

# N. Aidan Smith

77 Robbins St #1  
Waltham, MA 02453

[www.linkedin.com/in/naidansmith](http://www.linkedin.com/in/naidansmith)

703-919-7292  
naidansmith@gmail.com

## Education

**Brandeis University – Waltham, MA**

*Master of Science, Neuroscience*

**August 2017 – Expected May 2018**

**College of William & Mary – Williamsburg, VA**

*Bachelor of Science, Neuroscience*

**August 2012 – May 2016**

**Fordham University London Centre – London, UK**

*London Dramatic Academy, study abroad program for theatre, voice, and dance*

**August - December 2015**

## Work Experience

**Brandeis University, Department of Neuroscience – Waltham, MA**

**August 2017 - Present**

*Graduate Research Student*

- Conducting an independent research project on the genetic mechanisms and structures underlying innocuous heat tolerance in *Drosophila melanogaster* via behavioral assays
- Relevant courses: Project Lab in Neuroscience and Behavior, Principles of Neuroscience, Neurobiology Journal Club, Project Lab in Microbiology, Quantitative Biology Instrumentation Lab, Responsible Conduct of Research

**Sling Health Boston, Medical Technology Incubator – Cambridge, MA**

**October 2017 - Present**

*Team Researcher*

- Designing a safe and novel medical alternative to using cottons swabs in ears, preventing common damage of the ear canal
- Gaining practical, team-oriented technical experience regarding the implementation of a new biotechnology product

**Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI): Janelia Research Campus – Ashburn, VA**

**June 2016 – August 2017**

*EM Connectome Annotation Team Assistant Manager/Research Technician*

- Utilized connectomic annotation software (CATMAID) to map a 3D wiring diagram, with synaptic resolution, of the adult *Drosophila melanogaster* nervous system from transmission electron microscopy
- Lead tracer & trainer on the team – co-created a standardized workflow to evaluate new members; trained incoming members on software functionality and invertebrate neurobiology; interviewed over 100 candidates
- Assisted Drs. Gerald Rubin, Michael Reiser, and Vivek Jayaraman in the central complex and optic lobe

**HHMI: Janelia Research Campus – Ashburn, VA**

**June – August 2015**

*Intern/Research Assistant*

- Created 3D renderings of a subset of *Drosophila melanogaster* olfactory projection neurons and researched full-time the unknown, abnormal tract to which they belonged

**College of William & Mary, Department of Neuroscience – Williamsburg, VA**

**October 2013 – May 2016**

*Undergraduate Research Student*

- Collaboratively determined the effects of nicotine on context-dependent memory retrieval in adolescent rats for the Barnet Lab

## Skills and Qualifications

- Workplaces skills
  - Strong leader: team management practices, interview & training experience, enthusiastic and professional attitude
  - Excels in fast-paced, highly collaborative team environments
  - Adept communicator with an ability to acquire new skills quickly and creatively
  - Meticulous organizational and data collection skills
- Technical laboratory skills
  - Cell culture and assay development, PCR, gel electrophoresis, Sanger DNA sequencing
  - *Drosophila* brain dissection
  - Software experience in 3D circuit and neuron reconstruction/proofreading (CATMAID, NeuTu)
  - Proper dosage and injection techniques for rodents; proper handling of rodents and flies
- Extracurricular
  - Member of the Brandeis Science Policy Initiative graduate student group
  - Improviser at ImprovBoston
  - Italian (intermediate), Spanish (intermediate), and English (fluent)

## Publications/Presentations

- Reiser, M. B., Morimoto, M., Nern, A., Rubin, G. M., Rogers, E., Wong, A., Ghorbani, P., **Smith, N. A.**, Dreher, M., Parekh, R., Bock, D. “Selective synaptic contacts promote retinotopic detection of visual looming in the *Drosophila* central brain”. November 2017. (Poster presented at the Society for Neuroscience in Washington, D.C.)
- **Smith, N.**, John, A., Lauritzen, S., & Bock, D. “Novel projection neuron tracts suggest differential olfactory pathways and putative sites for multimodal sensory integration in the mushroom body calyx of *Drosophila melanogaster*”. August 2015. (Poster presented at the George Mason Aspiring Scientists Summer Internship Program symposium at George Mason University, Manassas, VA)
- Luner, E., Iannucci, J., **Smith, N.**, Long, P., Shin, A. & Barnet, R.C. “Effects of Nicotine on Context-dependent Memory Retrieval in Rats”. October 2014. (Poster presented at the annual Charles Center Summer Research Showcase at the College of William & Mary, Williamsburg, VA)

## **References**

### **Belinda Barbagallo, PhD**

Department of Biology, Brandeis University  
415 South Street  
Waltham, MA 02453  
[bbarbagallo@brandeis.edu](mailto:bbarbagallo@brandeis.edu)  
C: (508) 454-4638  
Relationship: Current supervisor

### **Ruchi Parekh, PhD**

Connectome Annotation Team, Howard Hughes Medical Institute Janelia Research Campus  
19700 Helix Drive  
Ashburn, VA 20147  
[parekhr@janelia.hhmi.org](mailto:parekhr@janelia.hhmi.org)  
C: (571) 332-6997  
Relationship: Previous Manager

### **Maria de Boef Miara, PhD**

Department of Biology, Brandeis University  
415 South Street  
Waltham, MA 02453  
[mmiara@brandeis.edu](mailto:mmiara@brandeis.edu)  
W: (781) 736-3106  
Relationship: Academic Advisor

### **Scott Lauritzen, PhD**

Bock Laboratory, Howard Hughes Medical Institute Janelia Research Campus  
19700 Helix Drive  
Ashburn, VA 20147  
[lauritzens@janelia.hhmi.org](mailto:lauritzens@janelia.hhmi.org)  
C: (801) 558-9745  
Relationship: Previous Mentor and Manager