BPRI
Behavioral Plasticity Research Institute

February 2025

Congrats on submitting the renewal grant!

After months of discussion and writing, the executive comittee submitted the renewal grant this month to continue the integrative work of the BPRI!

Monthly Events

Integrated Lab Meeting

David Bellini (Feb 4) discussing lncRNAs in behavior

Maeva Techer (Feb 18) discussing Time-resolved transcriptomics

Koutaro Maeno (March 4) discussing adaptive strategies of the Desert Locust to the Sahara desert

Questions from the trainees:

How will federal changes affect trainee funding?

Trainee funding will continue for BPRI trainees, we have already recieved funding for the first BPRI grant and will continue to support students and research that the funds are allocated for. The institutions we are a part of prioritize supporting students and that includes financially supporting their positions.

How will federal changes affect the renewal grant?

We are working in uncertain times, we have finalized and submitted the renewal proposal. All we can do is focus on doing our best and continue our science.

Call for lab swaps summer 2025!

BPRI supports 2 types of lab swaps

1. Lab Swap I allows trainees to engage in interdisciplinary research for **1-2 months** at any BPRI host lab or a lab that facilitates research and collaboration on the 10 key BPRI research themes.
2. Lab Swap II allows trainees a **1-week** immersive exposure to an affiliated BPRI lab.

- For more information about the Lab Swaps, visit: https://behavioralplasticity.org/index.php/lab-swap/
- If interested, please fill out the interest form: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf0h5Mv3PxVDgnz_Whry_sPNwfivqow8QDcdQA7UhdVmj36jg/viewform?usp=sharingx

Research Spotlights

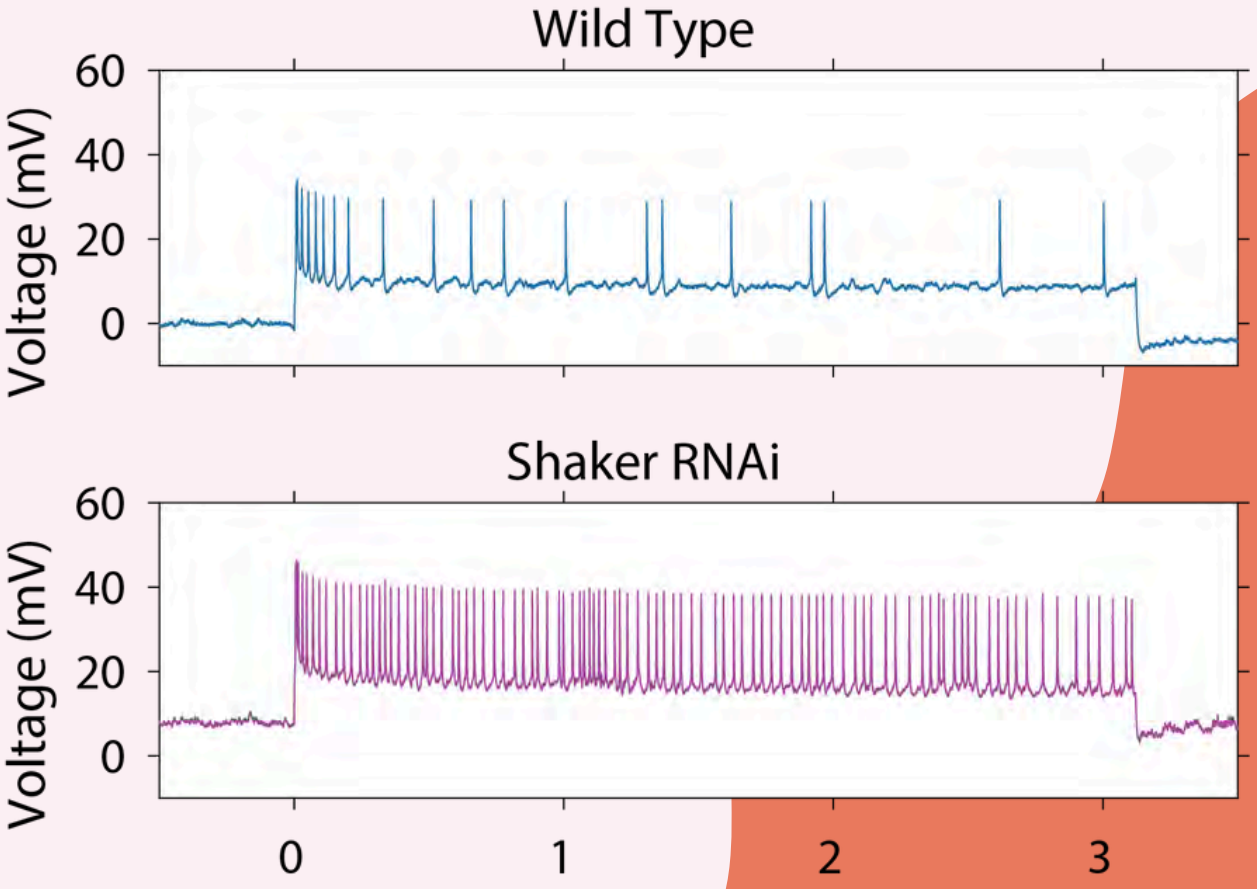
Texas A&M University

Dr. Koutaro Ould Maeno is visiting from Japan for 45 days to work with Vivian Peralta Santana on various projects involved in locust eggs. Having his expertise in the lab has been inspirational for all our trainees!

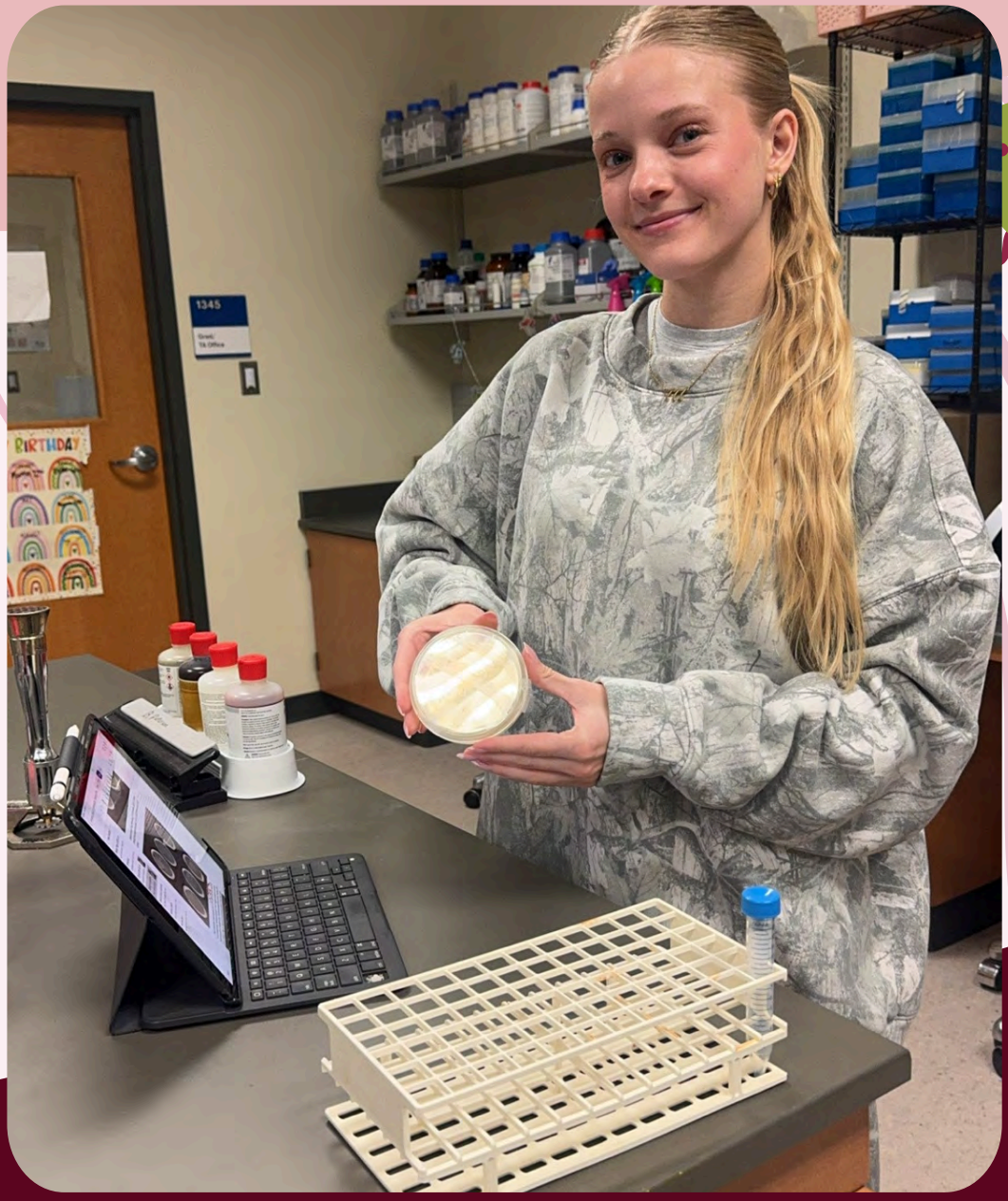
Research Spotlights

Baylor College of Medicine

- Gil Shaulsky and Dylan Ulloa knocked down a K+ channel in the LGMD (Lobula Giant Movement Detector Neuron) using RNAi, resulting in increased excitability.



Research Spotlights



Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Amanda Ekstrand is making liquid bacteria cultures for neurological odor tests of locusts in collaboration with Barani's lab at Washington University.

Joseph Antwi is analyzing qPCR data to validate gut microbiome sequencing results for the Central American locust.

Research Spotlights

Arizona State University

Neema and Sydney attended the National Grasshopper Management Board meeting in Aurora, Colorado. There they met with private, state, and federal stakeholders to discuss grasshopper management in the continental United States. FIST scholars Christina Tran and Stephanie Nuñez continued to analyze plant macronutrient content from plants collected near hopper bands from Mexico in 2023 and 2025.