey, CA, and Zweckstetter, M. Structure and pro-toxic mechanism of the human Hsp90/PPIase/Tau complex. **Nat Commun**. 2018 Oct 31;9(1):4532. doi: 10.1038/s41467-018-06880-0. PubMed PMID: 30382094; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC6208366.
39. Sabbagh JJ, Cordova RA, Zheng D, Criado-Marrero M, Lemus A, Li P, Baker JD, Nordhues BA, Darling AL, Martinez-Licha C, Rutz, DA Patel S, Buchner J, Leahy JW, Koren J, Dickey CA, and **Blair LJ\***. Targeting the FKBP51/GR/Hsp90 complex to identify functionally relevant treatments for depression and PTSD, **ACS Chem. Biol**. 2018 Aug 17;13(8):2288-2299. doi: 10.1021/acscchembio.8b00454. Epub 2018 Jun 19. PubMed PMID: 29893552; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC6126901. **\*Corresponding author**
40. Huard DJE, Crowley VM, Du Y, Cordova RA, Sun Z, Tomlin MO, Dickey CA, Koren J 3rd, **Blair L**, Fu H, Blagg BSJ, Lieberman RL. Trifunctional High-Throughput Screen Identifies Promising Scaffold To Inhibit Grp94 and Treat Myocilin-Associated Glaucoma. **ACS Chem Biol**. 2018 Apr 20;13(4):933-941. doi: 10.1021/acscchembio.7b01083. Epub 2018 Feb 20. PubMed PMID: 29402077; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC6195314.
41. Criado-Marrero M, Rein T, Binder EB, Porter JT, Koren III J, **Blair LJ\***. Hsp90 and FKBP51: complex regulators of psychiatric diseases. **Philos Trans R Soc Lond B Biol Sci**. 2018 Jan 19;373(1738). doi: 10.1098/rstb.2016.0532. Review. PubMed PMID: 29203717; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC5717532. **\*Corresponding author**
42. Shelton LB, Koren III J, **Blair LJ\***. Imbalances in the Hsp90 chaperone machinery: Implications for tauopathies. **Front. Neurosci**. 2017;11:724. doi: 10.3389/fnins.2017.00724. eCollection 2017. Review. PubMed PMID: 29311797; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC5744016. **\*Corresponding author**
43. Stothert AR, Suntharalingam A, Tang X, Crowley VM, Mishra SJ, Webster JM, Nordhues BA, Huard DJE, Passaglia C, Lieberman RL, Blagg BSJ, **Blair LJ\***, Koren III J\*, Dickey CA. Isoform-selective Hsp90 inhibition rescues model of hereditary open-angle glaucoma. **Sci Rep**. 2017 Dec 20;7(1):17951. doi:

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44. Shelton LB\*, Baker JD\*, Zheng D\*, Sullivan LE, Solanki PK, Webster JM, Sun Z, Sabbagh JJ, Nordhues BA, Koren J 3<sup>rd</sup>, Ghosh S, Blagg BSJ, **Blair LJ\***, Dickey CA. Hsp90 activator Aha1 drives production of pathological tau aggregates. **Proc Natl Acad Sci USA**. 2017 Sep 5;114(36):9707-9712. doi: 10.1073/pnas.1707039114. Epub 2017 Aug 21. PubMed PMID: 28827321; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC5594679. **\*Corresponding author**
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### **Non-Peer Reviewed Contributions**

1. Bourboulia D, **Blair LJ**, Clark MS, Edkins AL, Hightower LE, Mollapour M, Prahlad V, Repasky EA, Truebano M, Truman AW, Truttmann MC, van Oosten-Hawle P, Woodford MR. Editorial: A new chapter for Cell Stress and Chaperones. **Cell Stress Chaperones.** 2024. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cstres.2024.01.007>.
2. Mayer MP, **Blair L**, Blatch GL, Borges TJ, Chadli A, Chiosis G, de Thonel A, Dinkova-Kostova A, Ecroyd H, Edkins AL, Eguchi T, Fleshner M, Foley KP, Fragkostefanakis S, Gestwicki J, Goloubinoff P, Heritz JA, Heske CM, Hibshman JD, Joutsen J, Li W, Lynes M, Mendillo ML, Mivechi N, Mokoena F, Okusha Y, Prahlad V, Repasky E, Sannino S, Scalia F, Shalgi R, Sistonen L, Sontag E, van Oosten-Hawle P, Vihervaara A, Wickramaratne A, Wang SXY, Zininga T. "Stress Biology: Complexity and Multifariousness in Health and Disease." **Cell Stress Chaperones.** 2024. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cstres.2024.01.006>.

### **Book Chapters**

1. Sun Z, Blackburn RJ, **Blair LJ**, Koren J 3<sup>rd</sup>. "Hsp70-Family Proteins and Neurodegenerative Diseases", In: Asea A., Kaur P. (eds) **HSP70 in Human Diseases and Disorders.** Heat Shock Proteins, vol 14. (2018) Springer, Cham. Doi: [doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-89551-2](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-89551-2).

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2. Baker JD, Webster JM, Shelton LB, Koren J 3<sup>rd</sup>, Uversky VN, **Blair LJ**, Dickey CA. "Neurodegenerative Diseases as Protein Folding Disorders." **The Molecular and Cellular Basis of Neurodegenerative Diseases 1<sup>st</sup> Edition**. Elsevier. 243-267. 2018 Mar 1.

### Other publications: Thesis Publication

"Age-associated increases in FKBP51 facilitate tau neurotoxicity." (2014)

### Patents

1. US-12,465,656B1 "Methods of reducing cognitive impairment and learning and memory deficits cause by a P301L mutation in microtubule-associated protein tau (MAPT) protein in patients with Alzheimer's disease using an AAV9 vector encoding a phosphomimetic (S/D) Hsp22 mutant"  
Issued 11/11/2025
2. US-11,931,373-B2 "Hsp90 Activator Aha1 Drives Productions of Pathological Tau Aggregates."  
Issued 03/19/2024
3. US-11,318,115-B2 "Hsp90 Activator Aha1 Drives Productions of Pathological Tau Aggregates."  
Issued 05/03/2022
4. US-10,814,015-B2 "Transgenic mouse model for conditional FKBP51 expression and related methods."  
Issued 10/27/2020

### National or International Conference Invitations

1. "FKBP51: Promising Therapy Target for Tau-Mediated Neurodegeneration." **13th International symposium on heat shock proteins in biology, Medicine and the environment**. October 2025. Syracuse, NY. Invited Symposium Speaker.
2. "FKBP51 as a Druggable Target for the Treatment of Tau-Mediated Neurodegeneration." **1st SouthEast Amyloid-CONDENSATE (SEACON) Symposium**. August 2025. Ocean Springs, MS. Invited Symposium Speaker.
3. "Hsp90 co-chaperones as therapeutic targets for tau-mediated neurodegeneration." **Stress Proteins in Growth, Development and Disease**, Gordon Research Conference. July 2025. Newry, ME. Invited Poster.
4. "Faculty Insights into Navigating Careers in Science." **Stress Proteins in Growth, Development and Disease**, Gordon Research Seminar. July 2025. Newry, ME. Invited Panelist.
5. "Tau's Tamers: The Role of Molecular Chaperones in Slowing Tau Accumulation." **6th International Symposium on Pathomechanisms of Amyloid Diseases**. December 2024. Tallahassee, FL. Invited Symposium Speaker.
6. "Fkbp5 Gene Deletion: Circadian Rhythm Profile and Brain Proteomics in Aged Mice." **11th International Conference on the Hsp90 Chaperone Machine**. October 2024. Seon, Germany. Invited Symposium Speaker.
7. "FKBP51: A Promising Therapeutic Target for Tauopathies." **Alzheimer's Association International Conference**. July 2024. Philadelphia, PA. Invited Poster.
8. "An Aha(1) Disruptor for Tauopathies". **2024 Harrington Discovery Institute Scientific Symposium**. May 2024. Cleveland, OH. Invited Symposium Speaker.
9. "Targeting Molecular Chaperones to Modulate Tau Accumulation." **Tau 2024 Global Conference**. March 2024. Washington, DC. Invited Poster.
10. "Taming Tau: How Molecular Chaperones Regulate Tau Aggregation". **12th International Symposium on Heat Shock Proteins in Biology, Medicine and the Environment**. October 2023. Old Town Alexandria, VA. Invited Symposium Speaker.
11. "Chaperoning Tau." **Southeastern Neurodegenerative Disease Conference**. October 2023. Atlanta, GA. Invited Plenary Speaker.
12. "Development of FKBP5 ASOs to mitigate tau pathology." **Alzheimer's Association International Conference**. July 2023. Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Invited Poster.

13. "Hsp40 molecular chaperones are potent regulators of tau seeding and accumulation." **Alzheimer's Association International Conference**. July 2023. Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Invited Poster.
14. "What is Alzheimer's disease and how can we fix it?" **Life Science Women's Conference (LSWC)**. September 2022. Tampa, FL. Invited Symposium Speaker.
15. "Chaperoning Tau Pathogenesis." **American Society for Neural Therapy & Repair**, August 2021. Clearwater, FL. Invited Symposium Speaker.
16. "Contribution of ER stress to tau-mediated toxicity." **Alzheimer's Association International Conference**. July 2021. Invited Digital Poster.
17. "Chaperoning tau pathogenesis." **Cold Spring Harbor - Protein Homeostasis in Health and Disease**. November 2020. Invited Digital Poster.
18. "Chaperone imbalance drives tau pathogenesis." **Alzheimer's Association International Conference**. July 2020. Digital Poster.
19. "PPIases have divergent effects on tau aggregation and toxicity." **Society for Neuroscience**. October 2019. Chicago, IL. Invited Nanosymposia Speaker.
20. "Peptidyl-prolyl isomerase, CyP40, disrupts tau fibrils." **Society for Neuroscience**. November 2018. San Diego, CA. Invited Nanosymposia Speaker.
21. "Molecular chaperones regulate the pathogenicity of tau in neurodegenerative disease." **The Hsp90 Chaperone Machine**. October 2018. Leysin, Switzerland. Invited Symposium Speaker.
22. "Regulating Tau Accumulation through Co-Chaperones That Alter Hsp90 Atpase Activity." **Alzheimer's Association International Conference**. July 2018. Chicago, IL. Invited Symposium Speaker.
23. "Extracellular release of neurodegenerative proteins is regulated by DnaJC5/Hsc70 complexes." **International Society for Neurochemistry – Japanese Society for Neurochemistry Joint Symposium 2017**. Sendai, Japan. September 2017. Invited Symposium Speaker sponsored by ISN.
24. "Cyclophilin 40 untangles tau aggregates." **Protein Misfolding Diseases and Therapy 2017**. Sendai, Japan. September 2017. Invited Symposium Speaker.
25. "Aha1 Accelerates Hsp90 ATPase Activity to Drive Tau Aggregation." **Alzheimer's Association International Conference**. July 2017. London, United Kingdom. Invited Symposium Speaker.
26. "High FKBP5 expression alters learning and memory." **Midwest Stress Response and Molecular Chaperone Meeting**. Northwestern University, Evanston, IL. January 2017. Poster.
27. "High FKBP5 expression alters learning and memory". **Society for Neuroscience**. November 2016. San Diego, CA, Invited Nanosymposia Speaker.
28. "Targeting of Chaperone Activity for the Treatment of Alzheimer's Disease." **Alzheimer's Association International Conference**. July 2016. Toronto, Canada. Invited Symposium Speaker.
29. "Generation of a novel mouse to model *FKBP5* expression in aging and disease." **Midwest Stress Response and Molecular Chaperone Meeting**. Northwestern University, Evanston, IL. January 2015. Invited Poster.
30. "Epigenetic regulation of *FKBP5* expression in aging and disease." **Society for Neuroscience**, October 2014. Washington D.C., Nanosymposia Speaker.
31. "The Hsp90 co-chaperone FKBP51 produces neurotoxic tau oligomers: implications for aging and Alzheimer's disease." **Alzheimer's Association International Conference**, July 2013. Boston, MA. Poster.
32. "Age dependent increases in FKBP5/FKBP51 alter tau processing by Hsp90." **EMBO: Biomembranes**. June 2013. Cargese, Corsica, France. Invited Poster.
33. "FKBP51 accelerates Alzheimer's disease pathogenesis." **American Society for Neural Therapy & Repair**, April 2013. Clearwater, FL. Invited Poster.
34. "FKBP51 Age-Dependently Affects Cellular Processing of Tau by Hsp90." **Society for Neuroscience**. October 2012. New Orleans, LA. Invited Nanosymposia.
35. "In Vivo Administration of Heat Shock Protein 27 Variants; Implications for Tauopathies." **Society for Neuroscience**. October 2009. Chicago, IL. Invited Nanosymposia.
36. "The Effect of Hsp27 on Phosphorylated Tau." **Midwest Stress Response and Molecular Chaperone Meeting**. January 2009. Northwestern University, Evanston, IL. Invited Poster.

### National and International Seminar Invitations

1. "The Future of Alzheimer's Treatment – Insights for Philanthropic Advisors." Webinar speaker, hosted by **Harrington Discovery Institute and Morgan Stanley GIFT Cures**. April 2025.
2. "Unraveling Tau Aggregation: The Role of Molecular Chaperones." **Center for Neurodegeneration and Experimental Therapeutics Retreat 2025**. University of Alabama Birmingham. Birmingham, AL. April 2025. Keynote Speaker and Panelist.
3. "Chaperone Control of Tau: A Double-Edged Sword." **Neurodysfunction and Neurodegeneration Seminar Series**. Virtual seminar series between five institutions (University of Texas Medical Branch, University of North Dakota, University of Florida, University of Kentucky, and Indiana University). December 2024. (Host: Balaji Krishnan)
4. "Imbalance in molecular chaperones promotes tau pathogenesis in the aged brain." Department of Neuroscience-McKnight Brain Institute Joint Seminar Series. **University of Florida**. Gainesville, FL. Sept 2022. Invited Seminar Speaker. (Host: Jose Abisambra)
5. "Chaperone imbalance promotes tau pathogenesis." Department of Biochemistry & Biophysics Raiziss Rounds Seminar Series Speaker. **University of Pennsylvania**. Philadelphia, PA. May 2022. Invited Seminar Speaker. (Host: Jim Shorter)
6. "Hsp90 co-chaperone imbalance promotes dysfunction in the aged brain." **Hsp90 Webinars**. January 2022. (Host: Didier Picard) - Webinar
7. "Hsp90 cochaperones, FKBP52 and Aha1, promote tau pathogenesis." **Utrecht University**. CEST Seminar Series. September 2020. (Host: Stefan Rüdiger) - Webinar
8. "Controlling tau aggregate structure: a tale of two chaperones." **University of California Irvine, UCI MIND Seminar Series**. Irvine, CA. December 2018. Invited Seminar Speaker. (Host: Masashi Kitazawa)
9. "Targeting FKBP51 for the treatment of mental health disorders." **Boehringer Ingelheim**. Biberach, Germany. October 2018. Invited Seminar Speaker. (Host: Kelly Allers)
10. "Characterization of novel mouse model reveals a new role for FKBP5." **Max Planck Institute for Psychiatry**. October 2018. Munich, Germany. Invited Seminar Speaker. (Host: Elisabeth Binder)
11. "Hsp90 co-chaperones regulate tau aggregation and toxicity." **National Institute of Radiological Sciences**, Department of Functional Brain Imaging Research. Chiba, Japan. September 2017. Invited Seminar Speaker. (Host: Naruhiko Sahara)
12. "Controlling Tau Aggregate Structure and Toxicity with a Twist" **University of Texas Medical Branch**, Department of Neurology, Galveston, TX. February 2017. Invited Seminar Speaker. (Host: Rakez Kaye)

### Regional and Institutional Conference and Seminar Invitations

1. "Chaperones: How Cellular Safety-Nets Shape Alzheimer's Disease and Brain Health." **Pints of Science**. March 2026. New World Tampa. Tampa, FL. Invited Speaker.
2. "Unlocking the Secrets of Stress Resilience." **Research Trends at JAHVH**. September 2024. James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital Research & Development Webinar Series. Invited Speaker.
3. "Molecular Chaperones as Regulators of Tau Function and Dysfunction." **University of South Florida, USF Health Neuroscience Institute Faculty Seminar Series**. November 2023. University of South Florida. Tampa, FL. Invited Speaker.
4. "Restoring Balance in the Tauopathic Brain." **Florida Consortium on the Neurobiology of Cognition**, May 2022. Tallahassee, FL Hybrid Format. Invited Symposium Speaker.
5. "Chaperone imbalance promotes tau pathogenesis." **University of South Florida, USF Health Neuroscience Institute Faculty Seminar Series**. May 2021. University of South Florida. Tampa, FL. Invited Speaker.
6. "Targeting FKBP5 for the treatment of stress-related disorders." **VA Research Week Symposium**. May 2019. James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital hosted at the University of South Florida. Tampa, FL. Invited Speaker.
7. "Chaperoning Tau." **USF Health Molecular Medicine Department Retreat**. March 2019. University of South Florida. Tampa, FL. Invited Speaker.

8. "Drug screening platforms in the Biology of Degenerative Diseases Lab." **USF-Irish Marine Biodiscovery Consortium Symposium**. November 2018. University of South Florida. Tampa, FL. Invited Speaker.
9. "Characterization of a novel mouse model reveals a new role for FKBP5." **University of South Florida, USF Health Neuroscience Faculty Seminar Series**. November 2018. University of South Florida. Tampa, FL. Invited Speaker.
10. "Aha1 stimulates tau aggregation." **Florida Annual Meeting and Exposition (FAME)** organized by the Florida Local Section of the American Chemical Society. May 2018. Invited Symposium Speaker sponsored by FLACS.
11. "Molecular chaperones regulate the pathogenicity of tau in neurodegenerative disease." **University of South Florida, CMMB Department Seminar Series**. Department of Cell Biology, Microbiology, and Molecular Biology. October 2017. University of South Florida, Tampa FL Invited Speaker. (Host, Sandy Westerheide)
12. "FKBP51 as a drug target for tauopathies." **USF Health Molecular Medicine Retreat**. March 2014. University of South Florida. Tampa, FL. Invited Speaker.
13. "Progressive FKBP51 increases make tau neurotoxic." **USF Molecular Medicine Department: Work In Progress Seminar Series**. November 2013. University of South Florida. Tampa, FL. Invited Speaker.
14. "Progressive FKBP51 increases make tau neurotoxic." **USF Health Seminar**, March 2013. University of South Florida. Tampa, FL. Invited Speaker.
15. "*FKBP51/FKBP5 accelerates* Alzheimer's disease pathogenesis by slowing tau turnover and altering tau aggregate structure." **USF Health Research Day**, February 2013. University of South Florida. Tampa, FL. Invited Poster.
16. "FKBP51 Age-Dependently Affects Cellular Processing of Tau by Hsp90." **USF Health Neuroscience Research Day**, February 2012. University of South Florida. Tampa, FL. Invited Poster.
17. "*In Vivo* Administration of Heat Shock Protein 27 Improves Hippocampal Plasticity." **USF Health Research Day**. February 2010. University of South Florida. Tampa, FL. Invited Poster.
18. "Oligomeric Hsp27 Degrades Phosphorylated Tau." **USF Undergraduate Research Symposium**, University of South Florida. Tampa, FL. March 2009. Invited Poster.

### **Media Appearances and Interviews**

26 Feb 2026. Award highlighted in "National Academy of Inventors names six USF faculty to its 2026 class of senior members." USF Research News. [National Academy of Inventors names six USF faculty to its 2026 class of senior members](#)

25 Oct 2024. New collaborative NIH grant highlighted in "USF Health receives \$3.75 million NIH award to research whether Long COVID may contribute to Alzheimer's disease and dementia." [USF Health receives \\$3.75 million NIH research award to advance Long COVID research and its link to Alzheimer's disease and dementia](#)

12 Jun 2024. Research referenced in "Can trauma be inherited through genes." National Geographic [Can trauma be inherited through genes? \(nationalgeographic.com\)](#)

3 Feb 2023. Interviewed for "The Chaperone FKBP12 Shields Tau from Aggregation." AlzForum. [The Chaperone FKBP12 Shields Tau from Aggregation | ALZFORUM](#)

31 Jan 2023. Quoted in "Alzheimer's: Can a blood test detect disease 3.5 years before diagnosis?" MedicalNewsToday. <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/alzheimers-can-a-blood-test-detect-disease-3-5-years-before-diagnosis>

10 Jan 2023. Collaborative research highlighted in "Potential new treatment to prevent dementia" Office of Research and Development. Veterans Affairs Research News Briefs. [https://www.research.va.gov/in\\_brief.cfm#207124](https://www.research.va.gov/in_brief.cfm#207124)

20 Oct 2022. Featured in "USF Health Morsani College of Medicine: The Fastest-Rising Medical School in the Nation." [USF Health Morsani College of Medicine: The Fastest-Rising Medical School in the Nation](#)

20 Oct 2022. Collaborative research highlighted in "SARS-CoV-2 Infection Increases the Gene Expression Profile for Alzheimer's Disease Risk." <https://www.usf.edu/research-innovation/pl/news/2022/covidalz.aspx>

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15 Aug 2022 Interviewed for “Morsani College of Medicine: the fastest rising medical school in the nation.” USF Health News. <https://hscweb3.hsc.usf.edu/blog/2022/08/15/morsani-college-of-medicine-the-fastest-rising-medical-school-in-the-nation/>

28 Feb 2022. Highlighted in “USF Health celebrates return of in-person Research Day. USF Health News. <https://hscweb3.hsc.usf.edu/blog/2022/02/28/usf-health-celebrates-return-of-in-person-research-day/>

13 May 2021. Interviewed for “SHR # 2710: New Study: Chaperone Protein Imbalance Promotes toxic Tau Buildup in The Aging Brain” Super Human Radio Podcast. <https://superhumanradio.net/shr-2710-new-study-chaperone-protein-imbalance-promotes-toxic-tau-buildup-in-the-aging-brain>

21 April 2021. Interviewed for “Chaperone protein imbalance promotes toxic tau buildup in the aging brain.” AZO Life Sciences. <https://www.azolifesciences.com/news/20210421/Chaperone-protein-imbalance-initiates-toxic-accumulation-of-tau-in-the-aging-brain.aspx>

20 April 2021. Interviewed for “Chaperone protein imbalance promotes toxic tau buildup in the aging brain.” EurekaAlert! [https://www.eurekaalert.org/pub\\_releases/2021-04/uosf-cpi042021.php](https://www.eurekaalert.org/pub_releases/2021-04/uosf-cpi042021.php)

20 April 2021. Interviewed for “Chaperone protein imbalance promotes toxic tau buildup in the aging brain.” USF Health News. <https://hscweb3.hsc.usf.edu/blog/2021/04/20/chaperone-protein-imbalance-promotes-toxic-tau-buildup-in-the-aging-brain/>

20 April 2021. Interviewed for “Chaperone protein imbalance promotes toxic tau buildup in the aging brain.” Bioengineering.org. <https://bioengineer.org/chaperone-protein-imbalance-promotes-toxic-tau-buildup-in-the-aging-brain/>

20 April 2021. Interviewed for “Chaperone protein imbalance promotes toxic tau buildup in the aging brain.” Medical Xpress. <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2021-04-chaperone-protein-imbalance-toxic-tau.html>

20 April 2021. Interviewed for “Chaperone protein imbalance promotes toxic tau buildup in the aging brain.” Scienmag. <https://scienmag.com/chaperone-protein-imbalance-promotes-toxic-tau-buildup-in-the-aging-brain/>

20 April 2021. Interviewed for “Chaperone protein imbalance promotes toxic tau buildup in the aging brain.” Infosurhoy. <https://infosurhoy.com/health/chaperone-protein-imbalance-promotes-toxic-tau-buildup-in-the-aging-brain.html>

20 April 2021. Interviewed for “Chaperone protein imbalance promotes toxic tau buildup in the aging brain.” News Medical. <https://www.news-medical.net/news/20210420/Chaperone-protein-imbalance-can-play-key-role-in-initiating-toxic-tau-buildup-in-the-aging-brain.aspx>

2 October 2020. Quoted in “VCP Coding Mutation Causes a Tauopathy With Vacuoles.” AlzForum. <https://www.alzforum.org/news/research-news/vcp-coding-mutation-causes-tauopathy-vacuoles>

11 June 2019. Interviewed for “Early life stress plus overexpressed FKBP5 protein increases anxiety behavior.” Neuroscience News. [https://neurosciencenews.com/anxiety-fkbp5-stress-14216/?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+neuroscience-rss-feeds-neuroscience-news+%28Neuroscience+News+Updates%29](https://neurosciencenews.com/anxiety-fkbp5-stress-14216/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+neuroscience-rss-feeds-neuroscience-news+%28Neuroscience+News+Updates%29)

11 June 2019. Interviewed for “Early life stress plus overexpressed FKBP5 protein increases anxiety behavior.” Medical Express. <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2019-06-early-life-stress-overexpressed-fkbp5.html>

11 June 2019. Interviewed for “Early life stress plus overexpressed FKBP5 protein increases anxiety behavior.” Long Room. <https://www.longroom.com/discussion/1519805/early-life-stress-plus-overexpressed-fkbp5-protein-increases-anxiety-behavior>

11 June 2019. Interviewed for “Early life stress plus overexpressed FKBP5 protein increases anxiety behavior.” The Medical News. <https://www.news-medical.net/news/20190611/Early-life-adversity-and-high-levels-of-FKBP5-protein-amplify-anxiety-like-behavior.aspx>

11 June 2019. Interviewed for “Early life stress plus overexpressed FKBP5 protein increases anxiety behavior.” Science Daily. <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/06/190611133927.htm>

11 June 2019. Interviewed for “Early life stress plus overexpressed FKBP5 protein increases anxiety behavior.” EurekaAlert! [https://www.eurekaalert.org/pub\\_releases/2019-06/uosf-els061119.php](https://www.eurekaalert.org/pub_releases/2019-06/uosf-els061119.php)

10 June 2019. Interviewed for “Early life stress plus overexpressed FKBP5 protein increases anxiety behavior.” USF Health News. <https://hscweb3.hsc.usf.edu/blog/2019/06/10/early-life-stress-plus-overexpressed-fkbp5-protein-increases-anxiety-behavior/>

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22 May 2019. Interview highlighted in, "Neuroscientist Laura Blair's Research Featured In ENeuro Blog." USF Health Honors and Awards. <https://hscweb3.hsc.usf.edu/awardsblog/2019/05/22/neuroscientist-laura-blairs-research-featured-in-eneuro-blog/>

25 April 2019. Interviewed for "Beyond the Paper: A Conversation with Dr. Laura Blair." eNeuro Blog. <http://blog.eneuro.org/2019/04/beyond-the-paper-april>

6 December 2018. PhD Student, Jeremy Baker, featured in "Newest graduates ready to shape the future of health." USF Health News. <https://hscweb3.hsc.usf.edu/blog/2018/12/06/usf-healths-newest-graduates-ready-to-shape-the-future/>

26 August 2018. Highlighted in "USF Health Neuroscience Institute highlighted during Congressman's visit." USF Health News. <https://hscweb3.hsc.usf.edu/blog/2018/08/26/usf-health-neuroscience-institute-highlighted-during-congressmans-visit/>

21 December 2018. Research highlighted in "Year in Review: Key USF Health stories in 2017." USF Health News. <https://hscweb3.hsc.usf.edu/blog/2017/12/21/year-review-key-usf-health-stories-2017/>

14 October 2017. Interviewed for "USF neuroscientist probes how different states of tau drive brain cell damage." USF Health News. <https://hscweb3.hsc.usf.edu/blog/2017/10/14/usf-neuroscientist-probes-different-states-tau-may-drive-brain-cell-damage/>

25 Aug 2017. Interviewed by Gwenyth Dickey Zakaib for "Aha! Co-Conspirator Caught Misfolding." AlzForum. <http://www.alzforum.org/news/research-news/aha-co-conspirator-caught-misfolding>

21 Aug 2017. Research Featured in "AHA1 INHIBITION REDUCES TAU ACCUMULATION." BioCentury. <https://www.biocentury.com/bc-extra/preclinical-news/2017-08-21/aha1-inhibition-reduces-tau-accumulation>

30 June 2017. Research Featured in "This New Alzheimer's Discovery Could Be The Key To Future Treatments." Forbes. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/daviddisalvo/2017/06/30/researchers-may-have-just-found-the-key-to-future-alzheimers-treatments/#1738fd196d95>

28 June 2017. Contributed to "Human enzyme may be key to unraveling Alzheimer's disease." Medical News Today. <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/318138.php>

27 June 2017. Interview by Roni Dengler. "This human protein may unfurl toxic tangles in Alzheimer's disease." PBS NewsHour. <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/rundown/human-protein-may-unfurl-toxic-tangles-alzheimers-disease/>

27 June 2017. Interviewed for "Human enzyme can reduce neurotoxic amyloids in a mouse model of dementia." ScienceDaily. [www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/06/170627142846.htm](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/06/170627142846.htm)

27 June 2017. Contributed to "A human enzyme can reduce neurotoxic amyloids in a mouse model of dementia." EurekaAlert. [https://www.eurekaalert.org/pub\\_releases/2017-06/p-ah062017.php](https://www.eurekaalert.org/pub_releases/2017-06/p-ah062017.php)

27 June 2017. Interviewed for "A human enzyme can reduce neurotoxic amyloids in mouse model of dementia." USF Health News. <https://hscweb3.hsc.usf.edu/blog/2017/06/27/human-enzyme-can-reduce-neurotoxic-amyloids-mouse-model-dementia/>

27 June 2017. Research Featured in "Enzyme unravels Alzheimer's protein in mice." Alzheimer's Research UK. <http://www.alzheimersresearchuk.org/enzyme-unravels-alzheimers-protein-mice/>

11 April 2017. Highlights from a round table discussion with Representative Kathy Castor. "Castor Protests NIH Funding Cuts." WUSF Health News Florida. <http://health.wusf.usf.edu/post/castor-protests-nih-funding-cuts#stream/0>

10 April 2017. Highlights from a round table discussion with Representative Kathy Castor. "U.S. Rep. Kathy Castor meets with USF Health Researchers to discuss importance of NIH-Funded research." USF Health News. <https://hscweb3.hsc.usf.edu/blog/2017/04/10/u-s-rep-kathy-castor-meets-usf-health-researchers-discuss-importance-nih-funded-research/>

10 September 2013. Research Featured in "Chaperone 'Saves' Tau, Turning it into Toxic Oligomers." AlzForum. <https://www.alzforum.org/news/research-news/chaperone-saves-tau-turning-it-toxic-oligomers>

4 September 2013. Research Featured in "Stress-related protein speeds progression of Alzheimer's disease." ScienceDaily. <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2013/09/130904094112.htm>

3 September 2013. Research Featured in "Stress-related protein speeds progression of Alzheimer's disease." USF Health News <https://hscweb3.hsc.usf.edu/blog/2013/09/03/stress-related-protein-speeds-progression-of-alzheimers-disease-video/>

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22 February 2013. Poster Presentation award mentioned in, "USF Health Research Day 2013: Emerging Scientists and Top-Tier Research." USF Health News. <https://hscweb3.hsc.usf.edu/blog/2013/02/22/usf-health-research-day-2013-emerging-scientists-and-top-tier-research/>

8 December 2010. Research Featured in "Dynamics of chaperone protein critical in rescuing brains of Alzheimer's mice from neuron damage." ScienceDaily. <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/12/101203091449.htm>

### **Outreach Activities**

February 24, 2026 Panelist for Florida MedConnect USF Research Panel. Tampa, FL.  
August 14, 2025 Invited Session Chair for 1st SouthEast Amyloid-CONDensate (SEACON) Symposium, Heterotypic Amyloids in Neurodegenerative Co-Pathologies. Ocean Springs, MS.  
August 1, 2025 Co-presented "Pre-Doctoral Fellowship Bootcamp" organized by the USF Medical Sciences PhD Program, Tampa, FL.  
April 29, 2025 Provided lab tours for "An Evening with the USF Health Byrd Alzheimer's Center and Research Institute", Tampa, FL  
March 26, 2025 Co-presented "Applying for Grants: How to Sell Your Science" in the USF MCOM Career Development Workshop Series, Tampa, FL.  
October 6, 2024 Invited Session Chair for the Society for Neuroscience, NANO10, Tauopathies and Other Neurodegenerative Disorders: New Insights and Mechanisms, Chicago, IL.  
October 6, 2024 Social Co-Chair for the Society for Neuroscience-Sponsored Social - Alzheimer's and Related Dementias, Chicago, IL.  
May 15, 2024 How to get involved in VA Research Discussion Panelist, VA Research Day, Tampa, FL  
November 16, 2023 Great American Teach-in Winthrop Charter School, Brandon, FL  
October 30, 2023 Invited Session Chair for 12th International Symposium on Heat Shock Proteins in Biology, Medicine and the Environment. Session 5 Chaperone Networks, Co-chaperones in the Stress Response and as Targets for Therapy. Old Town Alexandria, VA.  
October 11, 2023 Invited Session Chair for Southeastern Neurodegenerative Disease Conference, Session 3: Lightning Presentations. Atlanta, GA.  
November 17, 2022 Great American Teach-in Winthrop Charter School, Brandon, FL.  
May 5, 2022 BrightFocus Alzheimer's Disease Panelist and Moderator, Cypress Cove, Ft. Myers, FL.  
November 18, 2021 Great American Teach-in Winthrop Charter School, Brandon, FL.  
November 4, 2021 Virtual Field Trip for 4<sup>th</sup> graders from Saint Paul's - Clearwater's Independent School to USF Health MCOM, Tampa FL.  
April 30, 2020 Impact of COVID-19 on Basic Science: Wet Lab and Animal Work. Alzheimer's Association Awardees Discussion Panelist. Alzheimer's Association. Webinar.  
November 21, 2019 Great American Teach-in Winthrop Charter School, Brandon, FL.  
October 23, 2019 Invited Session Chair for the Society for Neuroscience, Session 631, Cellular Mechanisms of Tauopathies, Chicago, IL.  
October 22, 2019 Social Co-Chair for the Society for Neuroscience-Sponsored Social - Alzheimer's and Related Dementias, Chicago, IL.  
February 5, 2019 CMMB Spring Faculty Research Showcase Panelist, USF, Tampa FL.  
November 7, 2018 Invited Session Chair for the Society for Neuroscience, Session 714, Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementias: Tau: Experimental Models, San Diego, CA.  
November 6, 2018 Social Chair for the Society for Neuroscience-Sponsored Social-Alzheimer's and Related Dementias, San Diego, CA.  
July 22, 2018 Invited Session Chair for Alzheimer's Association International Conference, Session 01-06, Molecular and cell Biology: Pathophysiology of Tau, Chicago, IL.  
March 9, 2018 J. W. Mitchell Field Trip to USF Health MCOM, Tampa FL.  
January 20, 2018 Winthrop Charter School Science Fair Judge, Brandon, FL .  
November 16, 2017 Great American Teach-in Winthrop Charter School, Brandon, FL.  
November 19, 2015 Great American Teach-in Winthrop Charter School, Brandon, FL.

**Committee Service**

2026-Present Team Lead, Tampa VA Research Week Planning Workgroup  
 2025-Present USF Advanced Research Core for Mass Spectrometry (ARC-MS) Oversight Committee  
 2025 Team Lead, Tampa VA Research Week Planning Workgroup  
 2024-2025 Member, Summer Tampa Research Immersion Program (Summer TRIP) Executive Committee  
 2024-2025 Chair, Summer Tampa Research Immersion Program (Summer TRIP) Mentorship Committee, JAHVH  
 2024-2025 Member, USF Health Institutes and Centers Review Committee  
 2024-Present Member, Structural Biology Faculty Search Committee  
 2024 Member, Tampa VA Research Week Planning Workgroup  
 2023-Present Member, Research Mentoring Program Workgroup, JAHVH  
 2023-Present Chair, Research Service Awards Committee, JAHVH  
 2023 Co-organizer, Southeastern Neurodegeneration Conference 2023  
 2022-Present Member, Research and Development Committee (RDC), JAHVH  
 2022-2023 Member, Inquiry Committee  
 2021-2025 Member, NSI Faculty Search Committee  
 2021-Present Member, S10 Local Advisory Committee  
 2020-Present Interviewer, USF Health MD/PhD Program  
 2020-2024 Co-Organizer, NSI Special Seminar Series  
 2020-2021 Member, Morsani College of Medicine Committee on Research (COMCOR)  
 2019-Present Member, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), University of South Florida and JAHVH  
 2018-2023 USF Representative, SENDCon Promotion Committee  
 2018-2024 Interviewer, USF Health Biomedical Sciences PhD Program  
 2017-2019 Member, USF Health Molecular Medicine Faculty Recruitment Committee

**Review Committees**

## Grant Review:

2026 External Grant Reviewer; European Research Council, ERC Starting Grant  
 2026 External Advisory Committee Member for NIH/CMND Study Section (Spring)  
 2026 External Advisory Committee Member for NIH Special Emphasis Grant Review Panel ZRG1 MBBC - Q (80) (Rescheduled Fall)  
 2026 External Grant Reviewer; Alzheimer's Association  
 2025 External Grant Reviewer; Edson New Idea Grant  
 2025 External Grant Reviewer; Emory ADRC Developmental Projects  
 2025 External Grant Reviewer; Alzheimer's Association and NACC New Investigators Awards Program (NIAP)  
 2024 External Advisory Committee Member for NIH/CMND Study Section (Fall)  
 2024 External Grant Reviewer; Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)  
 2024 External Grant Reviewer; Edson New Idea Grant  
 2024 External Grant Reviewer; Alzheimer's Association and NACC New Investigators Awards Program (NIAP)  
 2024 External Grant Reviewer; UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)  
 2024 NIH Special Emphasis Grant Review Panel  
 2024 External Grant Reviewer; Rainwater Charitable Foundation  
 2024 External Grant Reviewer; Alzheimer's Association  
 2023 External Grant Reviewer; Alzheimer's Association  
 2022-2023 Standing member for NIH/DMPB Study Section (2022-2023)  
 2022 External Grant Reviewer; Alzheimer Forschung Initiative (AFI) e.V.  
 2022 NIH NIA Special Emphasis Grant Review Panel  
 2022 External Grant Reviewer; 1Florida ADRC

- 2022 Alzheimer's Association Research Grant Review Committee
- 2021 External Grant Reviewer; Alzheimer's Society
- 2021 External Grant Reviewer; Alzheimer's Research UK
- 2021 External Grant Reviewer; Edward N. & Della L. Thome Memorial Foundation
- 2021 External Grant Reviewer; Wellcome Trust/DBT India Alliance
- 2021 Alzheimer's Association Research Grant Review Committee
- 2021 External Grant Reviewer; Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC)
- 2020 External Grant Reviewer; Wellcome Trust/DBT India Alliance
- 2020 External Grant Reviewer; National Science Centre (NCN); Review Panel NZ5
- 2020 External Grant Reviewer; National Science Centre (NCN); Review Panel NZ7
- 2020 External Grant Reviewer; Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC)
- 2019 External Grant Reviewer; Alzheimer's Research UK
- 2019 External Grant Reviewer; National Science Centre (NCN); Review Panel NZ5
- 2019 External Grant Reviewer; Medical Research Council (MRC)
- 2019-  
2022 Standing member for NIH/DDNS Study Section (2019-2022)
- 2019 External Grant Reviewer; Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)
- 2019 External Advisory Committee Member for NIH/DDNS Study Section (Summer)
- 2019 External Advisory Committee Member for NIH/DDNS Study Section (Spring)
- 2019 External Grant Reviewer; Alzheimer's Association
- 2018 External Advisory Committee Member for NIH/DDNS Study Section (Summer)
- 2018 External Advisory Committee Member for NIH/DDNS Study Section (Spring)
- 2018 External Advisory Committee Member for NIH/ZRG1-MDCN-C-58 Study Section (Spring)
- 2018 External Grant Reviewer; Alzheimer's Society United Against Dementia
- 2018 External Grant Reviewer; Alzheimer's Association
- 2018 External Grant Reviewer; The Royal Society
- 2017 External Grant Reviewer; Alzheimer's Research UK
- 2017 USF Health Internal Grant Review

#### Award and Scholarship Review:

- 2026 Judge, USF Health Department of Molecular Medicine Retreat Poster Awards
- 2026 Judge, VA Research Week Poster Awards
- 2026 Judge, USF Health Research Day Poster Awards
- 2025 Judge, VA Research Week Poster Awards
- 2025 Judge, USF Health Research Day Poster Awards
- 2024 Judge, VA Research Week Poster Awards
- 2024 Judge, USF Health Research Day Poster Awards
- 2023 Judge, 2<sup>nd</sup> International Symposium on The Chaperone Code Graduate Student Presentation Awards
- 2023 Judge, VA Research Week Poster Awards
- 2023 Judge, USF Health Research Day Poster Awards
- 2022 Judge, USF Health Research Day Poster Awards
- 2021 Judge, USF Health Department of Molecular Medicine Retreat Poster Awards
- 2021 Judge, USF Health Research Day Poster Awards
- 2020 Judge, USF Health Research Day Poster Awards
- 2019-Present Chair, Edith Wright Hartley Ph.D. Grad Scholarship Committee
- 2019 Member, Chih Foundation Research and Publication Award Committee
- 2019 Judge, USF Health Molecule Medicine Retreat Poster Awards
- 2017 Judge, USF Health Research Day Poster Awards

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Editorial Boards:

- 2023-Present Senior Editor – Cell Stress and Chaperones
- 2023-Present Handling Editor – Journal of Neurochemistry
- 2022-2023 Associate Editor – Frontiers in Molecular Biosciences - Protein Folding, Misfolding and Degradation
- 2022-2023 Review Editor – Frontiers in Dementia – Cellular and Molecular Mechanism of Dementia

Manuscript Review:

- Acta Neuropathologica
- Acta Neuropathologica Communications
- ACS Central Science
- ACS Chem Biol
- ACS Chemical Neuroscience
- Aging Cell
- Aging Research Reviews
- Alzheimer's & Dementia
- Alzheimer's Research & Therapy
- Apoptosis
- Biochemical Journal
- Biochemical Society Transactions
- Biological Psychiatry
- Biological Psychiatry
- Biomolecular Concepts
- Biomolecules
- Biophysical Journal
- Biomedicine & Pharmacotherapy
- BMC Biology
- Brain Communications
- Brain Research
- Brain Sciences
- British Journal of Pharmacology
- Cell Research
- Cell Stress and Chaperones
- Cellular and Molecular Life Sciences
- Current Opinion on Structural Biology
- EbioMedicine
- European Journal of Neuroscience
- Expert Opinion on Therapeutic Targets
- FEBS Letters
- Fluids and Barriers of the CNS
- Frontiers in Aging Neuroscience
- Frontiers in Genetics
- Frontiers in Molecular Biosciences
- Frontiers in Neuroscience
- Frontiers in Pharmacology
- International Journal of Biological Macromolecules
- International Journal of Molecular Sciences
- Journal of Affective Disorders
- Journal of Alzheimer's Disease
- Journal of Biological Inorganic Chemistry
- Journal of Cellular Biochemistry
- Journal of Neuroscience
- Journal of Neurochemistry
- Journal of Ophthalmology
- Journal of Psychiatric Research
- Journal of Psychiatry and Neuroscience
- Molecular Cell
- Molecular Psychiatry
- Nature Communications
- Neural Regeneration Research
- Neurobiology of Aging
- Neurobiology of Stress
- Neuropharmacology
- npj Drug Discovery
- PLoS One
- PLoS Pathogens
- Progress in Neurobiology
- Scientific Reports
- World Journal of Biological Psychiatry

**Professional Memberships**

- 2025-Present Silver Member, AAAS
- 2023-Present Member, Cell Stress Society International
- 2023-Present Member, International Society for Neurochemistry
- 2022-Present Member, USF Academy of Inventors
- 2016-Present Member, Society for Neuroscience
- 2017-Present Member, ISTAART
- 2015 Postdoc Member, Society for Neuroscience.
- 2013 Student Member, ISTAART
- 2009-2014 Student Member, Society for Neuroscience

**Honors and Awards**

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2026 Senior Member, National Academy of Inventors  
2025 Fellow, Cell Stress Society International  
2025 USF Robert J Grasso Award for Outstanding Graduate-Level Education  
2025 Impact Award, JAHVH  
2024 Outstanding Performance Rating: Office of Veterans Affairs  
2024 Outstanding Research Achievement Award, USF Research & Innovation  
2023 Douglas Scholar, Harrington Brain Health Medicines Center  
2023 Outstanding Performance Rating: Office of Veterans Affairs  
2021 Outstanding Performance Rating: Office of Veterans Affairs  
2019 USF Certificate of Appreciation from the Student Council of the CMMB Department  
2017 Alzheimer's Association International Conference Travel Fellowship  
2014 Best Poster Award: USF Molecular Medicine Retreat  
2013 Alzheimer's Association International Conference Travel Fellowship  
2013 American Society for Neural Therapy and Repair Travel Fellowship  
2013 Best Poster Award: Phelps Travel Scholarship at USF Health Research Day  
2012 Outstanding Poster Award and Scholarship for University of South Florida Neuroscience Research Symposium  
2009 Student Government Travel Award  
2009 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Award and Scholarship for poster at the University of South Florida Undergraduate Research Symposium

### **Other**

2019-2020 Consultant, Alkermes

### **Teaching**

#### **First-Year Medical Student Lectures:**

2017- Present BMS6818 "Cancer Biology" 2 hours of lecture/year on Protein Targeting and Protein Turnover  
2024-Present BMS6641 "Neurological System" 2 hours of lecture/year on Corticolimbic Systems and Higher Order Functions

#### **Graduate Medical Sciences:**

2022-2024 GMS6942 "Lab Rotations in Biomedical Sciences" Supervised directed research conducted by students in my laboratory  
2020 GMS6942 "Lab Rotations in Biomedical Sciences" Supervised directed research conducted by students in my laboratory  
2019 – Present GMS6706 "Basic Medical Neurosciences" 4.5 hours of lecture/year on Neuronal Communication and Neurochemical circuitry; Translational Neuroscience: Mood disorders and Schizophrenia; Corticolimbic Systems and Higher Order Functions  
2019 – Present GMS6604 "Human Structure and Function" 2 hours of lecture/year on Neurodegeneration and Proteinopathies/Neural diseases  
2018 – Present GMS6001 "Foundation in Biomedical Science" 4 hours of lecture/year on Neurotransmission and Neurodegeneration with an article discussion  
2018 – Present GMS7930 "Advanced Neuroscience" 2 hours of lecture/year on CNS diseases and Chaperones  
2018 GMS6942 "Lab Rotations in Biomedical Sciences" Supervised directed research conducted by students in my laboratory  
2017 – Present GMS7910 "Directed Research" Supervised directed research by the students listed below.  
2017 – Present GMS7980 "Doctoral Dissertation" Supervised dissertation research conducted by the students listed below.

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2017 – 2023 BCH6727 “Molecular Basis of Disease” 6 hours of lecture/year on Neurodegenerative diseases  
2017 – 2018 GMS7930 “Principles of Molecular Medicine” 2 hours of lecture/year on Neurodegeneration and Proteinopathies/Neural diseases

### **Undergraduate**

2026 BSC 6932 “Omics” – Guest lecture entitled “TurboID Proximity-Based Proteomics of FKBP51 and FKBP52 Interactomes.”  
2021 – 2022 IDH4970 “Honors Thesis” Supervised directed research of honors students to fulfill their thesis requirement  
2021 PCB 4024 “Molecular Biology of the Cell” – Guest lecturer  
2018 – 2019 IDH4970 “Honors Thesis” Supervised directed research of honors students to fulfill their thesis requirement  
2019 IDS4914 “Advanced Undergraduate Research Experience” – supervised undergraduate honors students

### **Mentoring**

#### Faculty and Research Associates

2016-2022 J. Matt Webster, Research Assistant Professor, Department of Molecular Medicine, University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine. *Currently Associate Director of Research, Children’s Cancer Research Group at 1 Voice Foundation.*  
2016-2017 Dali Zheng, Research Associate, Department of Molecular Medicine, University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine. *Currently Professor at Fujian Medical University, Fujian, China.*  
2016-2017 Leonid Breydo, Research Associate, Department of Molecular Medicine, University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine. *Currently Principal Scientist at Regeneron.*

#### Senior Scientists

2024-2026 Oksana Fihurka, Senior Research Scientist, Department of Molecular Medicine, University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine  
2022-2024 Shannon Hill, Senior Research Scientist, Department of Molecular Medicine, University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine, *Currently tenure-track Assistant Professor at the University of South Florida Department of Chemistry*  
2019-2022 Shannon Hill, Scientific Researcher, Department of Molecular Medicine, University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine

#### Postdoctoral Fellows

2024-2026 Ahmed Ramadan, Postdoctoral Scholar, Department of Molecular Medicine, University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine  
2023-2026 Andrea Del Pilar Contreras Marciales, Postdoctoral Scholar, Department of Molecular Medicine, University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine  
2016-2021 Marangelie Criado-Marrero, Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Molecular Medicine, University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine, *Currently Research Assistant Professor at the University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.*  
2018 Mai Mohamed, Postdoctoral Scholar, Department of Molecular Medicine, University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine

#### Doctoral Dissertations Directed

2025-Present Brianna Ariza, Department of Molecular Medicine, University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine  
2024-Present Baliqis Olukade, Department of Molecular Medicine, University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine

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2021-2025	Abigail Esquivel, Department of Molecular Medicine, University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine
2020-2024	Niat Gebru, Department of Molecular Medicine, University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine
2018-2022	Santiago Rodriguez Ospina, Department of Molecular Medicine, University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine, <i>Currently Faculty at Keiser University and Founder and CEO of VisionSlice LLC.</i>
2016-2018	Jeremy Baker, Department of Molecular Medicine, University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine, <i>Senior Postdoctoral Fellow in the lab of Brian Kraemer, University of Washington; Deceased March 2022.</i>
2016-2018	Lindsey Shelton (Kirkland), Department of Molecular Medicine, University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine; <i>Currently a Senior Clinical Publications Lead at Genentech.</i>

#### Doctoral Dissertation Committees

2025-Present	Sunam Banjade, Department of Chemistry, University of South Florida, College of Arts and Sciences
2025-Present	Alejandra Juan Palencia, Department of Molecular Pharmacology and Physiology, University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine
2025-Present	Samantha Chaney, Department of Molecular Pharmacology and Physiology, University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine
2024-Present	Elizabeth Sanchez Nelson, Department of Molecular Medicine, University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine
2024-Present	Claire Blanchard, Department of Molecular Biosciences, University of South Florida, College of Arts and Sciences
2023-Present	Alex Leake, Department of Molecular Medicine, University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine
2023-Present	Austin Fajfer, Department of Molecular Medicine, University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine
2023-Present	Marsilla Gray, Department of Molecular Pharmacology and Physiology, University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine
2023-2026	Natasha Ram, MD/PhD student, Department of Molecular Medicine, University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine
2022-Present	Marilyn Ikhane, Department of Molecular Medicine, University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine
2022-2025	Danielle Blazier, Department of Molecular Medicine, University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine
2021-2023	Minkyung Kang, Department of Molecular Pharmacology and Physiology, University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine
2020-2025	Jenet Matlack, Moffitt Cancer Center and Department of Molecular Medicine, University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine
2020-2025	Monica Moore, MD/PhD student, Department of Molecular Pharmacology and Physiology, University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine
2019-2022	Melissa Bikowitz, Department of Molecular Medicine, University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine
2019-2023	Sara Cazzaro, Department of Molecular Medicine, University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine
2019-2022	Ahmed Ramadan, Department of Molecular Medicine, University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine
2018-2020	Jeremy Barton, Department of Physics, University of South Florida, College of Arts and Sciences
2017-2020	Meena Subbarayan, Department of Neurosurgery and Brain Repair, University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine

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2016-2020 Nicole Avalon, Department of Chemistry, University of South Florida, College of Arts and Sciences  
2018-2019 Andrea Lemus (Committee Chair and Defense Chair), Department of Chemistry, University of South Florida, College of Arts and Sciences  
2017-2019 April Darling, Department of Molecular Medicine, University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine

Visiting Scholars  
2023

Kevin Catalano, Department of Biochemistry, University of Notre Dame

PhD Comprehensive Qualifying Exam Outside Chair

January 14, 2026 Evan-Angelo Butlig, "Pneumonia-elicited Tau Causes Dysfunction in Human Hippocampal Organoids" Department of Molecular Pharmacology and Physiology, University of South Florida  
November 30, 2023 John Faulkner, "Roles of microglial heparan sulfate in brain homeostasis and Alzheimer's disease," Department of Molecular Pharmacology and Physiology, University of South Florida

Doctoral Dissertation Defense Outside Chair

August 20, 2019 Chamani Niyangoda, "Amyloid Protein Aggregation and Associated Toxicity," Department of Physics, University of South Florida

Master's Thesis Supervised

2022-2023 Emma Tumarkin, "Autophagy and Insulin Signaling Markers in rTgFKBP5 Transgenic Mice". University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine  
2021-2023 Luis Flores Lopez, "Overexpression of FK506-binding protein 51 in combination with external stressors contributes to the desynchronization of circadian rhythmicity" University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine  
2020-2022 Daniel Paolillo, "The In Vitro Role of Human Cyclophilins in Regulating Tau Accumulation" University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine  
2018-2020 Taylor Sanders, University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine  
2017-2018 Sheldon Lord, "Rescuing of  $\Delta F508$ -CFTR trafficking through small molecule inhibition of Aha1." University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine  
2017 Ricardo Cordova, "Models and Therapeutic Strategies for Open Angle Glaucoma." University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine  
2016-2017 Khalid Muhammad, "Molecular cloning and heterologous protein expression of BDNF and GDNF." University of South Florida College of Public Health

Undergraduate Honors Thesis Supervised

2021-2022 Miguel Gomez  
2018-2019 Andrew Falkowitz

Undergraduate Honors Thesis Committee

2020 Lukas Oliveira Coelho  
2016-2017 John Blizzard  
2014-2015 Wei Lue Tong  
2013-2014 Haley Frauen

Undergraduate Research Advisor for over 65 students over the past 10 years.

**Awards of staff, students, and postdoctoral trainees**

Brianna Ariza

6/1/26

- Outstanding Oral Presentation, JAHVH Research Week Lightning Round, 2026

Ahmed Ramadan

- Alzheimer's Association Research Fellowship (AARF), Award # 25AARF-1412498

Baliqis Olukade

- Best in Neuroscience Poster Award, USF Health Department of Molecular Medicine Retreat, 2026
- Krzanowski Career Development Award Fall, 2025
- Jackson Laboratory - Short Course on the Application of Machine Learning for Automated Quantification of Behavior Scholarship, 2025
- Krzanowski Career Development Award Spring, 2025

Laura Verdina

- Outstanding Poster Award, JAHVH Research Day 2024

Abigail Esquivel

- Chih Foundation Research and Publication Award, 2024
- Edith Wright Hartley PhD Scholarship, 2023
- Dorothy Benjamin Graduate Fellowship in Alzheimer's Disease, 2023 - 2024
- NIH/NIA F31 Ruth L. Kirschstein Predoctoral Individual National Research Service Award # 1F31 AG082505, 2023 - 2026
- SENDCon Alzheimer's Association Travel Fellowship, 2022
- Krzanowski Career Development Award Summer, 2022

Niat Gebru

- 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference of the American Society for Neural Therapy & Repair Travel Award, 2024
- Krzanowski Career Development Award Spring, 2024
- Oral Presenter Award, USF Health Research Day, 2024
- Chih Foundation Research and Publication Award, 2023
- SENDCon Alzheimer's Association Travel Fellowship, 2023
- Pfizer's Pharmaceutical Careers and Postdoctoral Opportunities Educational Event Travel Award, 2023
- AMSGS Involvement Award, 2023
- Dr. Christopher P. Phelps Memorial Fund Annual Morsani College of Medicine Neuroscience Student Travel Award, 2023
- Krzanowski Career Development Award Fall, 2022
- Dorothy Benjamin Graduate Fellowship in Alzheimer's Disease, 2022 - 2023
- Krzanowski Career Development Award Summer, 2022
- Best Neuroscience Poster, USF Health Research Day, 2021

Santiago Rodriguez Ospina

- 28th Annual Conference of the American Society for Neural Therapy & Repair Travel Award, 2021
- Dorothy Benjamin Graduate Fellowship in Alzheimer's Disease, 2020

Marangelie Criado-Marrero

- Alzheimer's Association Research Fellowship to Promote Diversity (AARF-D), Award # 2019-AARFD-644407
- Latin American Training Program (LATP), 2019-2020
- USF Postdoctoral Travel Award, selected by the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs to attend National Postdoctoral Association Annual Conference, 2019
- First Place Oral Presentation Award, USF Postdoctoral Research Symposium, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL 2019
- Society for Neuroscience Trainee Professional Development Award, 2018
- International Behavioral Neurosciences Society Postdoctoral Travel Award, Japan, 2017
- Neuroscience Scholars Program (NSP), Society for Neuroscience Training program, 2017

David Beaulieu-Abdelahad

- USF Outstanding Staff Award, 2019

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Jeremy Baker

- Chih Foundation Research and Publication Award, 2018
- Alzheimer's Association International Conference Travel Fellowship, 2018
- Association of Medical Sciences Graduate Students Travel Award, 2018
- USF Health Vice President's Award for Outstanding Invited Oral Presentation, 2018
- Cold Spring Harbor Travel Stipend, 2018
- Dr. Christopher P. Phelps Memorial Fund Annual Morsani College of Medicine Neuroscience Student Travel Award, 2017
- University of South Florida Office of Graduate Studies Travel Grant 2017

Lindsey Shelton

- American Society for Neural Therapy and Repair Travel Fellowship, 2018
- USF Health Office of Research Student Travel Award, 2017
- USF Health American Medical Sciences Graduate Students Travel Award, 2017

Amirthaa Suntharalingam

- Outstanding Undergraduate Poster Presentation, Neurosciences USF Health Research Day, 2017