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Winner of the BAP President's Poster Prize

My research interests include neuroimaging, psychopharmacology, computational psychiatry and translational neuroscience approaches. I have a research assistant post at the UCL Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience, working with Dr Oliver Robinson on the neurocognitive bases of and the treatment of anxiety-related mental ill health, although I will soon be starting my PhD in Neuroscience at UCL with the Wellcome Trust.



My poster for this year's BAP meeting was work taken from my MRes dissertation on the effect of cannabidiol on anxiety and emotional processing with Dr Michael Bloomfield and Dr Tom Freeman. In short, we presented evidence against the hypothesis that cannabidiol is anxiolytic, in contrast finding that it potentiated experimentally-induced anxiety at our single dose of 600mg. We also found evidence that cannabidiol's effects on emotional processing are centred on the dorsal striatum, with concurrent cognitive effects of increased negative affect recognition and reduced arousal towards negatively valenced stimuli.

This study was part of a larger project which is currently ongoing, investigating the neurocognitive effects of cannabidiol challenge on a range of measures including reward-, memory- and control-related processes in both a non-clinical sample and in a sample with a history of developmental trauma, with the aim of assessing cannabidiol's candidacy as a therapeutic agent across a range of mental disorders. I also received an award for this poster from the European College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ECNP), and I will be giving a talk on this research at the ECNP 2019 Congress.