

Alex C. Rich

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EDUCATION

- Yale University**, New Haven, CT Defending July 2026
Ph.D. Neuroscience, Interdepartmental Neuroscience Program
Advisor: Ifat Levy, Ph.D.
- University of Minnesota - Twin Cities**, Minneapolis, MN 2021
B.S. Neuroscience, Minors in Behavioral Biology and Health Psychology

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Yale University**, *Graduate Researcher*, New Haven, CT 2021-Present
- Designed a novel probabilistic reversal learning paradigm incorporating individual food preferences using Python
 - Analyzed behavioral data using both model-based (e.g., reinforcement learning) and model-free techniques
 - Collected and analyzed neuroimaging data using whole-brain and region-of-interest techniques
 - Mentored and supervised undergraduate students, including a Yale Senior Thesis on computational modeling of behavioral task data and an Amgen Scholars Program project on behavioral task design
- Minnesota Center for Eating Disorders Research**, Minneapolis, MN 2018-2021
Clinical Research Project Coordinator (August 2020 - June 2021)
- Administered clinical questionnaires and a 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
 - Trained in the Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-5 and Eating Disorder Examination
 - Investigated the role of rumination 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 of rhesus macaque monkeys for a naturalistic decision-making task

LEADERSHIP, ADVOCACY, AND POLICY EXPERIENCE

- Scientist Network for Advancing Policy (SNAP)**, *Founding Co-Organizer* 2025-Present
- Established and procured \$250k in funding for a national grassroots network of early-career scientists dedicated to developing capacity for researcher engagement with the public and policymakers through large-scale action
 - Served on the leadership team for the McClintock Letters initiative, a national op-ed writing campaign training 600 scientists to write for a public audience and resulting in over 250 local newspaper publications across all 50 states
 - Led SNAP Congressional District Visits, supporting 140 early-career researchers in conducting 54 meetings across 29 states with their elected representatives through tailored one-pagers, trainings, and meeting coordination
 - Organize and participate in collaborative science and policy writing projects
 - Manage diverse organizational collaborations (e.g., American Association for the Advancement of Science, National Museum and Center for Service) to develop new engagement activities for early-career researchers
- Graduate Research and Development (GRAD) Coalition**, Washington, D.C. 2023-2024, 2025-Present
Vice Chair (September 2025 - May 2026), *Secretary of the Board* (May 2023 - May 2024)
- Develop policy recommendations for the U.S. House of Representatives GRAD Caucus through engagement of national associations, congressional staff, and student government leaders of 30 institutions
 - Hosted a congressional briefing on graduate student mentorship, including the recruitment of speakers and sponsors
 - Led a successful collaborative letter across 14 affected institutions to preserve student eligibility for federal loans
 - Organizing a collaborative report and congressional briefing on recommendations to reimagine graduate student funding and resulting incentive structures in science
- Yale Hill Day Program**, *Inaugural McDougal Center Communications Fellow*, New Haven, CT 2025-Present
- Procured funding for and institutionalized a university-wide science communication and policy training program

- Led workshops for 150 students on science communication to policymakers
- Coordinated over 75 congressional meetings and policy asks for biomedical, climate, and quantum subgroups

Yale Office of Federal and State Relations, *Inaugural Intern*, New Haven, CT 2025

- Conducted predictive modeling and created a report for colleagues at the Association of American Universities and university offices nationwide on proposed FY 2026 NIH multi-year funding policy changes
- Supported faculty in translating their research to policy asks and established new pipelines for trainee engagement
- Created accessible advocacy materials for university leaders to share with federal and state government officials

Yale Graduate and Professional Student Senate, New Haven, CT 2021-2025

External Affairs Committee Chair (May 2025 - September 2025)

- Facilitated urgent federal and state advocacy initiatives to support the needs of graduate and professional students
- Built relationships with institutional and national partners to foster sustainable avenues for student engagement

President (May 2024 - May 2025)

- Liaised between Yale graduate and professional programs and university leadership to implement data-driven institutional policy changes and foster an inclusive campus community
- Served 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
- Secured university-wide adoption of an anti-doxxing policy, hiring of an Ombudsperson, and food insecurity solutions
- Established the External Affairs Committee to support graduate student engagement in local, state, and federal policy

Advocacy Committee Co-Chair (May 2022 - May 2024)

- Engaged student body to curate institutional policy recommendations and managed over 20 advocacy projects
- Authored and presented *Yale Graduate and Professional Student Food Insecurity* to university administrators

Senator (September 2021 - May 2022)

- Procured and institutionalized a comprehensive, updateable mental health resource list

Society for Neuroscience, *Early Career Policy Ambassador*, Washington, D.C. 2025

- Selected for a 10-month professional development program to enhance science advocacy skills and impact
- Advocated for science funding and evidence-based research policies during and following SfN Capitol Hill Day

American Institute of Biological Sciences, *Emerging Public Policy Leadership Awardee*, Washington, D.C. 2024

- Completed policy and communications training on the legislative process, federal science funding trends, and how to engage with policymakers and the news media
- Advocated for federal investment in the biological sciences during AIBS Congressional Visits Day

University of Minnesota College of Biological Sciences Student Board, *Chair of Initiative and* 2019-2021

Advocacy Committee, Minneapolis, MN

- Collected and analyzed data on student experiences and needs, designed and executed initiatives based on student feedback, and communicated findings to university leadership
- Wrote and presented a proposal to establish a Mental Health Counselor specific to the college

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 efficacy of 3 university programs through qualitative and quantitative analyses and reports

De-stress Outreach Coordinator (April 2019 - June 2021)

- Promoted campus mental wellness through community outreach and coordination of a peer advising service
- Presented weekly and wrote an email digest on evidence-based stress management to students, faculty, and staff

SELECTED INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

Yale University Ombudsperson Search Advisory Committee, *Student Representative*, New Haven, CT 2025-2026

- Appointed to review and interview candidates and advise the President's selection of Yale's inaugural Ombudsperson

Yale University President's Campus Mental Health Committee, *Member*, New Haven, CT 2024-2025

- Appointed to review assessments and make recommendations for student mental health services

Yale University Alumni Association Board of Governors, *Ex-Officio Member*, New Haven, CT 2024-2025

- Advised governing of the Yale Alumni Association
- Served on the Careers, Life, and Yale committee, producing campus professional development programming

Yale University Office of the Secretary and Vice President for University Life Student Civic Engagement Committee, *Member*, New Haven, CT 2024

- Created outreach plan for traditionally low-turnout voters and crafted Yale’s campus-wide election communications

Ivy+ Conference Planning Committee, *Director of Communications*, New Haven, CT 2023

- Organized a conference of over 70 student government leaders and university staff from 10 peer institutions

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

- Ensured and facilitated the integration of student feedback in program restructuring and the hiring of 3 new directors

University of Minnesota Prevention, Wellness, and Training Committee of the Provost’s Council on Student Mental Health, *Member*, Minneapolis, MN 2020-2021

- Collaborated with a university faculty and staff workgroup to develop, implement, and support population-level trauma-informed initiatives addressing student wellbeing on system campuses

University of Minnesota College of Biological Sciences Consultative Committee, *Undergraduate Student Representative*, Minneapolis, MN 2019-2021

- Collaborated with the Dean and faculty to advise long-term plans and goals
- Served on the Research Task Force to bolster undergraduate research involvement, resulting in volunteer agreements
- Amended the College of Biological Sciences constitution to include student representation on all committees

TEACHING AND ACADEMIC SUPPORT EXPERIENCE

Yale Student Accessibility Services, New Haven, CT 2022-Present
Accommodations Assistant (September 2023 - Present), *Proctor* (May 2022 - Present)

- Coordinate the delivery of testing accommodations with university faculty and teaching assistants
- Completed informational interviews and compiled a report of testing center practices across 9 institutions
- Trained in assistive technology use and mental health support (e.g., de-escalation)

Yale Interdepartmental Neuroscience Program, *Teaching Fellow*, New Haven, CT Spring 2023, Spring 2024

- Led *Bioethics in Neuroscience* course, responsible for selecting course materials, leading discussions, and grading
- Selected and coordinated the attendance of 22 faculty experts

University of Minnesota Department of Neuroscience, *Teaching Assistant*, Minneapolis, MN Fall 2019

- Guided *Human Neuroanatomy* students through sheep and human cadaver dissections

University of Minnesota School of Mathematics, *Teaching Assistant*, Minneapolis, MN Fall 2018

- Facilitated *Calculus & Dynamic Systems in Biology* discussions and proctored exams

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Rich, A.C., Kapadia, S., Henry, R., Dan, O., Levy, I. (2026). Prior preferences interfere with the associative learning of food values. *Under review*.

Albert, R., Davis, B., Morrow, E., Rader Grovers, A., Joshi, P., McCann, C.F., Ramotowski, D., Selland, E., Mattson, A., **Rich, A.C.**, Di Tomassi, I. (*Forthcoming*). Science communication and outreach training as a required component of graduate education. In “The Public’s Science—A New Social Contract for American Research Policy”, *the ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*.

Rich, A.C., Levy, I. (2026). Domain-general and domain-specific values and their role in psychopathology. In *Neuroeconomics: Core Topics and Current Directions*. Springer Nature.

Rich, A.C. (2025). The walls are closing in — science funding cuts threaten Central Illinois. *The Pantagraph*. Op-ed.

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.

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.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

Sinclair, A., Morrow, E., **Rich, A.C.,** Voytek, B. (2026, March). *Cognitive Neuroscience and Society: Resistance and Resilience During Science Funding Crises*. Workshop accepted for presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Neuroscience Society, Vancouver, B.C., Canada.

Plenary Panelist (2026, February). *SNAP: Scientist Network for Advancing Policy*. Invited plenary, 2026 American Association for the Advancement of Science Annual Meeting, Phoenix, AZ.

Rich, A.C., Kapadia, S., Dan, O., Levy, I. (2025, November). *Prior preferences interfere with associative learning of food values*. Poster accepted for presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Neuroscience, San Diego, CA.

Panelist (2025, September). *Navigating the Evolving Science Policy Landscape with Resilience*. Invited panel, 2025 American Institute of Biological Sciences Council Meeting, Washington, D.C.

Panelist (2025, September). *Messaging to the Hill/Public: Key Allies*. Invited panel, Association of American Universities Council on Federal Relations September Meeting, Washington, D.C.

Panelist (2025, July). *What are Graduate Students Currently Experiencing in the United States?* Invited panel, Reimagining STEMM Graduate Education and Postdoctoral Career Development: A Summit, National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine, Washington, D.C.

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 Society for NeuroEconomics, Cascais, Portugal.

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

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.

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 competitive internal selection process for specialized training in cortical systems neuroscience

Gruber Science Fellowship, Yale Graduate School of Arts and Sciences 2021-2023

- Awarded to 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 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
- Software and Tools: Jupyter Notebook, PsychoPy, SPSS, RStudio, MATLAB, Canva, Microsoft Office