

Paul Marvar

George Washington University

Winner of the BAP Poster Prize

I currently am an Associate Professor in the Department of Pharmacology and Physiology (Since 2013) at George Washington University's (GWU) School of Medicine and Health Sciences located in Washington DC. I hold a secondary appointment in Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at GWU and am part of the GWU Institute for Neuroscience.



Prior to joining GWU, I obtained my PhD from West Virginia University in Physiology. My PhD thesis was focused on understanding the mechanism(s) for how dietary salt impacts blood pressure function and regulation, and associated treatment implications for hypertension. During my Postdoctoral fellowship (2006) at Emory University, Atlanta GA, USA under the mentorship of Dr David G. Harrison, I expanded on these studies and examined various aspects of hypertension, including identifying a role for the neuroimmune system in hypertension. During this time, I built upon my PhD findings to pursue my longstanding interest in the impact of emotional stress on cardiovascular disease development. To pursue this, I was awarded an Emory University Scholars Program in Interdisciplinary Research Fellowship that allowed me to train under the mentorship of Dr Kerry J Ressler in the area posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). This project investigated the link between PTSD and cardiovascular disease risk, with a particular interest in autonomic dysfunction and inflammation. To gain additional training in systems autonomic physiology, I applied for and was awarded a transatlantic Marie Curie International Research Fellowship award to train at the University of Bristol, UK under the mentorship of Julian F Paton.

My laboratories current funding and research interests are in anxiety disorders and cardiovascular risk (Hypertension) with a focus on the brain neurocircuitry and neurohormonal (Renin Angiotensin) systems involved in the autonomic control of blood pressure and immune regulation. My research poster presented at the 2019 Summer BAP meeting entitled *Angiotensin type 2 receptor expressing neurons in the central amygdala influence fear-related behavior, which has since been published [https://www.biologicalpsychiatryjournal.com/article/S0006-3223\(19\)31444-1/abstract](https://www.biologicalpsychiatryjournal.com/article/S0006-3223(19)31444-1/abstract)* provides new evidence for the neurobiological mechanism through which the brain angiotensin system regulates fear learning and the possibility as a therapeutic target for PTSD.