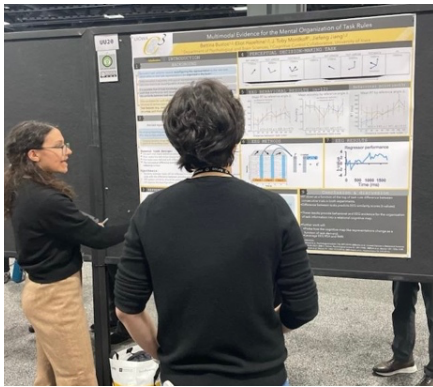


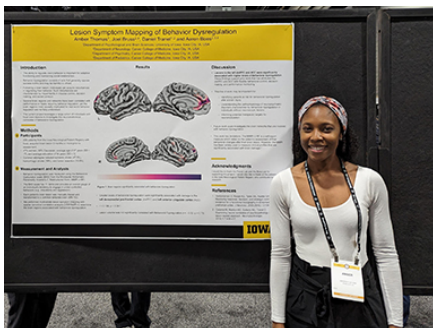
I've attended the Society for Neuroscience annual meeting for 30 years and each year I'm invigorated by the sheer volume of science being shared among the 25,000 participants. Where else can you have a Nobel Laureate walk up and talk to you about your poster or test your mettle against an insightful and difficult question from a first-year graduate student?

Iowa neuroscientists presented nearly 100 posters this year representing the wide range of our work from molecular neuroscience to human cognitive studies. Some of our presenters were attending or presenting for the first time. I wondered whether newer attendees would feel the same way about the meeting that I do, and was glad to hear overwhelmingly positive experiences:



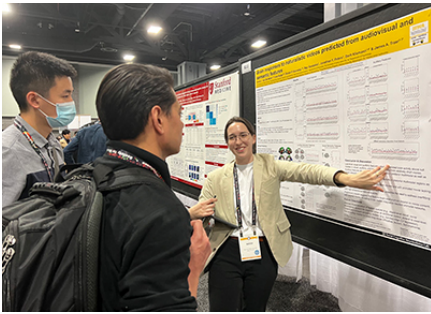
Bettina Bustos, Jiefeng Jiang Lab, presented “Multimodal evidence for the mental organization of task rules” on Tuesday morning:

I thought SFN was going to be too large of a conference to where it would be difficult to have focused conversations. Not only was this not the case, but because it was so large there were so many researchers with relevant and interesting work. I had some great feedback from people who I would value collaborating with in the future and provided positive comments about the value of the work. Some comments helped think of new potential analyses.



Amber Thomas, Tranel and Boes Labs, presented “Lesion symptom mapping of behavioral dysregulation” on Sunday morning:

I got very interesting and thought-provoking questions that helped guide the future of the project I presented. I also got to meet and connect with former Iowa neuroscience student Dr. Justin Reber. He suggested novel ways to measure emotion and behavior regulation that I was not privy to before attending this conference. I was thrilled to be able to attend the Black in Neuro professional development talk. As a first-gen Black woman working in neuroscience and neuropsychology, it was wonderful to be in a room filled with people just like me who have accomplished such wonderful things in their career. It was very inspiring and motivating to be a part of. I also attended a professional development talk on applying to NIH grants. I am currently in the process of writing an F31 grant proposal and all of the nuggets of information gained from this talk were incredibly helpful. SfN was a wonderful experience and I'd love to attend again in the future!



Avery Van De Water, Kliemann Lab, presented “Brain responses to naturalistic videos predicted from audiovisual and semantic features” on Tuesday afternoon:

This was my first time presenting a poster at SfN, and I had a fantastic time. I was grateful to receive a lot of interest, time, and thoughts from other researchers who were interested in my research. I was excited to learn about a new function in MatLab (optical flow) that I can use to extract and add a relevant new feature to one of my encoding models where I

use visual features extracted from movies presented to participants in an fMRI scanner to predict their brain responses. There were so many interesting posters, and I had so much fun thinking about and discussing other people’s work.

Brooke Yeager, Narayanan Lab, presented “Altered mid-frontal theta dynamics indicate failure to engage cognitive control for working memory in Parkinson’s disease” on Monday afternoon: *The most exciting thing about my first SfN experience was discovering labs that have the same research goal as I do. While some people may get nervous seeing other labs doing similar work to their own, I view this as me being on the right track. I also see this as an opportunity to network and make meaningful connections that may be helpful in the future. In this regard, I was able to meet several members of Dr. Elizabeth L. Johnson’s lab from Northwestern University who are also using electrophysiology to study the theta dynamics that support working memory in humans.*

In addition to the poster sessions, **Dan Tranel** led a workshop on developing training grants and two Iowa teams led nanosymposia—**Sam Young** with postdoc **Priya Veeraraghavan** and grad student **Jianing Li**; and **Jan Wessel** with postdoc **Josh Tatz** and undergraduate **Maddie Carlson**.



The icing on the cake was our Friends of Iowa party, held at Cuba Libre, and featuring my first-ever representation in pastry form. Thanks to all who came out to celebrate Iowa Neuroscience as well as a milestone birthday for myself and my friend and colleague Bruce Lamb of Stark Neurosciences Research Institute at Indiana University.

I’m really pleased to see Iowa Neuroscience play such a prominent role in this flagship conference. Hope to see you in Chicago in 2024!

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