Shuwen Li **Tel:** (319)400-8756 islieslytherin@gmail.com

EDUCATION:

Concordia University, Montreal, QC, CANADA.
Psychology MA Expected spring2025

The University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA, U.S.A.
Neuroscience B.S. December 2020
Honors: Deans List 2 semesters

RESEARCH INTERESTS:

I am fascinated by how intrinsic and extrinsic factors shape neural responses to the environment, particularly how changes in neuroplasticity within specific circuits lead to cognitive and behavioral shifts. My focus is on the neural pathways implicated in psychiatric conditions, such as the cortical-striatal and mesolimbic systems, which are central to motivated behavior but often disrupted in disorders like anxiety and depression. I aim to pursue research with translational potential to benefit patients with psychiatric conditions.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE:

- **How prior stress or trauma modulates the generalization of cued fear learning** Sep.2023 – present
  Thesis project. PI: Dr. Mihaela Iordanova
  Investigated how prior traumatic events may act as a risk factor for the generalization of fear through in-vivo electrophysiology and behavioral paradigms, stress-enhanced fear-learning (SEFL) was used as a model for stress-pretreatment.
- **Change in neural activity of NAc MSN neurons in stress-induced anhedonia.** Feb.2021 – Jul.2023
  PI: Dr. Marco Pignatelli
- **Neurogenetics investigation on oxidative stress-induced neurodegeneration, intense light-induced drosophila courtship behavior.** Sep.2020 - May.2021
  PI: Dr. Chun-Fang Wu
- **Lesion network mapping, connectivity changes of the lesioned regions that correlate with psychiatric conditions.** Feb.2019 - Dec.2020
  PI: Dr. Aaron Boes

PUBLICATIONS:

Intense light unleashes male–male courtship behaviour in wild-type Drosophila. Ueda Atsushi, Berg Abigayle, Khan Tashmit, Ruzicka Madeleine, **Li Shuwen,** Cramer Ellyn, Iyengar Atulya and Wu Chun-Fang. *Open Biol.*13220233220233http://doi.org/10.1098/rsob.220233

Ketamine rescues anhedonia by cell-type and input specific adaptations in the Nucleus Accumbens. Federica Lucantonio, **Shuwen Li**, Jaden Lu, Jacob Roeglin, Leonardo Bontempi, Brenda C. Shields, Carlos A. Zarate Jr, Michael R. Tadross, Marco Pignatelli. *BioRxiv.(*Under Review at *Neuron*)https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2023.06.08.544088v1.full