

Harvard Medical School Curriculum Vitae

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Name: Daniel Gerard Dillon

Office Address: 244 de Marneffe Building
Center for Depression, Anxiety and Stress Research
McLean Hospital
115 Mill Street
Belmont, MA 02478


Home Address: 18 Hamilton Road, #401
Arlington, MA 02474

Work Phone: 617-855-4233

Work Email: ddillon@mclean.harvard.edu
dgdillon@partners.org

Work FAX: 617-855-4231

Place of Birth: East Orange, New Jersey

Signature: 

Education

1997	B.S.	Biology, Psychology	Duke University
2004	A.M.	Psychological & Brain Sciences	Duke University
2006	Ph.D.	Psychology & Neuroscience (<u>Advisor:</u> Kevin S. LaBar, Ph.D.)	Duke University

Postdoctoral Training

09/06-06/10	Post-doctoral Fellow	Affective Neuroscience (<u>PI:</u> Diego A. Pizzagalli, Ph.D.)	Department of Psychology, Harvard University
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Faculty Academic Appointments

07/10 – 03/14	Instructor	Psychiatry	Harvard Medical School
04/14 – present	Assistant Professor	Psychiatry	Harvard Medical School

Appointments at Hospitals/Affiliated Institutions

07/10 – 03/14	Assistant Neuroscientist	Research (Center for Depression, Anxiety and Stress Research)	McLean Hospital
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04/14 – present	Associate Neuroscientist	Research (Center for Depression, Anxiety and Stress Research)	McLean Hospital
04/14 – present	Director, Motivated Learning & Memory Laboratory	Research (Center for Depression, Anxiety and Stress Research)	McLean Hospital

Other Professional Positions

1997-1998	Teaching Assistant	Duke University, Biology Department
1998-1999	Research Assistant	Duke University, Center for Human Genetics
1999-2001	Researcher	Harvard University Graduate School of Education, Project Zero
2001-2006	Graduate Research and Teaching Assistant	Duke University

Committee Service

Local

2003-2005	Carnegie Initiative on the Doctorate	Duke University Leadership team member
2005	Graduate Student Recruitment Conference	Duke University Poster session committee member
2015-present	CDSAR Speaker Series	McLean Hospital/Harvard Medical School Series organizer (with Dr. Isabelle Rosso and Dr. Randy Auerbach)
2016-present	Research Administration Advisory Committee	McLean Hospital/Harvard Medical School Faculty member

Professional Societies

2017-present	Association for Psychological Science	Faculty member
2013-present	Society of Biological Psychiatry	Regular member
2003-present	Cognitive Neuroscience Society	
	2003-2006	Student member
	2008-2010	Post-doctoral member
	2011-present	Faculty member
2002-present	Society for Neuroscience	
	2002-2005	Student member

	2007-2009	Post-doctoral member
	2014-	Faculty member
2004-2006	American Psychological Association	Student affiliate

Grant Review Activities

2013, 2016,	NIH Centers of Biomedical Research	<i>Ad hoc</i> Member
2017	Excellence (COBRE) [P20] Study Section	

Editorial Activities

Ad hoc reviewer

Acta Psychologica
Archives of General Psychiatry
American Journal of Psychiatry
Biological Psychology
BMC Psychiatry
Brain Research
Cerebral Cortex
Clinical EEG and Neuroscience
Cognition
Cognition & Emotion
Cognitive, Affective, & Behavioral Neuroscience
Cognitive Electrodynamics
Depression & Anxiety
Emotion
Experimental Brain Research
International Journal of Neuropsychopharmacology
International Journal of Psychophysiology
JAMA Psychiatry
Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry
Journal of Experimental Psychology: General
Journal of Psychiatric Research
Journal of Social and Clinical Psychology
Motivation & Emotion
Neuroimage
Neuroimage: Clinical
Neuropsychologia
Neuroscience & Biobehavioral Reviews
Neuroscience Letters
Psychological Medicine
Psychological Science
Psychonomic Bulletin & Review
Psychophysiology
Schizophrenia Research
Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience
Sensors
Theory & Psychology

Other Editorial Roles

2006	<i>Ad hoc</i> reviewer	R. Cabeza & A. Kingstone (Eds.). (2006). <i>Handbook of Functional Neuroimaging of Cognition</i> (2 nd Ed.). Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press
2013 - 2015	Consulting Editor	<i>Emotion</i>
2015 -	Editorial Board Member	<i>Neuroscience and Biobehavioral Reviews</i>

Honors and Prizes

1994-1996	Dean's List	Duke University	Scholarship
1995, 1997	Dean's List with Distinction	Duke University	Scholarship
2001-2005	James B. Duke Graduate Fellowship	Duke University	Research/Scholarship
2002	Honorable Mention (Graduate Research Fellowship)	National Science Foundation	Research
2002	Fellowship (Summer Institute in Cognitive Neuroscience)	National Institute of Mental Health	Research
2003	Travel Fellowship (Attendance at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Neuroscience)	Duke University	Research
2004	Travel Fellowship (Conference on Biological Basis of Personality & Individual Differences)	National Institute of Mental Health	Research
2004	Dissertation Research Award	American Psychological Association	Research
2007	HealthEmotions Research Institute Symposium Fellow	University of Wisconsin	Research
2009	Post-doctoral Travel Grant (Attendance at the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Neuroscience Society)	Harvard University	Research

Report of Funded and Unfunded Projects

Funding Information

Past

- 2008-2010 *Emotion Regulation in Depression: Neural Bases of Reappraisal*
NIH/NIMH Ruth L. Kirchstein Individual Post-doctoral National Research Service Award (NRSA) (5F32MH081394-02)
Total Direct Costs: \$88,361
Role: Principal Investigator
Faculty Sponsor: Diego A. Pizzagalli, Ph.D.
Faculty Co-sponsor: Randy L. Buckner, Ph.D.
Goals: This multi-modal (behavior, fMRI, ERP) project examined the neurocognitive mechanisms implicated in emotion regulation failures in major depressive disorder.
- 2009-2012 *Toward a Functional Dissection of Anhedonia in Major Depression: Dissociating Decision-Making Deficits from Reward Insensitivity*
NARSAD Young Investigator Award
Total Direct Costs: \$59,530
Role: Principal Investigator
Faculty Sponsor: Diego A. Pizzagalli, Ph.D.
Goals: This combined behavioral/fMRI study investigated the negative effects of depression on episodic memory for stimuli paired with rewarding outcomes.
- 2012-2014 *Neuroscience of Reward-Related Learning and Memory in Depression*
NIH/NIMH Pathway to Independence Award (K99) (1K99MH094438-01A1)
Total Direct Costs: \$167,962
Role: Principal Investigator
Faculty Sponsor: Diego A. Pizzagalli, Ph.D.
Faculty Co-Sponsor: Michael J. Frank, Ph.D.
Goals: This project combined computational modeling, fMRI, and behavioral measures to investigate neurocognitive mechanisms that support reward-driven reinforcement learning and episodic memory in a community sample.
- 2014-2018 *Neuroscience of Reward-Related Learning and Memory in Depression*
NIH/NIMH Pathway to Independence Award (R00) (4R00MH094438-03)
Total Direct Costs: \$519,440
Role: Principal Investigator
Goals: This project used computational modeling, fMRI, and behavioral measures to study dysfunction in reinforcement learning and episodic memory in depressed adults.

Current

Report of Local Teaching and Training

Teaching of Students in Courses

- | | | |
|-----------|---|---|
| 1997-1998 | <i>Principles of Biology</i>
[Biology 25L]
Undergraduate students | Duke University

2 hours per week for 30 weeks. |
| 2002 | <i>Drugs, Brain, and Behavior</i> | Duke University |

	[Psychology 127] Undergraduate students	1 hour per week for 15 weeks.
2002	<i>Cognitive Psychology</i> [Psychology 92] Undergraduate students	Duke University 2 hours per week for 15 weeks.
2003	<i>Biological Bases of Behavior</i> [Psychology 91] Undergraduate students	Duke University 2 hours per week for 15 weeks.
2004-2005	<i>Teaching and Ethics Workshop</i> Graduate students	Duke University 1 hour a month for 9 months.
2018	<i>Psychology 910r: Supervised Research</i> Undergraduate students	Harvard University 1 hour a week for 15 weeks.

Laboratory and Other Research Supervisory and Training Responsibilities

2002-2003	Mentored undergraduate in cognitive neuroscience research/Duke University	Multiple weekly meetings for 9 months
2005-2006	Mentored undergraduate in cognitive neuroscience research/Duke University	Multiple weekly meetings for 5 months
2008-2009	Mentored undergraduate in cognitive neuroscience research/Harvard University	Weekly mentorship for 9 months
2009	Mentored visiting graduate student in neuroscience research/Harvard University	Daily mentorship for 3 months
2010-2011	Instructor, seminar on functional magnetic resonance imaging/Harvard University, Department of Psychology (2010) & McLean Hospital, Center for Depression, Anxiety and Stress Research (2011)	Developed and delivered six 1-hour seminars during spring semesters
2011	Mentored visiting undergraduate in cognitive neuroscience research/McLean Hospital, Center for Depression, Anxiety and Stress Research	Daily mentorship for 2 months
2012-2013	Mentored two post-baccalaureate research assistants/McLean Hospital, Center for Depression, Anxiety and Stress Research & Harvard University	Approximately bi-weekly meetings for 5 months
2013-2014	Mentored three undergraduate research	Approximately bi-weekly meetings

assistants/McLean Hospital, Center for Depression, Anxiety and Stress Research & Harvard University

2015	Mentored undergraduate student visitor	Weekly meetings for 3 months
2016-	Mentored undergraduate student visitor Mentored Ph.D.-level visiting scientist	Weekly meetings Weekly meetings
2017	Mentored post-doctoral fellow at Annual Meeting of the Society of Biological Psychiatry	One on-site meeting
2017	Committee member for dissertation presented to the Faculty of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences of Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts, by Xuejie Chen (title: <i>From acute stress to long-term health: the role of stress systems habituation and basal activities</i>).	Dissertation committee member
2017-2018	Mentored two undergraduate student visitors	Weekly meetings
2016, 2018	Faculty reviewer for Neurobiology Senior Thesis (Harvard University)	Faculty reviewer
Formally Supervised Trainees		
2005-2006	Brian Johnson, B.A. Undergraduate research under my supervision, co-author on publication #4.	
2009	Oliver Hager, Ph.D. student in Neuroeconomics & Social Neuroscience, Univ. of Zurich Visiting graduate student under my supervision, co-author on poster presentation (Dillon, Hager, & Pizzagalli, 2010).	
2015	Michelle Basta Undergraduate student visitor (Brown University) who worked on an electrophysiological study of source memory retrieval in healthy and depressed adults.	
2017	Hannah Becker Undergraduate student visitor (Washington University in Saint Louis) working on an fMRI study of memory retrieval for rewarded and non-rewarded material in depressed and healthy adults, and an electrophysiological study of memory for emotional material following exposure to an acute stressor (also in healthy and depressed adults).	
2017-2018	Sarah Ryan Externally funded undergraduate researcher (Harvard University) working on an electrophysiological study of recognition and source memory for emotional material	

following exposure to an acute stressor, in healthy and depressed adults. Co-author on poster presentation.

- 2017-2018 Christian Lin
Undergraduate (Harvard University) student visitor working on an electrophysiological study of the effects of stress on recognition and source memory for emotional items in healthy and depressed adults. Co-author on poster presentation.
- 2016-2018 Victoria Lawlor
Undergraduate (Northeastern University) working on application of the hierarchical drift diffusion model (HDDM) to reinforcement learning data in depressed individuals, electrophysiological studies of memory retrieval in healthy and depressed adults, and a study of individual differences in global dopamine concentration. First author on HDDM paper, co-author on multiple poster presentations.
- 2016-2018 Jonathan Kane, Ph.D.
Visiting scientist transitioning out of geophysics and into clinical/quantitative psychology, working on time-frequency analysis of electrophysiological data collected from depressed and healthy adults during performance of a source memory retrieval task. First author on time-frequency EEG paper and poster presentation.
- 2014-2018 Elyssa Barrick
Full-time research assistant who supported fMRI studies of reinforcement learning and episodic memory in healthy and depressed adults, as well as EEG studies of source and recognition memory (pre/post acute stress) in healthy and depressed adults. First author on EEG study of source memory and multiple poster presentations.

Local Invited Presentations

No presentations below were sponsored by outside entities.

- 2009 *Emotion meets cognition: probing reward processing and emotion regulation*/Invited seminar
Center for Sleep and Cognition, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Harvard Medical School (Director: Robert Stickgold, Ph.D.)
- 2010 *Motivation meets cognition: Probing reward processing and emotion regulation in depression*/Colloquium talk
Department of Psychology, Harvard University
- 2010 *Motivation meets cognition: Probing reward processing and emotion regulation in depression*/Lunchtime speaker series
Laboratories of Cognitive Neuroscience, Children's Hospital, Harvard Medical School (Director: Charles Nelson, Ph.D.)
- 2010 *Emotion regulation in depression*/Invited talk
McLean Hospital, Harvard Medical School
- 2011 *Motivation meets cognition: probing reward processing and emotion regulation in*

depression/Student Visitor Seminar Series
McLean Hospital, Harvard Medical School

- 2012 *A functional neuroimaging investigation of explicit memory for rewards in depression*/Invited seminar
Behavioral Genetics Laboratory, McLean Hospital, Harvard Medical School (Director: William Carlezon, Ph.D.)
- 2013 *Remember to look on the bright side: Blunted reward memory in depressed adults*/Invited talk, 2013 McLean Hospital Research Day
McLean Hospital, Harvard Medical School
- 2013 *Depression, anhedonia, and reward-driven learning and memory*/Invited seminar, Neuroscience Work-in-Progress Series
McLean Hospital, Harvard Medical School
- 2014 *Emotional memory in depression*/Invited talk, Affective and Social Neuroscience seminar (Professor: Dr. Christine Hooker)
Department of Psychology, Harvard University
- 2015 *On the nature of episodic memory in depression*/Invited seminar, Neuroscience Work-in-Progress Series
McLean Hospital, Harvard Medical School
- 2015 *A neural mechanism for positive memory deficits in depression*/Student Visitor Seminar Series, McLean Hospital
- 2016 *A trip down memory lane*/Invited seminar, Massachusetts General Hospital Research Assistant Seminar Series
- 2017 *Using drift diffusion modeling to re-think decision-making in the Probabilistic Reward Task (PRT)*/Invited seminar, Neuroscience Work-in-Progress Series
McLean Hospital, Harvard Medical School
- 2017 *Prior feedback modulates memory persistence in healthy and depressed adults*/Invited seminar, OCD Institute, McLean Hospital, Harvard Medical School

Report of Regional, National and International Invited Teaching and Presentations

Invited Presentations and Courses

No presentations below were sponsored by outside entities.

Regional

- 2004 *Conscious regulation of emotions elicited by pictures is sensitive to arousal but not valence*/Conference presentation
Annual Meeting of the North Carolina Cognition Group, Raleigh, NC

- 2009 *The affective neuroscience of reward processing in health and depression: Conceptual foundations and empirical findings*/Colloquium talk
Philosophy & Psychology Departments, Simmons College, Boston, MA
- 2010 *Motivation meets cognition: Probing reward processing and emotion regulation*/Colloquium talk
Department of Psychology, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
- 2012 *A functional neuroimaging investigation of explicit memory for rewards in depression*/Invited seminar
Laboratory for Neural Computation and Cognition
Brown University (Director: Michael Frank, Ph.D.)
- 2013 *Depression, anhedonia, and reward-driven learning and memory*/Invited seminar
Joint meeting of the Lab for Neural Computation and Cognition (Director: Michael Frank, Ph.D.) and the Cognitive Neuroscience of Cognitive Control & Memory Lab (Director: David Badre, Ph.D.)
Brown University
- 2014 *Searching for the silver lining: poor memory for positive material as a foundation for depression research*/Invited seminar
Laboratory for Neural Computation and Cognition
Brown University (Director: Michael Frank, Ph.D.)
- 2014 *Searching for the silver lining: poor memory for positive material as a foundation for depression research*/Invited seminar
Cognitive Neuroscience of Cognitive Control & Memory Lab
Brown University (Director: David Badre, Ph.D.)
- 2015 *Positive reinforcement enhances encoding of upcoming information*/Symposium talk
8th Annual Meeting of the Social & Affective Neuroscience Society (Boston, MA)
- 2015 *On the nature of episodic memory deficits in depression*/Colloquium talk
Yale University, Department of Psychology (New Haven, CT)
- 2015 *Investigating the formation of episodic memories during feedback-driven learning*/Invited seminar
Cognitive Neuroscience of Cognitive Control & Memory Lab
Brown University (Director: David Badre, Ph.D.)
- 2016 *Neuroimaging pitfalls*/Invited seminar
McLean/MGH Adult Residency Program: Lecture to the PGY3s
- 2016 *An ERP study of controlled retrieval in depression*/Invited seminar
Cognitive Neuroscience of Cognitive Control & Memory Lab
Brown University (Director: David Badre, Ph.D.)
- 2016 *The effect of prior feedback on episodic memory in health and depression*/Invited seminar

Laboratory for Neural Computation and Cognition
Brown University (Director: Michael Frank, Ph.D.)

- 2017 *Neuroimaging pitfalls*/Invited seminar
McLean/MGH Adult Residency Program: Lecture to the PGY3s
- 2018 *Neuroimaging*/Invited seminar
McLean/MGH Adult Residency Program: Lecture to the PGY3s
- 2018 *Mechanisms of (positive) memory disruption in depression*/Invited seminar
McLean/MGH Adult Residency Program: Lecture to the PGY2s
- National**
- 2004 *Duke University Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences: Key Ideas*/Conference presentation
Winter Convening of the Carnegie Initiative on the Doctorate, Palo Alto, CA
- 2009 *Motivation meets cognition: probing reward processing and emotion regulation*/Colloquium talk
Department of Psychology, Brooklyn College, Brooklyn, NY
- 2016 *The neuroscience of positive memory deficits in unipolar depression*/Talk in symposium, “The computational neuroscience of disrupted learning and memory in depression”, delivered at the 71st Annual Meeting of the Society of Biological Psychiatry, Atlanta, GA (Role: Symposium chair).
- 2017 *The impact of depression on brain activity during source memory retrieval*/Talk in symposium, “Mapping (and modulating) memory circuitry in depression, anxiety, and psychosis”, delivered at the 72nd Annual Meeting of the Society of Biological Psychiatry, San Diego, CA (Role: Symposium chair).
- 2017 *Prior feedback modulates memory persistence in healthy and depressed adults*/Talk in symposium, “The neurobiology of depression: from genes to behavior, from illness to outcome”, delivered at the 31st Annual Meeting of the Society for Research in Psychopathology, Denver, CO (Role: Symposium chair).
- 2018 *Mechanisms of memory disruption in depression*/Invited talk in the Cognitive Neuroscience Colloquium, Duke University, Durham, NC
- 2018 *EEG and behavioral predictors/moderators of treatment response in major depression: evidence from the EMBARC study*/Talk in symposium, “Multimodal predictors and moderators of treatment response in major depression: first results from the EMBARC study”, delivered at the 2018 Annual Meeting of the American Psychiatric Association, New York, NY
- International**
- 2008 *Action monitoring, reward processing, and attention in depression*/Invited seminar
Department of Experimental and Clinical Health Psychology, Ghent University, Belgium

2013 *Blunted reward source memory in major depressive disorder reflects weak reward responses in the parahippocampus, midbrain, and anterior cingulate cortex at encoding*/Symposium talk
53rd Annual Meeting, Society for Psychophysiological Research, Florence, Italy

Report of Scholarship

Publications

Peer reviewed publications in print or other media

Research investigations

1. Fichtenholtz, H. M., Dean, H. L., **Dillon, D. G.**, Yamasaki, H., McCarthy, G., & LaBar, K. S. (2004). Emotion-attention network interactions during a visual oddball task. *Cogn Brain Res*, 20, 67-80.
2. **Dillon, D. G.**, & LaBar, K. S. (2005). Startle modulation during conscious emotion regulation is arousal-dependent. *Behav Neurosci*, 119, 1118-1124.
3. **Dillon, D. G.**, Cooper, J. J., Grent-t'-Jong, T., Woldorff, M. G., & LaBar, K. S. (2006). Dissociation of event-related potentials indexing arousal and semantic cohesion during emotional word encoding. *Brain Cogn*, 62, 43-57.
4. **Dillon, D. G.**, Ritchey, M., Johnson, B. D., & LaBar, K. S. (2007). Dissociable effects of conscious emotion regulation strategies on explicit and implicit memory. *Emotion*, 7, 354-365.
5. **Dillon, D. G.**, Holmes, A. J., Jahn, A. L., Bogdan, R., Wald, L. L., & Pizzagalli, D. A. (2008). Dissociation of neural regions associated with anticipatory versus consummatory phases of incentive processing. *Psychophysiology*, 45, 36-49.
6. Santesso, D. L., **Dillon, D. G.**, Birk, J. L., Holmes, A. J., Goetz, E., Bogdan, R., & Pizzagalli, D. A. (2008). Individual differences in reinforcement learning: Behavioral, electrophysiological, and neuroimaging correlates. *Neuroimage*, 42, 807-816.
7. Wacker, J., **Dillon, D. G.**, & Pizzagalli, D. A. (2009). The role of the nucleus accumbens and rostral anterior cingulate cortex in anhedonia: Integration of resting EEG, fMRI, and volumetric techniques. *Neuroimage*, 46, 327-337.
8. Pizzagalli, D. A., Holmes, A. J., **Dillon, D. G.**, Goetz, E. L., Birk, J. L., Bogdan, R., Dougherty, D. D., Iosifescu, D. V., Rauch, S. L., & Fava, M. (2009). Reduced caudate and nucleus accumbens response to rewards in unmedicated subjects with Major Depressive Disorder. *Am J Psychiatry*, 166, 702-710.
9. **Dillon, D. G.**, Holmes, A. J., Birk, J. L., Brooks, N., Lyons-Ruth, K., & Pizzagalli, D. A. (2009). Childhood adversity is associated with left basal ganglia dysfunction during reward anticipation. *Biol Psychiatry*, 66, 206-213.

10. **Dillon, D. G.***, Bogdan, R. H., Fagerness, J., Holmes, A. J., Perlis, R. H., & Pizzagalli, D. A. (2010). Variation in TREK1 gene linked to depression-resistant phenotype is associated with potentiated neural responses to rewards in humans. *Hum Brain Mapp*, 31, 210-221.
11. Vanderhasselt, M. A., De Raedt, R., **Dillon, D. G.**, Dutra, S. J., Brooks, N., Pizzagalli, D. A. (2012). Decreased cognitive control in response to negative information in remitted depression: an event-related potential study. *J Psychiatry Neurosci*, 37, 250-258.
12. **Dillon, D. G.**, & Pizzagalli, D. A. (2013). Evidence of successful modulation of brain activation and subjective experience during reappraisal of negative emotion in unmedicated depression. *Psychiatry Res*, 212, 99-107.
13. **Dillon, D. G.**, Dobbins, I. G., & Pizzagalli, D. A. (2014). Weak reward source memory in depression reflects blunted activation of VTA/SN and parahippocampus. *Soc Cogn Affect Neurosci*, 9, 1576-1583.
14. Treadway, M. T., Waskom, M. L., **Dillon, D. G.**, Holmes, A. J., Park, M. T. M., Chakravarty, M. M., Dutra, S. J., Polli, F. E., Iosifescu, D. V., Fava, M., Gabrieli, J. D. E., Pizzagalli, D. A. (2015). Illness progression, recent stress and morphometry of hippocampal subfields and medial prefrontal cortex in major depression. *Biol Psychiatry*, 77, 285-294.
15. Admon, R., Nickerson, L. D., **Dillon, D. G.**, Holmes, A. J., Bogdan, R., Kumar, P., Dougherty, D. D., Iosifescu, D. V., Mischoulon, D., Fava, M., & Pizzagalli, D. A. (2015). Dissociable cortico-striatal connectivity abnormalities in major depression in response to monetary gains and penalties. *Psychol Med*, 45, 121-131.
16. Beard, C., Donahue, R. J., **Dillon, D. G.**, Van't Veer, A., Webber, C., Lee, J., Barrick, E., Hsu, K. J., Foti, D., Carroll, F. I., Carlezon, W. A., Jr., Björgvinsson, & Pizzagalli, D. A. (2015). Abnormal error processing in depressive states: a translational examination in humans and rats. *Transl Psychiatry*, 5, e564.
17. **Dillon, D. G.***, Wiecki, T. W.*, Pechtel, P., Webb, C., Goer, F., Murray, L., Trivedi, M., Fava, M., McGrath, P.J., Weissman, M., Parsey, R., Kurian, B., Adams, P., Carmody, T., Weyandt, S., Shores-Wilson, K., Toups, M., McInnis, M., Oquendo, M. A., Cusin, C., Deldin, P., Bruder, G., & Pizzagalli, D. A. (2015). A computational analysis of flanker interference in depression. *Psychol Med*, 45, 2333-2344.
18. Webb, C. A., **Dillon, D. G.**, Pechtel, P., Goer, F., Murray, L., Huys, Q. J. M., Fava, M., McGrath, P. J., Weissman, M., Parsey, R., Kurian, B., Adams, P., Weyandt, S., Trombello, J., Grannemann, B., Cooper, C., Deldin, P., Tenke, C., Trivedi, M., Bruder, G., & Pizzagalli, D.A. (2015). Neural correlates of three promising endophenotypes of depression: evidence from the EMBARC study. *Neuropsychopharmacology*, 41, 454-463.
19. Hsu, K. J., Beard, C., Rifkin, L., **Dillon, D. G.**, Pizzagalli, D. A., & Björgvinsson, T. (2015). Transdiagnostic mechanisms in depression and anxiety: the role of rumination and attention control. *J Affect Disord*, 188, 22-27.

20. Kaiser, R., Whitfield-Gabrieli, S., **Dillon, D. G.**, Goer, F., Beltzer, M., Minkel, J., Smoski, M., Dichter, G., & Pizzagalli, D. A. (2015). Dynamic resting-state functional connectivity in major depression. *Neuropsychopharmacology*, 41, 1822-1830.
21. Admon*, R., Kaiser*, R. H., **Dillon, D. G.**, Beltzer, M., Goer, F., Olson, D. P., Vitaliano, G., & Pizzagalli, D. A. (2016). Dopaminergic enhancement of striatal response to reward in major depression. *Am J Psychiatry*, 174, 378-386.
22. Tenke, C., Kayser, J., Pechtel, P., Webb, C., **Dillon, D. G.**, Goer, F., Murray, L., Deldin, P., Kurian, B., McGrath, P., Parsey, R., Trivedi, M., Fava, M., Weissman, M., McInnis, M., Abraham, K., Alvarenga, J., Alschuler, D., Cooper, C., Pizzagalli, D., & Bruder, G. (2017). Demonstrating test-retest reliability of electrophysiological measures for healthy adults in a multisite study of biomarkers of antidepressant treatment response. *Psychophysiology*, 54, 34-50.
23. Whitton, A. E., Van't Veer, A., Kakani, P., **Dillon, D. G.**, Ironside, M. L., Haile, A., Crowley, D. J. & Pizzagalli, D. A. (2017). Acute stress impairs frontocingulate activation during error monitoring in remitted depression. *Psychoneuroendocrinology*, 75, 164-172.
24. Sperl, M. F. J., Panitz, C., Rosso, I. M., **Dillon, D. G.**, Kumar, P., Hermann, A., Whitton, A. E., Hermann, C., Pizzagalli, D. A., & Mueller, E. M. (2018). Fear extinction recall modulates human fronto-medial theta and amygdala activity. *Cereb Cortex*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/cercor/bhx353>
25. Barrick, E. M., & **Dillon, D. G.** (2018). An ERP study of multidimensional source retrieval in depression. *Biol Psychol*, 132, 176-191.
26. **Dillon, D. G.***, Gonenc, A.* , Belleau, E., & Pizzagalli, D. A. (2018). Depression is associated with dimensional and categorical effects on white matter pathways. *Depress Anxiety*, 35, 440-447.
27. Pizzagalli, D. A.* , Webb, C. A.* , **Dillon, D. G.**, Tenke, C.E., Kayser, J., Goer, F., Fava, M., McGrath, P., Weissman, M., Parsey, R., Adams, P., Trombello, J., Cooper, C., Deldin, P., Oquendo, M.A., McInnis, M.G., Carmody, T., Bruder, G., Trivedi, M.H. (2018). Pretreatment rostral anterior cingulate cortex theta activity in relation to symptom improvement in depression: A randomized clinical trial. *JAMA Psychiatry*, manuscript in press.
28. Kumar, P., Goer, F., Murray, L., **Dillon, D. G.**, Beltzer, M. L., Cohen, A. L., Brooks, N. H., & Pizzagalli, D. A. (2018). Impaired reward prediction error encoding and striatal-midbrain connectivity in depression. *Neuropsychopharmacology*, 43, 1581-1588.
29. Trombello, J. M., Pizzagalli, D. A., Weissman, M., Grannemann, B. D., Cooper, C. M., Greer, T. L., Malchow, A. L., Jha, M. K., Carmody, T. J., Kurian, B. T., Webb, C. A., **Dillon, D. G.**, McGrath, P. J., Bruder, G., Fava, M., Parsey, R. V., McInnis, M. G., Adams, P., & Trivedi, M. H. (2018). Characterizing anxiety subtypes and the relationship to behavioral phenotyping in major depression: Results from the EMBARC Study. *J Psychiatr Res*, 102, 207-215.
30. Webb, C. A., Trivedi, M.D., Cohen, C., **Dillon, D. G.**, Fournier, F., Goer, F., Fava, M. McGrath, P. J., Weissman, M., Parsey, R., Adams, P., Trombello, J. M., Cooper, C., Deldin, P., Oquendo, M. A., McInnis, M.G., Huys, Q., Bruder, G., Kurian, B., Jha, M., DeRubeis, R. J., and Pizzagalli D. A. (2018). Personalized prediction of antidepressant versus placebo response: Evidence from

the EMBARC study. *Psychol Med*, in press. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0033291718001708>

31. Wu, C. *, **Dillon, D. G.***, Hsu, H., Huang, S., Barrick, E., & Liu, Y. (2018). Depression detection using relative EEG power induced by emotionally positive images and a conformal kernel support vector machine. *Appl Sci*, 8, 1244.

*These authors made equal contributions to the manuscript.

Other peer-reviewed publications

1. **Dillon, D. G.**, & Pizzagalli, D. A. (2007). Inhibition of action, thought, and feeling: A selective neurobiological review. *Appl Prev Psychol*, 12, 99-114.
2. **Dillon, D. G.**, Rosso, I. M., Pechtel, P., Killgore, W. D. S., Rauch, S. L., & Pizzagalli, D. A. (2014). Peril and pleasure: an RDoC-inspired examination of threat responses and reward processing in anxiety and depression. *Depress Anxiety*, 31, 233-249.
3. **Dillon, D. G.** (2015). The neuroscience of positive memory deficits in depression. *Front Psychol*, 6, 1295.
4. **Dillon, D. G.**, & Pizzagalli, D. A. (2018). Mechanisms of memory disruption in depression. *Trends Neurosci*, 41, 137-149.

Non-peer reviewed scientific or medical publications/materials in print or other media

Reviews and chapters

1. **Dillon, D. G.**, & Pizzagalli, D. A. (2010). Maximizing positive emotions: a translational, transdiagnostic look at positive emotion regulation. In A. M. Kring & D. M. Sloan (Eds.), *Emotion Regulation and Psychopathology*. New York: Guilford Press.
2. **Dillon, D. G.**, Deveney, C. M., & Pizzagalli, D. A. (2011). From basic processes to real-world problems: How research on emotion and emotion regulation can inform understanding of psychopathology, and vice versa. *Emot Rev*, 3, 74-82.
3. Pizzagalli, D. A., **Dillon, D. G.**, Bogdan, R., & Holmes, A. J. (2011). Reward and punishment processing in the human brain: clues from affective neuroscience and implications for depression research. In O. Vartanian & D. R. Mandel (Eds.), *Neuroscience of Decision Making* (pp. 199-220). New York: Psychology Press.
4. Rosso, I., **Dillon, D. G.**, Pizzagalli, D. A., & Rauch, S. L. (2015). Translational perspectives on anxiety disorders and the Research Domain Criteria construct of potential threat. In K. J. Ressler, D. Pine, and B. O. Rothbaum (Eds.), *Anxiety Disorders: Translational Perspectives on Diagnosis and Treatment*. New York, Oxford University Press.
5. **Dillon, D. G.** (2018). A neuroscientific hypothesis concerning poor memory for positive material in depression. Accepted for publication in J. Gruber (Ed.), *Oxford Handbook of Positive Emotion and Psychopathology*. New York, Oxford University Press.

Thesis

Dillon, D. G. (Doctoral thesis). *Voluntary emotion regulation: Physiological correlates and mnemonic consequences*. Durham, NC: Department of Psychology & Neuroscience, Duke University.

Abstracts, Poster Presentations and Exhibits Presented at Professional Meetings

Below are listed accepted abstracts/poster presentations within the last three years which have not already been published as full length manuscripts.

Dillon, D. G., Frank, M. J., & Pizzagalli, D. A. (2015). *Prepare for success: reward delivery facilitates episodic encoding of upcoming information*. Poster presented at McLean Research Day, Belmont, MA.

Dillon, D. G., Frank, M. J., & Pizzagalli, D. A. (2015). *Reward delivery enhances encoding of upcoming information: a novel paradigm for detecting memory deficits in anhedonic depression*. Poster presented at the 70th Annual Meeting of the Society of Biological Psychiatry, Toronto, Canada.

Dillon, D. G., Frank, M. J., Badre, D., & Pizzagalli, D. A. (2015). *Positive reinforcement enhances encoding of upcoming information*. Poster presented at the 45th Annual Meeting of the Society for Neuroscience, Chicago, Illinois.

Cavanagh, J. F., Coffman, B., & **Dillon, D. G.** (2016). *Memento malum: Mistakes boost memory via fronto-hippocampal theta synchrony*. Poster presented at the 6th Motivation and Cognitive Control (MCC) Symposium, St. Andrews, Scotland.

Cardenas, E. F., Ironside, M., Clegg, R., Kaiser, R., Admon, R., Goer, F., **Dillon, D. G.,** Olson, D., Vitaliano, G., & Pizzagalli, D. A. (2017). *Effects of amisulpride on reinforcement learning*. Poster presentation at McLean Research Day, Belmont, MA.

Lawlor, V., Barrick, E., & **Dillon, D. G.** (2017). *Piloting a behavioral assessment of dopamine capacity*. Poster presentation at McLean Research Day, Belmont, MA.

Vogel, S., Auerbach, R., Stewart, J., **Dillon, D.,** & Germaine, L. (2017). *Mobile assessment of cognitive control in depression and aging*. Poster presentation at McLean Research Day, Belmont, MA.

Ironside, M., Admon, R., Kaiser, R., **Dillon, D.,** Clegg, R., Beltzer, M., Goer, F., Olson, D., Vitaliano, G., Pizzagalli, D. (2017). *Effects of childhood sexual abuse on positive versus negative reinforcement learning in MDD and resilient groups*. Poster presented at the Anxiety and Depression Association of American Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA.

Webb, C. A., Trivedi, M. H., Fava, M., McGrath, P., Weissman, M., Parsey R., **Dillon, D. G.,** Pechtel, P., Goer, F., Adams, P., Trombello, J., Cooper, C., Deldin, P., Tenke, C., Carmody, T., Bruder, G., & Pizzagalli, D. P. (2017). *The incremental predictive validity of rostral anterior cingulate cortex activity in relation to treatment response in depression: evidence from the EMBARC study*. Poster presented at the 72nd Annual Meeting of the Society of Biological Psychiatry, San Diego, CA.

Lawlor, V., Webb, C., Trivedi, M., Fava, M., McGrath, P. J., Weissman, M., Parsey, R., McInnis, M., Oquendo, M. A., Cusin, C., Deldin, P., Bruder, G., Pizzagalli, D. A., & **Dillon, D. G.** (2017). *Drift-*

diffusion modeling of reward learning in depression. Poster presented at the 29th Annual Convention of the Association for Psychological Science, Boston, MA.

Cavanagh, J. F., Coffman, B., & **Dillon, D. G.** (2017). *Memento malum: Negative prediction errors boost episodic encoding via theta band synchrony*. Symposium talk (given by J. F. Cavanagh) at the 2017 meeting of the Organization for Human Brain Mapping in Vancouver, BC.

Barrick, E. B., & **Dillon, D. G.** (2017). *Major Depressive Disorder disrupts reward-guided choice during reinforcement learning*. Poster presented at the 31st Annual Meeting of the Society for Research in Psychopathology, Denver, CO.

Lawlor, V., Webb, C., Trivedi, M., Fava, M., McGrath, P. J., Weissman, M., Parsey, R., McInnis, M., Oquendo, M. A., Cusin, C., Deldin, P., Bruder, G., Pizzagalli, D. A., & **Dillon, D. G.** (2017). *Drift-diffusion modeling of reward learning and cognitive control in depression*. Poster presented at the 31st Annual Meeting of the Society for Research in Psychopathology, Denver, CO.

Barrick, E., & **Dillon, D. G.** (2018). *An investigation of reinforcement learning in Major Depressive Disorder*. Poster presented at McLean Research Day, Belmont, MA.

Kane, J., & **Dillon, D. G.** (2018). *Time-frequency analysis of neural activity during source memory retrieval in healthy and depressed adults*. Poster presented at McLean Research Day, Belmont, MA.

Lawlor, V., Webb, C., Trivedi, M., Fava, M., McGrath, P. J., Weissman, M., Parsey, R., Oquendo, M. A., Deldin, P., Bruder, G., Pizzagalli, D. A., & **Dillon, D. G.** (2018). *Drift-diffusion modeling of reward learning in depression*. Poster presented at McLean Research Day, Belmont, MA.

Dillon, D. G., Barrick, E., Lawlor, V., Ryan, S., & Lin, C. (2018). *Investigating the impact of depression on episodic memory for emotional stimuli*. Poster presented at McLean Research Day, Belmont, MA.

Kayser, J., Tenke, C. E., Petkova, E., Wong, L. Y. X., Wickramaratne, P., Alschuler, D. M., Alvarenga, J. E., Abraham, K., Pechtel, P., Webb, C. A., **Dillon, D. G.**, Deldin, P., Cooper, C., Trombello, J., McGrath,

Lawlor, V., Webb, C., Trivedi, M., Fava, M., McGrath, P. J., Weissman, M., Parsey, R., Oquendo, M. A., Deldin, P., Bruder, G., Pizzagalli, D. A., & **Dillon, D. G.** (2018). *Drift-diffusion modeling of reward learning in depression*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Cognitive Neuroscience Society, Boston, MA.

Kayser, J., Tenke, C. E., Petkova, E., Wong, L. Y. X., Wickramaratne, P., Alschuler, D. M., Alvarenga, J. E., Abraham, K., Pechtel, P., Webb, C. A., **Dillon, D. G.**, Deldin, P., Cooper, C., Trombello, J., McGrath, P. J., Fava, M., Oquendo, M. A., Trivedi, M. H., Weissman, M. M., Pizzagalli, D. A., & Bruder, G. E. (2018). *Loudness dependency of auditory evoked potentials (LDAEP) as a differential predictor of antidepressant treatment response in Major Depressive Disorder (MDD): results from the sertraline/placebo-controlled EMBARC study*. Poster to be presented at 73rd Annual Meeting of the Society of Biological Psychiatry, New York, NY.

Keilp, J., Alvarenga, J. E., Webb, C., **Dillon, D. G.**, Deldin, P., Alschuler, D. M., Abraham, K., Adams, P., Fava, M., McGrath, P., Oquendo, M. A., Trivedi, M., Weissman, M., Pizzagalli, D. A., & Bruder, G. E. (2018). *Cognitive performance predictors of response to antidepressants in 2nd treatment phase of the*

multisite EMBARC study: word fluency and psychomotor speed findings. Poster to be presented at 73rd Annual Meeting of the Society of Biological Psychiatry, New York, NY.

Lawler, V., Singleton, P., Webb, C. A., Auerbach, R. P., & **Dillon, D. G.** (2018). *Drift-diffusion modeling of reward learning in depressed adolescents: baseline, reliability, and treatment effects*. Poster to be presented at the 32nd Annual Meeting of the Society for Research in Psychopathology, Indianapolis, IN.

Mirin, N., Baker, J. T., **Dillon, D. G.**, Vogel, S.C., Rutter, L. A., Pizzagalli, D. A., & Germine, L. (2018). *Development of an RDoC field test battery for capturing neurocognition and digital phenotypes*. Poster to be presented at the 32nd Annual Meeting of the Society for Research in Psychopathology, Indianapolis, IN.

Narrative Report

I am a neuroscientist focused on learning and memory in major depressive disorder (MDD). After completing my doctoral research with Dr. Kevin LaBar at Duke University, I joined Dr. Diego Pizzagalli at Harvard University as a post-doctoral fellow. In 2010, I was appointed Instructor at Harvard Medical School and Assistant Neuroscientist at McLean Hospital, and in 2014 I was promoted to Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School and Associate Neuroscientist at McLean Hospital. I direct the Motivated Learning & Memory Laboratory in the Center for Depression, Anxiety and Stress Research at McLean, and the majority of my effort is devoted to research. I am committed to understanding how depression affects reinforcement learning and episodic memory, and I investigate these topics using behavioral measures, functional neuroimaging, scalp-recorded electrophysiology, and computational modeling. I pursue this work because I believe that the cognitive consequences of depression are critically important but woefully understudied, and because the extensive learning and memory literature in non-human animals provides an extremely solid foundation for translational research. I am actively seeking additional funding to support these efforts (e.g., I have submitted three R01 applications as PI in the last 18 months), and I am confident that I will secure it.

Area of Excellence: Investigation

Anhedonia is a cardinal symptom of MDD that likely reflects stress-induced inhibition of dopaminergic networks that extend from the midbrain, through the striatum, and into frontal cortex (Pizzagalli et al., 2011; Dillon et al., 2014). This hypothesis has received strong support from human neuroimaging experiments, many designed by my mentor Dr. Diego Pizzagalli, and I have had the good fortune to contribute directly to many of these studies (e.g., Dillon et al., 2008, 2009, 2010; Admon et al., 2016; Whitton et al., 2017). My laboratory is taking this line of work in two new directions.

First, we are looking beyond the immediate response to rewarding stimuli to ask how anhedonia affects a critical downstream process: memory. For over two decades, we have known that depression impairs episodic memory for positive events, but we have no mechanistic understanding of this phenomenon. Recent data from non-human animals has established that dopamine release in the hippocampus causes synapses to shift from early long-term potentiation (LTP) to late LTP, which corresponds to the transition from an unstable, short-term memory to a lasting, long-term memory. Because dopamine neurons preferentially respond to rewarding (i.e., positive) experiences, this is a mechanism for forming lasting positive memories, and because of the aforementioned link between anhedonia and dopaminergic abnormalities, I have proposed that anhedonia causes the positive memory deficit in depressed adults by short-circuiting the transition from early to late LTP (Dillon, 2015, 2017). In an initial fMRI study supported by a NARSAD Young Investigator Award, I found evidence consistent

with this idea—I observed a positive effect of reward delivery on memory in healthy but not depressed adults, and this was mirrored by blunted reward responses in the dopaminergic midbrain and parahippocampus in the depressed group (Dillon et al., 2014). In the ensuing years, with support from an NIMH K99/R00 award, I have worked with Drs. Michael Frank and David Badre at Brown University to design a new experimental paradigm that can more precisely probe the effects of reward delivery on memory. After developing the paradigm, I collected behavioral and fMRI data from unmedicated adults with MDD ($n = 43$), diagnostically screened healthy controls ($n = 43$), and two unscreened samples from the community (behavior, $n = 36$; fMRI, $n = 22$). Data collection for this multi-experiment study (total $n = 104$) was completed in May 2017, and a publication is in preparation (Dillon, Frank, Badre, Nassar, Nock, Barrick, & Pizzagalli, in prep). I also presented preliminary data from this work in a symposium that I chaired at the 2016 meeting of the Society of Biological Psychiatry, and I will present the final data in a symposium that I will chair at the 2017 meeting of the Society for Research in Psychopathology.

In parallel to this work on encoding and consolidation (the transition from early to late LTP), my group is exploring the possibility that depression impairs memory via an independent mechanism—namely, disruption of cortical circuits that support memory retrieval. To test this hypothesis, we used start-up funding generously provided by McLean Hospital to collect event-related potential (ERP) data as unmedicated adults with MDD ($n = 24$) and healthy adults ($n = 24$) attempted to retrieve neutral memories that had been encoded in different conceptual and perceptual contexts. To our surprise, memory was not globally impaired in MDD. Instead, memory accuracy and confidence were particularly sensitive to contextual factors in the depressed group. When depressed adults engaged in “deep” encoding and were cued to retrieve conceptual memories, they responded confidently and accurately, and this was reflected in large amplitude ERPs over left parietal cortex, which are a signature of recollection. By contrast, when depressed adults engaged in “shallow” encoding and were cued to retrieve perceptual memories, they responded with lower confidence, guessed frequently, and generated lower amplitude left parietal ERPs, all of which are signs of poor recollection. Furthermore, the amplitude of the left parietal ERPs was related to sleep disruption, such that those depressed adults who reported the worst sleep also showed the lowest amplitude left parietal ERPs. Collectively, these data suggests that recollection is rendered fragile by depression: depressed adults can recollect memories accurately and confidently if sufficient support is provided at encoding and retrieval, but if that support is missing (e.g., if encoding is shallow) or if sleep disruption is severe, then recollection is impaired. I presented this work in a symposium that I chaired at the 2017 Meeting of the Society of Biological Psychiatry, and a manuscript describing the work received positive reviews and will be resubmitted in the coming weeks (Barrick & Dillon, in revision). We are now building on this work by conducting another ERP study of retrieval in depressed and healthy adults, in which we are examining retrieval of positive, negative, and neutral memories before and after exposure to acute stress. This research is also supported by start-up funding from McLean Hospital, and it involves collaborative work with the Laboratory for Biological Health Psychology at Brandeis University.

Second, we are using computational modeling to better understand how anhedonia disrupts reward processing. An extensive neuroscience literature indicates that dopamine neurons signal prediction errors (PEs), which encode the discrepancies between expectations and reality. Accordingly, work in our lab is building on this literature to determine if MDD is associated with reduced PE signaling. For instance, every participant who completed our new paradigm linking reward delivery to episodic memory (total $n = 144$) also completed a separate reinforcement learning task in which PEs are used to guide behavior. I have applied temporal difference models to these data and we are currently determining whether MDD reduces PE signals that are typically observed in the ventral striatum. We will begin preparing a manuscript as soon as the data analysis is complete, and we are scheduled to present a poster describing our findings at the upcoming meeting of the Society for Research in Psychopathology.

We have also extended our computational modeling in another direction. A large literature on decision-making in healthy humans and non-human primates has emphasized evidence accumulation in cortical circuits, particularly the lateral intraparietal area (area LIP), as the basis for choosing between alternatives. Consequently, impaired reinforcement learning in MDD may reflect disrupted evidence accumulation in these cortical circuits, independent of any effect of MDD on PE signals. To test this idea, we applied a Bayesian, Hierarchical Drift Diffusion Model (similar to a model used in publication #17) to multiple behavioral datasets in which depressed and healthy adults completed a probabilistic reward task developed by Dr. Pizzagalli. The model consistently indicated that evidence accumulation is slower in depressed adults, and this result was stronger than the negative effect of depression on response bias, which is the typical variable of interest in this task. We are currently examining EEG data to see if slow evidence accumulation in depression is reflected in weak EEG signals over area LIP. If so, this will provide an exciting bridge from depression research to the basic neurophysiology of decision-making. We will begin preparing a manuscript describing these results as soon as data analysis is complete, and we are scheduled to present our preliminary findings in an upcoming poster session at the annual meeting of the Society for Research in Psychopathology (an earlier version of this work was presented at the 2017 meeting of the Association for Psychological Science).

These lines of work on memory, reinforcement learning, and computational modeling are central to my laboratory, and in fall 2017 I will resubmit an R01 application to support this research. We are also currently engaged in collaborative research on similar topics with Dr. Jim Cavanagh at the University of New Mexico and Dr. Michael Treadway at Emory University. Moreover, we are working with Dr. Chien-Te Wu at National Taiwan University to develop machine learning tools that can distinguish healthy from depressed adults solely on the basis of EEG data, and a manuscript describing this work is in preparation. Furthermore, we are collaborating with Dr. Justin Baker (McLean Hospital) and Dr. Avram Holmes (Yale University) on a large-scale resting-state fMRI project that seeks to determine how functional connectivity is affected by unipolar depression, bipolar depression, and psychosis (total $n = 1,010$). In a smaller collaborative project, our group worked with Dr. Attila Gonenc in the McLean Imaging Center to show that depression is associated with reduced fractional anisotropy in several key white matter pathways, including the genu of the corpus callosum, uncinate fasciculus, and the anterior limb of the internal capsule. A manuscript describing these results is currently being revised following helpful comments from reviewers (Gonenc*, Dillon*, Belleau, & Pizzagalli, in revision; *co first authors). And in February 2017 I submitted a multi-PI R01 with Dr. Greg Hajack of Florida State University that would administer several reward processing tasks to anhedonic adults with a broad spectrum of psychiatric diagnoses, in an effort to (a) test the hypothesis that anhedonia is truly a transdiagnostic construct and (b) determine which tasks and neural measures yield an anhedonia signal that is temporally stable and lawfully related to clinical symptoms. This R01 will also be resubmitted, most likely in the fall of 2017 along with my R01 application focused on memory.

Finally, the programming and modeling skills that I have developed are broadly applicable, and in the last three years I have coded experimental paradigms and analysis pipelines for several colleagues, typically using the Python programming language. For instance, I generated novel reward-learning paradigms that are currently being used in an fMRI/PET study of placebo responses in healthy and depressed adults (R01MH102279, “Neurobiological Underpinnings of Placebo Response in Depression”, PIs: Fava, Cusin, & Pizzagalli), and in an fMRI study of the appetite hormone ghrelin (R01DK104772, “Ghrelin Modulation of Mesolimbic Reward Signaling in Stress-induced Hyperphagia”, PI: Holsen). As another example, I adapted my paradigm for examining reward-modulated memory so that Dr. Randy Auerbach could use it with adolescent samples, and his group has currently tested over 100 individuals

with the task. I also coded data processing pipelines for behavioral probes of cognitive control and reward learning that were used in the multi-site EMBARC study (U01MH092221, “Establishing Moderators/Biosignatures of Antidepressant Response-Clinical Care”), and the data produced by this code has been published in multiple manuscripts (e.g., Dillon et al., 2015; Webb et al., 2015); I am aware of two additional manuscripts using these data that have been submitted by researchers outside McLean. I have enjoyed these collaborative projects, and improving computation in the context of psychiatric research is a goal for my laboratory going forward, because I believe the field will derive tremendous benefits with regard to efficiency, reproducibility, and rigor by adopting tools from modern data science.

Teaching and Education

I have always been committed to teaching and education, but my commitment has grown deeper since my appointment as lab director in late 2014. At that time, I hired my first research assistant (Elyssa Barrick), and over the past three years my lab has been joined by a visiting scientist (Dr. Jonathan Kane), a Harvard University undergraduate with external funding (Sarah Ryan), and three student volunteers (Michelle Basta, Hannah Becker, and Victoria Lawlor), one of whom has since pursued a six month cooperative learning experience in the lab and a program of directed study via Northeastern University (Victoria Lawlor). I have been fortunate to work with each of these talented people, and because of the laboratory’s small size I have been able to engage in hands-on mentorship with all of them. In particular, I have trained each of them in the acquisition, analysis, and interpretation of EEG and behavioral data collected in the context of learning and memory tasks. In most cases, this has involved writing code in Python, R, and MATLAB that automates data processing, computes a wide variety of statistical tests, and generates publication-ready figures. In addition, because of the well-known replication crisis in psychology, I have placed particular emphasis on the need to conduct well-powered studies, correct for multiple comparisons, and report all results clearly and transparently so as to avoid introducing bias into manuscripts and presentations. I am certain that this emphasis on rigor has caused us to publish fewer papers than we could have otherwise. However, because we expect that our work will ultimately inform decisions about patient care, I firmly believe that we are obligated to prioritize accuracy and reproducibility above a lengthy list of publications, and I have consistently communicated this to my trainees. By combining advanced technical training with a principled understanding of statistics and experimental methods, I aim to provide my trainees with a strong foundation for their future endeavors.

Conclusion

My laboratory is focused on making core contributions to the neuroscience of learning and memory in depression. Depression impairs recollection and blunts memory for positive experiences, and these memory problems are troubling for patients. Moreover, many of our treatments depend on memory for their mechanism of action. For instance, multiple antidepressants have their effects at least in part because they stimulate neurogenesis in the hippocampus, the brain region most consistently implicated in episodic memory. As another example, psychotherapy depends on one’s ability to recall difficult incidents from the past and then imagine similar episodes unfolding differently in the future—and both retrieval and mental simulation of future events depend on memory and memory circuitry. Thus, memory is central to depression and its treatment. Unfortunately, we know very little about how depression affects the neural and cognitive processes that support memory encoding, consolidation, and retrieval. My goal is to address this key gap in the literature, to advance clinical science and ultimately improve treatment for our patients.