



Heather B Patisaul

Dr. Heather B. Patisaul
Assistant Professor
Department of Biology
North Carolina State University

Research in the Patisaul laboratory focuses on brain and behavioral changes occurring across the puberty transition and seeks to understand how environmental chemicals alter these developmental processes. Using rodent models, our work focuses on (1) understanding the functional roles different estrogen receptors play in the organization of sexually dimorphic neuroendocrine pathways and behaviors including sexual behavior, anxiety and aggression; (2) exploring the mechanisms by which environmental endocrine disruptors interfere with hormone dependent neuroendocrine organization; and (3) assessing if exposure to environmental endocrine disruptors, such as Bisphenol A (BPA) and soy phytoestrogens, during critical life stages alters the timing of pubertal onset and adult fertility. Dr. Patisaul served as a science communication fellow for Environmental Health News in 2009 and continues to be active in science journalism, public policy, and science education.

EDUCATION

2001 Ph.D. Population Biology, Ecology and Evolution, Emory University, Atlanta, GA
Dissertation: Phytoestrogenic effects on neuroendocrine function and behavior.
Mentor: Patricia Whitten, Ph.D., Department of Anthropology
Co-Mentor: Larry Young, Ph.D., Center for Behavioral Neuroscience
1995 B.S. with Honors, Zoology, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

EMPLOYMENT

Associate Professor, Department of Biology, North Carolina State University, July 2012 - present
Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, North Carolina State University, July 2006 - present
Associate Member, Department of Toxicology, North Carolina State University
Member, W. M. Keck Center for Behavioral Biology, North Carolina State University
Research Investigator, CIIT Centers for Health Research, Jan – July 2006
Post-Doctoral Fellow, CIIT Centers for Health Research, 2004 – 2005
Mentor: Eva Polston, Ph.D.
Post-Doctoral Fellow, Yerkes National Primate Research Center, Emory University, 2001 – 2004
Mentor: Mark Wilson, Ph.D.

AWARDS AND HONORS

2009 Science Communication Fellow for Environmental Health News
2005 Travel Award, Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology
2002 Young Investigator Award, Workshop on Steroid Hormones and Brain Function
2001 Poster Award, Second Annual Emory University Interdisciplinary Science Symposium

2001 Recognized by the Nutrition & Health Sciences Program at Emory University for outstanding research contributions of relevance to Nutrition

1999 Two-year ARCS Scholar

1999 Travel Award, Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology

GRANTS

In Progress:

07/04/2007 – 12/31/2013

1R01ES016001-01 (NIEHS Outstanding New Environmental Scientist Award (ONES))

Endocrine Disruption of the Hypothalamic Signaling that Regulates Puberty

Source: NIH/NIEHS

Role: PI

11/2009 – 11/2013

1 RC2 ES018736-01 Research and Recovery “Grand Opportunities”

Prenatal Bisphenol A and Sexually Dimorphic Neurodevelopment

Source: NIH/NIEHS

Role: Key Personnel

09/19/2011 – 05/31/2015

1U011ES020929-01

Neurobehavioral effects of Bisphenol A across age and sex

Source: NIH/NIEHS

Role: PI

01/01/2012 – 12/31/2013

1R21ES021233-01

Interaction of BPA and soy isoflavones on sociosexual behavior

Source: NIH/NIEHS

Role: PI