

## Neuroscience Incoming Students Fall 2001

### Brigitte Bogert



I grew up in a New Jersey suburb of New York City. I attended Princeton University, and during my third year I discovered the fascination of neuroscience. I worked for two years in a behavioral neuroscience laboratory investigating the neurochemistry of the nucleus accumbens and its relationship to behavior. After graduation in 2000, I decided to work at NCI and moved from sleepy yet beautiful central New Jersey to a livelier Washington, DC.

During the past year at NCI, I studied the protein translocation channel of the ER. I'm excited to be studying neuro again, and my current interests include developmental neuroscience. I look forward to living on the West Coast and can't wait to see all that it has to offer. When I'm not wearing my lab coat, I love running, swimming, hiking, museums, and languages. Also, whenever I have more time (and money!), I would love to tour Africa, Asia, U.S. national parks...The list is endless!

### Sarah Carter



After growing up in Evanston, IL, I went to Duke University where I graduated with a BS in Biology. I then spent a year in the Pharmacology graduate division at the University of Pennsylvania. Having transferred to UCSF Neuroscience, I look forward to working on drugs of abuse or signal transduction (calcium signalling especially). Outside of school, I like canoeing, hiking, and playing the game Go.

### Lindsay Fletcher



After graduating from the University of Pennsylvania in 1999 with a BA in the Biological Basis of Behavior (an integrative major in bio and psych), I continued working at Penn, studying auditory communication in mormyrids, a family of weakly electric freshwater fish from West Africa. After accepting at UCSF (woohoo!), I deferred for a year and took off for the Kalahari desert in South Africa. I worked for six months as a field research assistant studying cognition in meerkats (slender-tailed mongoose), specifically investigating the semantics of alarm calls. I spent the remainder of the year frequenting game parks in Southern Africa, travelling in Borneo, and generally soaking up the wilderness. I am fascinated by the intersection of neural activity and behaviors that are adaptive for animals in their natural environment. I am also interested in parallels between animal models and humans, and I aim to continue in systems level neuroscience at UCSF.

### Joel Greenwood



I grew up just south of Seattle on a small farm on the water. I graduated from the University of Washington with degrees in Biochemistry and Neurobiology. I did my honors thesis with Dr. Philip Schwartzkroin on an animal model of cortical dysplasia (as it relates to pediatric epilepsy.) It's amazing how two years of work can be boiled down into three graphs. Here at UCSF, I intend to continue with electrophysiology and then start working my way down to the genetic level. But you won't always find me in lab.

Brazil is definitely my next big trip - we do get a little time off sometime, right? ;-) I love to travel. I also enjoy anything scary you can do outside, e.g. rock climbing and jumping off tall objects (ask me some time and I'll elaborate).

### Henry Haeberle



Hello everyone! I spent my first 18 years in the bustling metropolis of Fitzwilliam, New Hampshire before attending Stanford University where I graduated with an individually designed major in Neuroscience. At Stanford, I worked with Ben Barres studying the development of astrocytes and vascular endothelial cells in the optic nerve. Ben apparently knows Lou Reichardt pretty well, and despite all the crazy stories Ben told me about Lou, I decided to attend

UCSF anyway :) After publishing my work in Ben's lab, I have spent the rest of this year preparing for graduate school by obtaining my Professional Ski Instructors of America level 2 teacher's accreditation. I believe these skills will prove useful during neuroscience conventions in Aspen, Colorado. When I'm not teaching faculty to ski, I plan to study neural networks using all the cool new techniques in genetics and cell biology.

### Gerard Honig



I was born and raised in New York City. I attended a French-speaking high school (much of my family is French) and later Columbia University. I graduated in 2000 with a degree in biology. I worked at Rockefeller University for two years, first in Bruce McEwen's lab (behavioral study on estrogen and learning) and then in Paul Greengard's lab (cell biology of Alzheimer's). I am interested in

studying information processing, attention and working memory, although I have not decided on a particular approach yet. My interests include martial arts, biking, visual arts, political activism, DJing and playing with music programs.

### Jennifer Hsu



Hi, my name is Jennifer Hsu. I remember when I was an undergrad at Berkeley, I was totally in awe of the graduate students I knew there...they were so knowledgeable, and so passionate about their work...and now I can hardly believe that I'll be joining their ranks at UCSF! Before Berkeley, I grew up in a suburb of Cleveland, OH and there my life revolved around the violin, trying out for (and never making) those high school musicals, and hanging out at ice cream parlors. At Berkeley, I took some philosophy classes (which

all revolved around the mind/body issue - really fascinating), tried some neuroscience classes and loved 'em, and hung out with lots of cognitive science majors. Thus was born my desire to do neuroscience research all my life. Besides

neuroscience, I'm really passionate about a martial art known as wushu (it's not a well-known sport, but if you've seen Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon, then you've definitely seem wushu in action) and am hoping to start a wushu club on campus. Wanna try it? Come practice with me!

### **Ritu Kapur**



Hello, my name is Ritu Kapur. I graduated from Stanford University in 1998 with a degree in Human Biology and an area of concentration in Neuroscience. I spent the next year living on Fallen Leaf Lake (up in Tahoe) in a high-stress yet glamorous Office Assistant position. At the year's end, being absolutely fed up with nice weather and beautiful surroundings, I returned to my native Houston, Texas. I spent the next year there working on increasing the total volume of my hair-style and doing research with Dr. Anthony Wright. Our lab looked at list memory in primates and learning strategies in pigeons. I have spent the last year here at UCSF working in Dr. Howard Fields' lab as a tech. I have been doing behavioral studies with cannabinoids and am currently doing electrophysiological recordings in the RVM in order to study pain circuitry. In my spare time I like to listen to the sound of one hand clapping.

### **Sarah Kotowski**



I graduated from the University of Wisconsin with a degree in Pharmacology and Toxicology in May of 2000. While at UW, I worked with Jeff Johnson on quinone reductase expression in neurons under oxidative stress. I'm interested in the cellular and molecular neuroscience and hope to study addiction. I get the feeling that mentioning this guarantees I'll end up doing something completely different. In my free time I like to go backpacking, play soccer and snowboard. I also enjoy reading and listening to live music.

### **Marian Logrip**



I have a rather unorthodox, or should I say interesting, background. While studying business at the University of Pennsylvania, I realized I didn't like it at all. So, I picked up a few science classes along the way, but decided that it was not economically feasible to switch majors. Instead, I worked in a psycholinguistics lab for 2 years while taking most of the basics at Penn, then moved to Boston to the neurogenetics lab I've been in for the last 2 years (while picking up some more advanced courses at Harvard). My research in psycholinguistics involved language acquisition and processing, while my current lab works on tuberous sclerosis complex, which is a genetic disorder characterized by tumor growth predominantly in the brain and kidneys. In my spare time, I enjoy playing piano, singing, and the Great Dalmuti, and I hope to finally learn to play the guitars I've had sitting around for the last 3 years.

### **Karen Menuz**



After growing up in the Bay Area, I switched coasts and went to Dartmouth College. There I majored in Biology and Chemistry and graduated in 1999. I've worked in a few labs over the past four years: Robert Maue's at Dartmouth, Georg Kreutzberg's at the Max Planck Institute in Munich (Germany), Michael Frotscher's at the University of Freiburg (Germany), and Martin Schwab's at the University of Zurich (Switzerland). Although my projects dealt mostly with molecular neurobiology questions, I'm looking forward to trying out other areas of Neuroscience at UCSF. As you might guess, I love to travel in my free time. I also like hiking, snowboarding, in-line skating, reading, and cooking.

### **Katherine Nagel**



I grew up in Madison, WI, except for one year in Berkeley when I was in fourth grade. Back in the Midwest, I dedicated my life to moving back to the Bay Area, then proceeded to fail miserably at this by going to college at the University of Chicago. At Chicago I was lured into computational neuroscience by one of my professors, who still insists he was only "helping us make choices." Curiously, I didn't end up doing much computational work (until last month!). Instead I spent one summer studying comparative insect development, and about three years (on and off) in an electrophysiology lab studying breathing pattern generation in mice. In grad school I hope to do a bit more computational modeling, using that as a tool to understand how various pieces of the nervous system work together in time. I also hope to enjoy the fact that I'm finally going to live in San Francisco.

### **Linda Nevin**



I was born in the Bay Area but grew up in Thousand Oaks, CA (where Amgen, the biotech giant, is located). For college I returned to this area and attended Stanford, where I majored in Biology. My foci were neuroscience and evolutionary biology, and my favorite summer in college was spent at the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory in Colorado chasing butterflies. I am most interested in researching developmental neurobiology, which is the field I now work in. In between college and UCSF I am tech-ing in Sue McConnell's lab at Stanford, which studies cell fate determination in the cerebral cortex. I am trying to clone one gene and determine the function of another. Outside of schoolish things I love the outdoors and have been learning to rock-climb for about two years.

### **Nathan Okerlund**



I just graduated from the University of Utah with a degree in chemistry; I worked for Henry White, an electroanalytical chemist, for two years, then left my university studies to serve an LDS mission in eastern Venezuela. On my return, I decided I would like to try my hand at biological chemistry and have

worked for the last two years in the lab of Eric Hegg synthesizing functional models of carbon monoxide dehydrogenase and hydrogenase. The medical and philosophical aspects of neuroscience caught my attention and I hope to combine my electrochemical and organic chemistry experience with neuroscience at UCSF. When I'm not in the lab I'm usually reading, writing, eating, or doing dishes. Sad but true.

#### **Mercedes Paredes (MSTP)**



I am a Southern Calif. girl, born in E. Los Angeles but raised in the gentler town of South Pasadena. After 17 restless years in that quaint town, I moved to Boston and graduated from Harvard U. in '98. Unsure what to do with myself, and armed only with the knowledge that I needed to do science I moved to New York. I was a research assistant at Rockefeller University in the Paul Greengard's lab where I learned a lot of protein purification techniques as I studied the regulation of EF2 kinase activity . Oh, and I realized that I was a New Yorker born in the West Coast...Knicks vs Lakers, Sparks vs Liberty...I hope I never have to decide! I then came to UCSF, still in conflict, as an MSTP student. I just finished my preclinical years which were most memorable for the patient contact and learning how to use a stethoscope the right way. I am now excited to start my graduate studies and will be working in Scott Baraban's lab studying cortical dysplasia using a rat model. I still keep faithful to my SoCal roots and love going to the beach, swimming, playing volleyball, and running. I just do these things in my winter coat now!

#### **Sean Pintchovski**



Hi there. I graduated from Caltech in 2001 with a BS in biology, specializing in neurobiology. I spent two years working with human BAC libraries to identify and characterize human pheromone receptors (if you've recently purchased any one of the fine lines of pheromone colognes or perfumes to get that special someone to notice you, I've got bad news for ya'...) and I've spent the last year studying differential gene expression in the adult mouse brain. At UCSF I want to focus on...dunno, but I can say that I'm deeply interested in a range of human health issues. When I'm not doing dork stuff, I enjoy reading and spending time with friends. I am a competitive soccer player and enthusiast (three reconstructive knee operations and still running...a little slower maybe), and I hope to get out enough to see SF.

#### **Nicholette Roemer (MSTP)**



I love cognitive neuroscience. I love to surf. I love my dog. The road to grad school was so circuitous a biography only serves to confuse. Born in Akron, Ohio. Graduated from Smith College in 1995 at the age of 24 with a degree in psychology. Entered med school at UCSF in 1998 and applied to the MSTP the spring of my second year (I took three years to do the first two years of med school). I'm just trying the best I can to learn everything I can about the brain. I've done research in multigenic obesity in mice and apoptosis before med school, but it wasn't until I started working on schizophrenia in the lab of Dr. Sophia Vinogradov here at UCSF that I really caught the research bug. Now there's no going back.

## David Schoppik



I was born in Basel, Switzerland, but grew up mostly in suburban New Jersey. I graduated in '99 from the same small division of NYU as Cory Blaiss (Go Gallatin!), having specialized in neuroscience and philosophy. Science-wise, I've spent the last two years in Mortimer Mishkin's lab at NIMH looking at two major questions: What are the neural substrates of auditory memory in the rhesus macaque (behavioral lesion work), and what are the contributions of the medial temporal lobe in developmental amnesia (MRI volumetrics)? After two years, I'm even more puzzled by higher cognitive functions than when I began, and am desperately seeking something more tractable, preferably something ethologically relevant. Above all extracurricular things, I enjoy traveling: my wife and I just returned from Tanzania, where we'd gone in search of chimpanzees. Hopefully now that we're living on the left side of the US, we'll have easier access to the Orient. Swimming, rock climbing, and juggling round out the outdoors side, and indoors you'll find me reading and listening to bluegrass (it's a Maryland thing).