Alex C. Rich

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EDUCATION

Yale University, New Haven, CT   Expected May 2026
Ph.D. Neuroscience, Interdepartmental Neuroscience Program
Advisor: Ifat Levy, Ph.D.
Selected Courses: Bioethics in Neuroscience, Principles of Neuroscience, How to Write a Grant, Data Analysis

University of Minnesota - Twin Cities, Minneapolis, MN   2021
B.S. Neuroscience, Minors in Behavioral Biology and Health Psychology
Awards: Kenneth Bachofer and Linda Marie Scholarship (2020-2021), College of Biological Sciences Dean's List (2017-2021), University of Minnesota National Scholarship (2017-2021)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Yale University, *Graduate Researcher*, New Haven, CT   2021-Present
- Designed a novel learning paradigm incorporating individual food preferences using Python
- Analyze behavioral data using both model-based (e.g., reinforcement learning) and model-free techniques
- Collect and analyze neuroimaging data from general and clinical populations, including obesity and eating disorders
- Mentor and supervise undergraduate students (3 in total), including a Yale Senior Thesis on computational modeling of behavioral task data and an Amgen Scholars Program project on behavioral task design
- Collaborated across institutions to analyze risk and ambiguity attitudes in bulimia nervosa
- Conducted task-based neuroimaging and behavioral analyses probing qualitative decision-making under uncertainty
- Performed whole-brain connectivity clinical correlations to distinguish the depression of bipolar disorder from major depressive disorder in adolescents and young adults

Minnesota Center for Eating Disorders Research, Minneapolis, MN   2018-2021
Clinical Research Project Coordinator (August 2020 - June 2021)
- Administered clinical questionnaires and a translational decision-making task to participants with bulimic spectrum disorders
- Managed project regulatory documentation and recruitment
Research Assistant (December 2018 - August 2020)
- Recruited and screened adult patients with anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, and binge eating disorder for studies regarding the biological basis of eating disorders and novel psychological treatment options
- Trained in clinical assessments, including the Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-5 and Eating Disorder Examination, and second-chairing functional neuroimaging scans
- Analyzed resting state functional connectivity data and performed bivariate clinical correlations
- Investigated the role of rumination and rumination-related beliefs in eating pathology through hierarchical multiple regression and moderation analyses using SPSS and ridge regression analysis using R

University of Minnesota Hayden Lab, *Research Assistant*, Minneapolis, MN   2017-2019
- Performed behavioral training and care of rhesus macaque monkeys
- Ran behavioral trials of a naturalistic decision-making task
- Assisted in single-unit physiology analyses using MATLAB

LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY EXPERIENCE

Yale Graduate and Professional Student Senate, New Haven, CT   2021-Present
President (May 2024 - May 2025)
- Liaise between Yale graduate and professional programs and university administration to foster community and advocate for policy change

- Serve as representative to the Office of the President, Office of the Secretary & Vice President for University Life, Alumni Association Board of Governors, Board of Trustees, and all other Yale offices and external organizations
- Collaborate with university leadership to institutionalize pilot initiatives and support, such as a graduate and professional student mental health resource guide and a food insecurity support program
- Manage business, affairs, and property of the Senate and its Officers, including a budget of over $200,000
- Preside at all internal Senate and Executive Board meetings

Advocacy Committee Co-Chair (May 2022 - May 2024)
- Managed planning and execution of various initiatives (e.g., campus-wide distribution of menstrual hygiene products)
- Analyzed survey data and created data reports to support advocacy
- Authored and presented "Yale Graduate and Professional Student Food Insecurity: A Comprehensive Report and Proposed Solutions" to university administrators
- Led a successful resolution to establish the first new standing committee of the Senate in over 50 years: the External Affairs Committee, tasked with facilitating local, state, and national-level advocacy initiatives tailored to the needs of graduate and professional students

Senator (September 2021 - May 2022)
- Elected to represent Yale graduate students in the natural sciences on Senate resolutions, votes, and committee work
- Served on the Advocacy Committee, representing constituents in conversations with university administrators
- Procured the university's first comprehensive and updateable graduate and professional student mental health resource list

Society for Neuroscience (SfN), *Early Career Policy Ambassador*, Washington, D.C.   2025
- Selected as an SfN Early Career Policy Ambassador, representing Yale University in the 2025 cohort
- Advocate for science funding and research policies during SfN Capitol Hill Day and through regular engagement with policymakers
- Lead advocacy initiatives at Yale, organizing events and publishing content to promote neuroscience research
- Participate in public outreach and professional development to enhance advocacy skills and impact

American Institute of Biological Sciences Congressional Visits Day and Training, *Attendee*, Washington, D.C.   2024
- Met with lawmakers to advocate for federal investment in the biological sciences, with a primary focus on the National Science Foundation
- Completed policy and communications training as part of the 2024 Emerging Public Policy Leadership Award, which included information on the legislative process, trends in federal science funding, and how to engage with policymakers and the news media

Graduate Research and Development (GRAD) Coalition, *Secretary of the Board*, Washington, D.C.   2023-2024
- Supported efforts of the U.S. House of Representatives GRAD Caucus, helping to develop legislative priorities
- Collaborated with student government leaders across 200 U.S. institutions to promote graduate student needs to members of Congress
- Organized a congressional briefing on graduate student mentorship in Washington, D.C., including recruitment of speakers and sponsors (e.g., Association of American Universities)
- Led a successful collaborative letter across 14 affected institutions to preserve student eligibility for federal loans, threatened by the funding offset originally proposed in H.R. 6585
- Arranged and documented Executive Board meetings, ran elections, and managed Coalition correspondences

University of Minnesota College of Biological Sciences Student Board, Minneapolis, MN   2019-2021
Chair of Initiative and Advocacy Committee (May 2019 - June 2021)
- Collected and analyzed data on student experiences and needs, designed and executed initiatives based on student feedback, and communicated data to university leadership
- Wrote and presented a proposal to establish a Mental Health Counselor specific to the college
- Managed planning and execution of initiatives, including a STEM Day collaborative event with local middle school students

Board Member (January 2019 - May 2020)
- Selected to represent College of Biological Sciences students in conversations with college administrators and the work of the board

University of Minnesota Boynton Health Services, Minneapolis, MN   2019-2021
Health Promotions Student Assistant (May 2020 - June 2021)
- Performed a literature search on trauma-informed public health policies to inform the University of Minnesota Boynton Health Services' response to COVID-19 and the murder of George Floyd
- Coordinated the University of Minnesota Mental Health Advocates initiative by creating Canvas courses, facilitating training for over 200 faculty/staff, and writing a monthly newsletter with campus mental health service updates
- Evaluated program efficacy through qualitative and quantitative analyses and reports for the University of Minnesota Mental Health Advocates, Sexual Health Awareness and Disease Education, and De-stress programs

De-stress Outreach Coordinator (April 2019 - June 2021)
- Promoted campus mental wellness through community outreach and coordination of a peer advising service
- Presented approximately twice weekly on stress management techniques to student, faculty, and staff groups
- Wrote a weekly email digest for the University of Minnesota undergraduate population

Project HEAL, *Volunteer*, Minneapolis, MN   2018-2020
- Advocated for and supported the eating disorder treatment needs of minority communities in the Twin Cities
- Led a Mental Health Awareness Month fundraiser to fund treatment access scholarships
- Designed advertisements for events, support groups, and the Project HEAL Treatment Access Program using Canva

SELECTED INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

Yale President's Campus Mental Health Committee, *Member*, New Haven, CT   2024-2025
- Review assessments of student mental health services at Yale and identify any weaknesses in those services
- Make recommendations for campus mental health services for students, including the use of on-campus, telehealth, community-based, and emergency mobile psychiatric services

Yale Inauguration Steering Committee, *Member*, New Haven, CT   2024-2025
- Advised University President on the tone of and inclusion of Yale community members in her inauguration as Yale's 24th President
- Planned activities of Pre-Inauguration Weekend, Day of Service, and Inauguration Weekend which served to showcase Yale's history, current vitality, and future aspirations both at Yale and across Alumni hubs worldwide

Yale Alumni Association Board of Governors, *Ex-Officio Member*, New Haven, CT   2024-2025
- Advise elected and appointed alumni in governing the Yale Alumni Association
- Serve on the Careers, Life, and Yale committee, responsible for producing career exploration and life skills programming for students and alumni
- Aid in the selection of Yale Alumni Association Public Service Awardees

Yale Student Library Advisory Committee, *Member*, New Haven, CT   2024-2025
- Represent graduate and professional student needs and concerns to the Yale Library

Yale Office of the Secretary and Vice President for University Life Student Civic Engagement   2024
Committee, *Member*, New Haven, CT
- Investigated the needs of Yale undergraduate, graduate, and professional students and curate aligned programming and best practices for student voter registration and turnout
- Created a plan for outreach to traditionally low-turnout groups
- Crafted university-wide communications for election reminders and civic engagement information

Ivy+ Conference Planning Committee, *Director of Communications*, New Haven, CT   2023
- Organized a conference of over 70 student government leaders and university student support staff from 10 peer institutions to discuss initiatives and concerns
- Directed communications, including registration leading up to the conference and instructions during the conference

Yale Interdepartmental Neuroscience Program Executive Committee, *Lower Year Student*   2022-2023
Representative, New Haven, CT

- Reconciled faculty and student interests to support programmatic change
- Hosted Town Halls semi-annually and distributed qualitative data reports
- Advocated for and facilitated the collection of student feedback concerning the restructuring of program leadership and the subsequent hiring of 3 new directors

Yale Women's Mental Health Conference Planning Committee, *Member*, New Haven, CT   2021-2022
- Planned and executed the first academic and trainee-led conference on Women's Mental Health in the nation
- Collaboratively reviewed and accepted abstracts for presentation
- Led conference sessions and provided technical support

Yale University Sustainability Advisory Council, *Member*, New Haven, CT   2021-2022
- Offered guidance and inspiration on Yale's Sustainability Plan in collaboration with university administrators

University of Minnesota Prevention, Wellness, and Training Committee of the Provost's Council   2020-2021
on Student Mental Health, *Member,* Minneapolis, MN
- Collaborated with a university faculty and staff workgroup to develop, implement, and support population-level initiatives addressing student well-being on system campuses
- Presented literature search findings and led subsequent discussions on trauma-informed teaching and public health policies to inform the University of Minnesota Office of the Provost's response to COVID-19 and the murder of George Floyd

University of Minnesota Student Health Advisory Committee, *Undergraduate Student*   2019-2021
Representative, Minneapolis, MN
- Advised Boynton Health Services on how to improve the health of the university community
- Helped develop the Student Services Fee requests by participating in fee hearings and approving the final request

University of Minnesota College of Biological Sciences Research Task Force, *Undergraduate*   2020-2021
Student Representative, Minneapolis, MN
- Collaborated with the Dean and faculty to assess the state of undergraduate research and opportunities for involvement
- Bolstered initiatives in support of undergraduate research assistants, like volunteer research agreements

University of Minnesota College of Biological Sciences Consultative Committee,   2019-2020
Undergraduate Student Representative, Minneapolis, MN
- Collaborated with the Dean and faculty to address undergraduate concerns and advise long-term plans and goals
- Established Undergraduate Skills Task Force and Research Task Force
- Changed the College of Biological Sciences constitution to include undergraduate representatives on college leadership committees

TEACHING AND ACADEMIC SUPPORT EXPERIENCE

Yale Student Accessibility Services, New Haven, CT   2022-Present
Accommodations Assistant (September 2023 - Present)
- Coordinate the delivery of testing accommodations with university faculty and teaching assistants
- Procure and manage spreadsheets
- Communicate exam logistics to students and oversee exam-day operations
- Completed informational interviews and compiled a report of testing center practices across 9 institutions
Proctor (May 2022 - Present)
- Administer and supervise exams for students requiring accommodations to ensure secure and equitable testing
- Trained in implementing a variety of accommodations, including assistive technology, and providing mental health support during testing, such as de-escalation techniques and referral to campus resources
- Problem-solve and communicate with faculty during testing to address issues that arise promptly and sensitively

Yale Interdepartmental Neuroscience Program, New Haven, CT   2022-Present
Mentor (September 2022 - Present)

- Support first-year graduate students through one-on-one mentorship
Teaching Fellow (Spring 2023, 2024)
- Led group discussions on topics concerning *Bioethics in Neuroscience*
- Selected and coordinated the attendance of 22 faculty experts
- Organized course materials, assigned readings, and graded projects

University of Minnesota Department of Neuroscience, *Teaching Assistant,* Minneapolis, MN   Fall 2019
- Guided *Human Neuroanatomy* students through sheep and human cadaver dissections
- Prepared solutions and performed brain section staining

University of Minnesota School of Mathematics, *Teaching Assistant,* Minneapolis, MN   Fall 2018
- Facilitated *Calculus & Dynamic Systems in Biology* weekly discussions
- Proctored exams and answered student questions

University of Minnesota College of Biological Sciences, *Sophomore Guild Leader*, Minneapolis, MN   2018-2019
- Selected to mentor underclassmen during their transition into college life and academia
- Facilitated group discussion of experiences, concerns, and mental wellness weekly among nine first-year students
- Met with students one-on-one throughout the year to advise and refer to campus resources

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Rich, A.C., Levy, I. (*Forthcoming*). Domain-general and domain-specific values and their role in psychopathology. In *Neuroeconomics: Core Topics and Current Directions.* Springer Nature.

Rich, A.C., Haynos, A.F., Anderson, D.A., Ehrlich, L.E., & Anderson, L.M. (2022). The role of rumination and positive beliefs about rumination in eating pathology. *Eating and Weight Disorders-Studies on Anorexia, Bulimia, and Obesity*, *27*(3), 979-988.

Goldman, D.A., Sankar, A., **Rich, A.C.**, Kim, J.A., Pittman, B., Constable, R.T., ... & Blumberg, H.P. (2022). A graph theory neuroimaging approach to distinguish the depression of bipolar disorder from major depressive disorder in adolescents and young adults. *Journal of Affective Disorders*, *319*, 15-26.

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Rich, A.C., Kapadia, S., Dan, O., Levy, I. (2025, June). *Do prior preferences interfere with associative learning of food values?* 2025 Multi-disciplinary Conference on Reinforcement Learning and Decision Making, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland.

Rich, A.C., Kapadia, S., Dan, O., Levy, I. (2024, October). *Do Inherent Preferences Interfere with Associative Learning of Food Values?* Poster accepted for presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Society for NeuroEconomics, Cascais, Portugal.

Samonek, K.M., **Rich, A.C.,** Levy, I. (2024, August). *Do Disordered Eating and Obesity Interfere with Associative Learning of Food Values?* Poster accepted for presentation at the Annual Yale Postgraduate Association Symposium, New Haven, CT.

Rich, A.C., Levy, I., Aimufua, I., Konova, A., Walsh, B.T., Hagan, K. (2024, May). *A Preliminary Investigation of Risk and Ambiguity Attitudes in Adult Patients with Bulimia Nervosa.* Poster accepted for presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Biological Psychiatry, Austin, TX.

Rich, A.C. (2024, April). *Inherent Food Value Updating: How Do Food Preferences Bias Learning Ability?* Interdepartmental Neuroscience Program Student Research Talks, Yale University, New Haven, CT.

Henry, R., **Rich, A.C.,** Levy, I. (2023, August). *Binge Eating and Cognitive Flexibility: A Prospective Study on Food Valuation Deficits in Obesity.* Poster accepted for presentation at the Biomedical Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Symposium, Yale University, New Haven, CT.

Rich, A.C. (2023, June). *Subjective Food Value Updating in Obesity with Binge Eating: A Prospective Study.* Yale Center for Molecular and Systems Metabolism Retreat, Yale University, New Haven, CT.

Rich, A.C. (2022, June). *Qualitative Decision-Making Under Uncertainty.* Interdepartmental Neuroscience Program Student Research Talks, Yale University, New Haven, CT.

Rich, A.C., Jia, R., Fried, T., Levy, I. (2022, November). *Qualitative Decision-Making Under Uncertainty.* Poster accepted for presentation at the Society for Neuroscience Meeting, San Diego, CA.

Rich, A.C., Haynos, A.F., Camchong, J., Jappe Hall, L.M., Peterson, C.B., Crow, S.J., Klimes-Dougan, B., Cullen, K.R., Lim, K.O. (2020, October). *Amygdala Resting State Connectivity Predicts Anxiety Symptoms in Anorexia Nervosa.* Poster accepted for presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Eating Disorder Research Society, Sitges, Spain.

Rich, A.C., Haynos, A.F., Anderson, D.A., Ehrlich, L.E., Anderson, L.M. (2020, June). *Taking a Disorder-Specific Perspective: The Role of Rumination and Positive Beliefs About Rumination in Eating Pathology.* Poster accepted for presentation at the International Conference on Eating Disorders, Sydney, Australia.

Rich, A.C. (2019, November). *On Stress Management and Practicing Self-Care in College.* College of Biological Sciences Dean's Scholars Program Fall Seminar, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN.

Rich, A.C. (2019, September). *On Stress Management and Practicing Self-Care in College.* The University of Minnesota President's and Emerging Scholars Conference, Minneapolis, MN.

Rich, A.C. (2019, April). *Peer Education in Stress Management.* Annual Midwest Regional Peer Educator Conference, Macalester College, St. Paul, MN.

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Emerging Public Policy Leadership Award, American Institute of Biological Sciences   2024
- Recognizes two biological sciences graduate students across the United States demonstrating an interest and aptitude for working at the intersection of science or science education and policy

NIH-NINDS T32 'Neurobiology of Cortical Systems' Training Grant, Yale Department of Neuroscience   2023-2024
- Awarded through a competitive internal selection process to support specialized training in cortical systems neuroscience

Gruber Science Fellowship, Yale Graduate School of Arts and Sciences   2021-2023
- Awarded to the most highly ranked applicants to Yale Ph.D. programs in the life sciences, cosmology, and astrophysics

Tom Burnett Advanced Leadership Program Award, University of Minnesota - Twin Cities   2021
- University-wide, faculty/staff-nominated enrichment program and award in honor of alumnus Tom Burnett who passed on 9/11/2001 aboard United Flight 93: based on risk-taking, ability to work across cultures, and ability to manage and create change in leadership roles

President's Student Leadership & Service Award, University of Minnesota - Twin Cities   2020
- University-wide, faculty/staff-nominated award recognizing leadership and service to the university and surrounding community

Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program Award, *The Role of Rumination and Positive Beliefs*   2019
About Rumination in Eating Pathology, University of Minnesota - Twin Cities

Normal Rotary Club Scholarship, Normal, IL   2017
- Annual award given to students demonstrating a passion and interest in serving others

SKILLS

- Programming Languages: Python, R, MATLAB
- Data analysis: Regression and correlation, mean comparison, time series, neuroimaging (preprocessing, region-of-interest, whole-brain, functional connectivity), modeling (reinforcement learning & decision-making), qualitative (thematic)
- Software and Tools: Jupyter Notebook, PsychoPy, SPSS, RStudio, SPM, FSL, Canva, Microsoft Office