

**S. Olivia Vanegas, M.S.**  
Ph.D. Candidate

University of Connecticut  
Department of Psychological Sciences  
Email: [olivia.vanegas@uconn.edu](mailto:olivia.vanegas@uconn.edu)  
Website: <https://kinsey.lab.uconn.edu/vanegas/>

---

## EDUCATION

Ph.D	University of Connecticut (UConn), Storrs, CT Behavioral Neuroscience	
M.S.	University of Connecticut (UConn), Storrs, CT Behavioral Neuroscience	2022
B.A.	University of Kentucky (UK), Lexington, KY Psychology	2018

---

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2020 - present	Graduate Research Associate, Dept. of Psychological Sciences, University of Connecticut
2019	Graduate Teaching Associate, Dept. of Psychology, West Virginia University
2017 - 2019	Research Associate, University of Kentucky Center on Drug and Alcohol Research
2018 - 2019	Research Associate, DeWall Lab, Dept. of Psychology, University of Kentucky
2018	Research Associate, University of Kentucky Center for Drug Abuse Research Translation
2017 - 2018	Senior Honors Thesis, Martel Lab, Dept. of Psychology, University of Kentucky
2016 - 2017	Research Associate, Segerstrom Lab, Dept. of Psychology, University of Kentucky

---

## HONORS AND AWARDS

Oral Presentation Award, Carolina Cannabinoid Collaborative	2023
Graduate Certificate in Pain Management, University of Connecticut	2023
Trainee Travel Award, International Cannabinoid Research Society	2020, 2021, 2022, 2023
Scholarship, UConn National Fellowships Incentive Program	2021, 2022
Monique and George Braude Student Travel Award, International Cannabinoid Research Society	2020, 2021
Graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Kentucky	2018
Undergraduate Certificate in Social Science Research, University of Kentucky	2018
Scholarship, University of Kentucky Provost	2014
Scholarship, William C. Parker Diversity Scholarship Program	2014

---

## RESEARCH SUPPORT

### Awarded:

Graduate Summer Fellowship; UConn Institute for the Brain and Cognitive Sciences	2023
"Uncovering the therapeutic efficacy of minor phytocannabinoids for chronic pain and related mental health conditions"	
Trainee Pain Research Grant; UConn Center for Advancement in Managing Pain	2021-2022
"Assessing the analgesic, anti-inflammatory, and epigenetic effects of $\beta$ -caryophyllene"	

### Pending:

F31 PA-23-271	Vanegas (PI)	Submitted: 12/8/23
"Uncovering the analgesic and epigenetic effects of non-canonical cannabinoids"		

## PUBLICATIONS AND MANUSCRIPTS

---

1. Rodriguez, C. E. B., **Vanegas, S. O.**, Reck, A. M., Schrom, Y., Kinsey, S. G. (*under review*). "MAGL and COX inhibition additively attenuate post-surgical pain in mice."
2. **Vanegas, S. O.**, Gamage, T. F., Maturano, J., Sarlah, D., Kinsey, S. G. (*in preparation*). "Analgesic and anti-inflammatory effects of cannabinal, cannabichromene, and cannabicyclol occur via CB receptor-dependent and -independent mechanisms."
3. **Vanegas, S. O.**, Zaki, A., Dealy, C., Kinsey, S. G. (forthcoming). "The minor phytocannabinoid delta-8-tetrahydrocannabinol attenuates collagen-induced arthritic inflammation and pain-depressed behaviors in mice." *Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics*. *In press*.
4. **Vanegas, S. O.**, Reck, A. M., Rodriguez, C. E., Marusich, J., Yassin, O., Sotzing, G., Wiley, J. L., Kinsey, S. G. (2022). "Assessment of dependence potential and abuse liability of  $\Delta$ 8-tetrahydrocannabinol in mice." *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, 240, 109640.
5. **Vanegas, S. O.**, Trexler, K. R., Eckard, M. R., Steele, F. F., Kinsey, S. G. (2022). Neuroendocrinology of stress and addiction. In Randy J. Nelson (Ed.), *Oxford Encyclopedia of Neuroendocrine and Autonomic Systems*. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press.
6. Trexler, K. R., **Vanegas, S. O.**, Poklis, J. L., Kinsey, S. G. (2020). "The short-acting synthetic cannabinoid AB-FUBINACA induces physical dependence." *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, 214 (May), 108179.
7. Chester, D., **Vanegas, S. O.**, Bell, S. B., Stoops, W. W., DeWall, N. C. "Opioid misuse and neural responses to social rejection." *Preprint*.

## RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

---

1. **Vanegas, S. O.**, Dealy, C., Kinsey, S. G. (2023). "The minor cannabinoid delta-8-tetrahydrocannabinol attenuates inflammatory arthritis." Oral presentation, Carolina Cannabinoid Collaborative Conference, Chapel Hill, NC, USA.
2. **Vanegas, S. O.**, Gamage, T. F., Maturano, J., Sarlah, D., Kinsey, S. G. (2023). "in vivo effects of minor cannabinoids cannabinal, cannabichromene, and cannabicyclol occur via multiple receptor mechanisms" Oral presentation, International Cannabinoid Research Society Symposium, Toronto, Canada.
3. **Vanegas, S. O.**, Gamage, T. F., Maturano, J., Sarlah, D., Kinsey, S. G. (2023). "The minor cannabinoid cannabinal (CBN) has analgesic and anti-inflammatory properties." Oral presentation at the UConn Cannabis Symposium, Storrs, CT, USA.
4. **Vanegas, S. O.**, Gamage, T. F., Maturano, J., Sarlah, D., Kinsey, S. G. (2022). "Behavioral and analgesic effects of minor phytocannabinoids." Poster presentation, Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, USA.
5. **Vanegas, S. O.**, Gamage, T. F., Maturano, J., Sarlah, D., Kinsey, S. G. (2022). "Cannabinal induces THC-like effects in mice." Oral and poster presentation, Neuroscience at Storrs Symposium, Storrs, CT, USA.
6. **Vanegas, S. O.**, Gamage, T. F., Maturano, J., Sarlah, D., Kinsey, S. G. (2022). "Assessment of three minor phytocannabinoids in a mouse model of chronic neuropathic pain." Oral presentation, Carolina Cannabinoid Collaborative Conference, Greenville, NC, USA.
7. **Vanegas, S. O.**, Reck, A. M., Rodriguez, C. E., Marusich, J., Yassin, O., Sotzing, G., Wiley, J., Kinsey, S. G. (2022). " $\Delta$ 8-THC is a psychoactive drug with a similar abuse profile as  $\Delta$ 9-THC." Oral presentation, New England Cannabis Research & Education Conference, Eastern Connecticut State University, CT, USA.
8. **Vanegas, S. O.**, Reck, A. M., Rodriguez, C. E., Marusich, J., Yassin, O., Sotzing, G., Wiley, J., Kinsey, S. G. (2022). "Assessment of dependence potential and abuse liability of  $\Delta$ 8-

- tetrahydrocannabinol in mice." Poster presentation, International Cannabinoid Research Society Symposium, Galway, Ireland.
9. **Vanegas, S. O.**, Reck, A. M., Rodriguez, C. E., Yassin, O., Sotzing, G., Kinsey, S. G. (2022). "Mice develop physical dependence to the minor phytocannabinoid  $\Delta 8$ -tetrahydrocannabinol." Oral presentation, Center for Advancement of Managing Pain at the University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT, USA.
  10. **Vanegas, S. O.**, Reck, A. M., Rodriguez, C. E., Yassin, O., Sotzing, G., Kinsey, S. G. (2022). "Nutraceutical grade  $\Delta 8$ -THC reduces pain but causes physical dependence in mice." Invited presentation, Research in Cannabinoids and Hemp group at the University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT, USA.
  11. **Vanegas, S. O.**, Trexler, K. R., Kinsey, S. G. (2021). "Hypophagia as a measure of spontaneous cannabinoid withdrawal." Poster presentation, International Cannabinoid Research Society Symposium, Jerusalem, Israel (virtual).
  12. **Vanegas, S. O.**, Kinsey, S. G. (2021). "Dexamethasone blocks LPS-induced heat preference." Oral presentation, Center for Advancement of Managing Pain at the University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT, USA.
  13. **Vanegas, S. O.**, Trexler, K. R., Poklis, J. L., Kinsey, S. G. (2020). "AB-FUBINACA has short-lived cannabinoid effects *in vivo*." Poster presentation, International Cannabinoid Research Society Symposium, Galway, Ireland (virtual).
  14. **Vanegas, S. O.**, Trexler, K. R., Poklis, J. L., Kinsey, S. G. (2020). "Rapid metabolism of AB-FUBINACA prevents development of tolerance in mice." Invited presentation, Neuroscience Research Group at West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV, USA.
  15. **Vanegas, S. O.**, & Martel, M. M. (2018). "Effects of chronic substance abuse on executive function: A comparison between alcohol and marijuana use." Poster presentation, National Conference on Undergraduate Research, Edmond, OK, USA.
  16. **Vanegas, S. O.**, & Martel, M. M. (2018). "An examination of the relationship between executive function and substance use." Poster presentation, Showcase for Undergraduate Scholars, Lexington, KY, USA.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

---

*Pharmacology of Pain and Analgesia* (NURS 5103), Lecturer, University of Connecticut  
*Biological Mechanisms of Behavior* (PSYC 301), Instructor of Record, West Virginia University

## RESEARCH SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS

---

2022 - present	The Connecticut Institute for the Brain and Cognitive Sciences
2022 - present	Society for Neuroscience
2021 - present	Carolina Cannabinoid Collaborative
2021 - present	UConn Research in Cannabinoids and Hemp group
2020 - present	UConn Center for Advancement in Managing Pain --Assistant Director (2022 - present)
2019 - present	International Cannabinoid Research Society

## SERVICE

---

### Service to the Profession

Journal reviewer for *Pain* and *Cannabis & Cannabinoid Research*

### Undergraduate Mentorship

\* Primary graduate mentor for honors thesis project

2023 - present	Tess David
2023 - present	Diondra Owusu
2023 - present	Emily Flynn
2023 - present	Zoe Kassapidis
2023 - present	Shiv Patel *
	--UConn IBACS Undergraduate Research Grant
2022	Olivia Crawford
2022 - 2023	Frances Kim
2022 - 2023	Yasmin Schrom *
	--UConn Psychology Undergraduate Research Grant
2020 - 2023	Mackenzie Weng *
	--UConn Summer Undergraduate Research Fund (SURF) award
2020 - 2022	Ricardo Baltazar-Rojas
2020 - 2022	Isabella Sanchez *
	--UConn Summer Undergraduate Research Fund (SURF) award
2020 - 2021	Troy Moien Afshari