

Madeleine King

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Winner of the BAP Psychopharmacology Award

I first became interested in psychopharmacology during my undergraduate Pharmacology degree at the University of Bath (1998-2002), and an industrial placement in the Behavioural Neuroscience department of the Merck Sharp & Dohme Neuroscience Research Centre confirmed my chosen career path. I moved to Nottingham to complete a PhD on the role of 5-HT₆ receptors in memory and attention (Fone group, supported by Roche), and continued work on this topic (funded by Predix/Epix Pharmaceuticals) between submitting my thesis and graduating in 2007. I enjoyed three years as a post-doctoral researcher on a multicentre EU-funded project, developing novel models for glutamatergic central nervous system disorders using short hairpin RNA and transgenic approaches (Marsden group), before appointment to my current role as Senior Research Fellow in 2010.



I lead an established research team who use neurodevelopmental models to investigate how early-life adversity or drugs of abuse impact on brain neurochemistry and contribute to cognitive and social dysfunction. We have a track record of successful industrial collaboration, evaluating novel serotonergic, cholinergic, dopaminergic and glutamatergic treatments for schizophrenia, autism and depression. I was awarded a University of Nottingham Gertrude Cropper Memorial Scholarship for my contribution to validating 5-HT₆ receptors as therapeutic targets, and the group conducted preclinical studies with the novel antipsychotic cariprazine, since approved for clinical use in the USA and Europe.

My research has been selected for oral presentation at BAP, Monitoring Molecules in Neuroscience, European College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ECNP) and International Society for Serotonin Research (ISSR), where I featured as a 'pioneer and prodigy of serotonin research' (2012) and contributed to the local organising committee (2018 conference). I have been rewarded with personal and PhD student prizes (BAP 2007, ISSR 2012, ECNP 2012, and BAP 2016 President's Poster Prize), and am delighted to have contributed to training junior BAP members through the Certificate in Non-Clinical Psychopharmacology (2009-2016) and *In Vivo* Initiative (2018). I am honoured to receive the 2019 BAP Senior Non-Clinical award and to join Council.