

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

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Behavioral Neuroscience	University of Connecticut (UConn), Storrs, CT	2024 (expected)
M.S., Behavioral Neuroscience	University of Connecticut (UConn), Storrs, CT	2022
B.A., Psychology	University of Kentucky (UK), Lexington, KY	2018

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2020 - present	Graduate Research Associate, School of Nursing, 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

Trainee Travel Award, International Cannabinoid Research Society	2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024
Travel Award, Chemistry and Pharmacology of Drug Abuse	2024
Psychological Sciences Predoctoral Fellowship, University of Connecticut	2024
Scholarship, UConn National Fellowships Incentive Program	2021, 2022, 2024
Oral Presentation Award, Carolina Cannabinoid Collaborative	2023
Graduate Certificate in Pain Management, University of Connecticut	2023
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 β -caryophyllene"	

PUBLICATIONS

1. Rodriguez, C. E. B., **Vanegas, S. O.**, Reck, A. M., Schrom, Y., Kinsey, S. G. (2024). "MAGL and COX inhibition additively attenuate post-surgical pain in mice." *Cannabis and Cannabinoid Research*. *In press*.
2. **Vanegas, S. O.**, Zaki, A., Dealy, C., Kinsey, S. G. (2024). "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*.
3. **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 Δ 8-tetrahydrocannabinol in mice." *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, 240, 109640.
4. **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.
5. 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.
6. Chester, D., **Vanegas, S. O.**, Bell, S. B., Stoops, W. W., DeWall, N. C. "Opioid misuse and neural responses to social rejection." *Preprint*.

MANUSCRIPTS

1. **Vanegas, S. O.**, Gamage, T. F., Maturano, J., Sarlah, D., Kinsey, S. G. "Analgesic and anti-inflammatory effects of cannabidiol, cannabichromene, and cannabicyclol occur via CB receptor-dependent and -independent mechanisms." In preparation.
2. Reck, A. M., Reiley, T., **Vanegas, S. O.**, Shook, N. J., Kinsey, S. G., Casavant, S. "Effects of prenatal exposure to cannabis and THC". In preparation.

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

1. **Vanegas, S. O.**, Gamage, T. F., Maturano, J., Sarlah, D., Kinsey, S. G. (2024). "The minor cannabinoid cannabidiol induces tolerance and physical dependence in mice." Poster presentation, Chemistry and Pharmacology of Drug Abuse Conference, Boston, MA, USA.
2. **Vanegas, S. O.**, Zaki, A., Dealy, C., Kinsey, S. G. (2024). "Delta-8-tetrahydrocannabinol prevents collagen-induced arthritic joint degeneration and pain-depressed behavior." Poster presentation, International Cannabinoid Research Society, Salamanca, Spain.
3. **Vanegas, S. O.**, Zaki, A., Dealy, C., Kinsey, S. G. (2024). "Repeated Δ 8-THC is anti-inflammatory in two novel measures of pain-altered behavior." Oral presentation, University of Connecticut Annual Neuroscience Retreat, Hartford, CT, USA.
4. **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.
5. **Vanegas, S. O.**, Gamage, T. F., Maturano, J., Sarlah, D., Kinsey, S. G. (2023). "in vivo effects of minor cannabinoids cannabidiol, cannabichromene, and cannabicyclol occur via multiple receptor mechanisms" Oral presentation, International Cannabinoid Research Society Symposium, Toronto, Canada.
6. **Vanegas, S. O.**, Gamage, T. F., Maturano, J., Sarlah, D., Kinsey, S. G. (2023). "The minor cannabinoid cannabidiol (CBD) has analgesic and anti-inflammatory properties." Oral presentation at the UConn Cannabis Symposium, Storrs, CT, USA.

7. **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.
8. **Vanegas, S. O.**, Gamage, T. F., Maturano, J., Sarlah, D., Kinsey, S. G. (2022). "Cannabinol induces THC-like effects in mice." Oral and poster presentation, Neuroscience at Storrs Symposium, Storrs, CT, USA.
9. **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.
10. **Vanegas, S. O.**, Reck, A. M., Rodriguez, C. E., Marusich, J., Yassin, O., Sotzing, G., Wiley, J., Kinsey, S. G. (2022). " Δ 8-THC is a psychoactive drug with a similar abuse profile as Δ 9-THC." Oral presentation, New England Cannabis Research & Education Conference, Eastern Connecticut State University, CT, USA.
11. **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 Δ 8-tetrahydrocannabinol in mice." Poster presentation, International Cannabinoid Research Society Symposium, Galway, Ireland.
12. **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 Δ 8-tetrahydrocannabinol." Oral presentation, Center for Advancement of Managing Pain at the University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT, USA.
13. **Vanegas, S. O.**, Reck, A. M., Rodriguez, C. E., Yassin, O., Sotzing, G., Kinsey, S. G. (2022). "Nutraceutical grade Δ 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.
14. **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).
15. **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.
16. **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).
17. **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.
18. **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.
19. **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), Guest 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)
--Trainee Coordinator (2020 - 2022)
2019 - present International Cannabinoid Research Society

SERVICE

Service to the Profession

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

Northeast Undergraduate and Graduate Research Organization for Neuroscience (NEURON)

Poster judge (2024)

Undergraduate Mentorship

* Primary graduate mentor for honors thesis project

2024 - present Andres Salas

2023 - present Tess David

2023 - present Emily Flynn

2023 - present Shiv Patel *

--UConn IBACS Undergraduate Research Grant

2023 - 2024 Diondra Owusu

2023 - 2024 Zoe Kassapidis

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