

GRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



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Aaron Lab

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TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF

I grew up in Long Island, NY with my parents and three sisters. Since then, I have lived in Boston, Binghamton, Atlanta, and now Connecticut. I got married last October, and my wife and I have two cats: Ruby and Jason. I spend a lot of time watching and playing sports, mostly hockey and baseball. If I weren't a scientist, I would be a play-by-play announcer for a sports broadcasting network. Besides sports and science, I also like listening to audiobooks, seeing new places, playing video games, trying new beers, and listening to music - my record collection just recently reached 100 albums and is still growing!

TELL US ABOUT YOUR CURRENT RESEARCH

My research focuses on a phenomenon called adult neurogenesis, which is the growth and development of neurons in the adult brain. In our songbirds (zebra finches), these new neurons become functionally incorporated into existing cells and contribute to many important functions including learning, memory, and auditory perception. In our lab, we study a subpopulation of new neurons that are added to a brain area integral for producing birdsong.

WHAT IS A FUN FACT THAT NOT MANY OF US KNOW ABOUT YOU?

In 2008 I went to Boston University as a freshman to study Broadcast Journalism.

WHAT BOOK DO YOU RECOMMEND AND WHY?

The Humans by Matt Haig

WHAT SONG HAS BEEN STUCK IN YOUR HEAD LATELY?

6:30 Tip Off by Conway the Machine