

# Erica S. Townsend, Ph.D.

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## Summary

Ambitious and dedicated postdoctoral scientist with over 5 years of specialized experience in clinically relevant neuroscience research. Proven abilities to successfully communicate science to broad audiences and flexibly manage multiple projects in a fast-paced environment. Eager to leverage extensive scientific knowledge and skills to contribute to ongoing advancements in clinical research and medical affairs.

## Professional Experience

**Dartmouth College**, Postdoctoral Research Associate

May 2025 – Present

*Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences*

- Overseeing a team of 5 researchers to facilitate successful launch of new projects utilizing advanced neuroscience research techniques to discover neural transmission relevant to neuropsychiatric disorders (e.g., Substance Use Disorder, OCD, as well as Parkinson's)
- Advising junior lab researchers through experimental design and data analysis; serving as a consultant for ongoing and early-stage research projects
- Finalizing three NIH-funded preclinical research projects and preparing manuscripts for publication in highly regarded scientific journals

**Dartmouth College**, Doctoral Researcher

Aug 2020 – April 2025

*Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences*

- Executed more than 5 preclinical NIH-funded research projects investigating neural circuits underlying motivation and habit formation; earned 3 awards for research excellence and rigor
- Extensive experience presenting scientific data at more than 10 professional conferences and symposia (10+ posters, two symposium talks), in addition to regular (two to three times annually) project progress updates to colleagues and faculty
- Supervised a group of more than 15 undergraduate and graduate lab members and provided hands-on training and professional mentorship in experimental design and ethics, data collection and analysis, and wet lab techniques
- Established a novel behavioral data analysis procedure and launched a new cutting-edge neural recording technique, modernizing the lab's technical capabilities
- Published two first author peer-reviewed empirical articles in less than five years

## Additional Experience

**USA Brain Bee**, Regional Coordinator

Aug 2021 – June 2024

*Upper Valley Chapter*

- Trained a team of 30+ graduate students and faculty in communicating science to broad audiences to engage the local community in biomedical research and facilitate trust in science
- Organized a neuroscience showcase accessible to the public, including symposium lectures, poster presentations, hands-on demonstrations, and a trivia competition for high schoolers
- Secured nearly \$10k in funding annually and maintained relationships with donors
- Generated targeted presentations and resources for visits to semi-annual at local high schools

## Awards and Honors

**Marie A. Center 1982 Award for Excellence in Research**

June 2024

*Dartmouth College*

**Neukom Award**

July 2023

*The Neukom Institute for Computational Science at Dartmouth College*

**Marie A. Center 1982 Award for Excellence in Teaching**

July 2023

*Dartmouth College*

**Outstanding Graduate Woman in Learning Award**

June 2022

*Women in Learning; International Behavioral Neuroscience Society*

## Education

**Dartmouth College** Hanover, NH

*Ph.D., Psychological and Brain Sciences*

April 2025

*M.S., Psychological and Brain Sciences*

June 2024

**Virginia Tech** Blacksburg, VA

*B.S., Cognitive and Behavioral Neuroscience, Magna Cum Laude*

May 2020

*B.S., Psychology, Magna Cum Laude*

May 2020