

David Lukacik, BS, BA

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 ID 0009-0009-4252-0307

Education

Sep 2025 – Present

- **Master of Science in Cognitive Science**, Umeå University, Umeå, SE
Department of Psychology
Expected May 2027

Aug 2021 – May 2025

- **Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience**, Arizona State University, Tempe, USA
Department of Psychology
Summa Cum Laude; Barrett, The Honors College
Honors Thesis: *Investigating the Coordinated Role of the Hippocampus and Cerebellum in Spatial–Social Processing*
- **Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy with a Concentration in Science, Nature, and Mind**
School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies (SHPRS)
Summa Cum Laude; Barrett, The Honors College
- **Minor in English (Linguistics)**
Department of English

Research Interests

- Cerebellar circuits underlying social cognition, flexible behavior, and fine-motor control.
- Hippocampal-cerebellar communication in spatial, memory, and socio-cognitive processing.
- Cerebrocerebellar circuit disruptions in neurodevelopmental disorders, i.e. autism spectrum disorder.
- Consequences of early-life cerebellar injury on cognitive, emotional, and behavioral development.

Research Experience

Dec 2022 – Aug 2025

- **Undergraduate Research Assistant**, SOCIAL Neurobiology Lab, Department of Psychology, Arizona State University
Supervisor: Dr. Jessica Verpeut PhD

Jan 2022 – Feb 2023

- **Undergraduate Research Assistant**, Conflict & Cooperation Lab, Department of Psychology, Arizona State University
Supervisors: Dr. Athena Aktipis PhD & Dr. Cristina Baciu PhD

Aug 2022 – Dec 2022

- **Undergraduate Research Fellow**, Culture, Health, and Environment Lab (CHELab), Barrett, The Honors College, Arizona State University
Supervisors: Dr. Alexandra Brewis PhD & Dr. Amber Wutich PhD

Teaching Experience

Aug 2022 – May 2025

- **Senior Teaching Assistant**, Department of Psychology, Arizona State University. Courses: Intro to Psychology, Consumer Psychology, Personality Theory, Sleep and Dreaming.

Teaching Experience (continued)

Aug 2022 – Dec 2022 ○ **Learning Assistant**, The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Arizona State University. Course: LIA 101 (First-Year Success Course).

Leadership & Community Involvement

Aug 2021 – May 2025 ○ **President**, NeuroDevils, Arizona State University
○ **Departmental Volunteer**, Department of Psychology, Arizona State University

Apr 2024 – Sep 2024 ○ **Disaster Health Services Responder**, American Red Cross

Aug 2021 – May 2023 ○ **Volunteer**, Medical Directive Street Runs
○ **Officer**, Healthcare Preparatory Club

Aug 2019 – May 2021 ○ **Creativity, Activity, Service Program**, International Baccalaureate Program
○ **Hub Manager**, Sunrise Movement Scottsdale

Memberships

Aug 2021 – Present ○ **Associate Member**, American Physician Scientists Association.
May 2023 – May 2025 ○ **Student Member**, Society for Neuroscience (SfN)

Clinical Experience

Aug 2024 – Aug 2025 ○ **Emergency Department Technician**, Phoenix Children's Hospital, Thomas Campus; Phoenix, USA

May 2023 – Aug 2024 ○ **Patient Care Technician**, Phoenix Children's Hospital, Thomas; Phoenix, USA

Research Publications

Journal Articles

1 Melick, A., **Lukacik, D.**, Chawla, S., Schaefer, S. Y., Beeman, S. C., & Verpeut, J. L. (2025). A Fine Motor Task to Study Joint Kinematics in a Preclinical Model of Neurodegenerative Disease. *Journal of Visualized Experiments*, (220), e68128.  <https://doi.org/10.3791/68128>

Theses

1 **Lukacik, D.** (2025). *Investigating the Coordinated Role of the Hippocampus and Cerebellum in Spatial-Social Processing* (Undergraduate Honors thesis). Arizona State University Library KEEP.

Selected Posters and Presentations

1 **Lukacik, D.** (Apr 2025). Investigating the role of the hippocampus in spatial-social processing [Poster presented at the Barrett Celebrating Honors Thesis Symposium, Arizona State University].

2 **Lukacik, D.** (Mar 2025). Investigating the coordinated role of the hippocampus and cerebellum in spatial-social processing [Oral thesis defense, Department of Psychology and Barrett Honors College, Arizona State University].

3 **Lukacik, D.**, Melick, A., Schaefer, S. Y., Beeman, S., & Verpeut, J. L. (Oct 2024). Development and validation of a novel fine motor task for preclinical analysis of dexterity with implications for neurodegenerative disorders [Poster presented at the Faculty for Undergraduate Neuroscience (FUN) Early Career Poster Session, Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting].

- 4 Melick, A., **Lukacik, D.**, Bimonte-Nelson, H. A., Schaefer, S. Y., Beeman, S., & Verpeut, J. L. (Oct 2024). Alzheimer's disease and fine motor degeneration: Investigating changes in fine motor accuracy and coordination using a novel rodent reaching task [Poster presented at the Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting].
- 5 **Lukacik, D.**, Melick, A., Schaefer, S. Y., Beeman, S., & Verpeut, J. L. (Sep 2024). Creation and testing of a novel fine motor task intended for the detection and analysis of neurodegenerative precursors [Poster presented at the AAC Scientific Conference, Barrow Neurological Institute].
- 6 **Lukacik, D.** (Apr 2024). Investigating the coordinated role of the hippocampus and cerebellum in spatial-social processing [Invited lightning talk at the Interdisciplinary Neuroscience Symposium, Arizona State University].

Skills

- **Laboratory Skills:** Rodent behavioral testing; fine-motor task development; stereotaxic perfusion; tissue dissection; histology; microscopy.
- **Computational Skills:** Python; MATLAB; R; SLEAP; QuPath; Arduino; L^AT_EX; Git/GitHub.
- **Clinical Skills:** Emergency medical procedures; patient care; charting; basic life support; resuscitation.
- **Other Skills:** Academic writing; scientific communication; data visualization; teaching and mentoring.
- **Languages:** English & Slovak (native); Czech (advanced); Spanish (intermediate); Swedish (beginner).

Miscellaneous

Awards and Honors

July 2024	○ Teaching Assistant Excellence Award , Department of Psychology, Arizona State University
Nov 2022; Nov 2023	○ The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Student Leader , Arizona State University
Dec 2023	○ Teaching Assistant Collegiality Award , Department of Psychology, Arizona State University
Fall 2021 – Spring 2025	○ Dean's List , Arizona State University
May 2021	○ International Baccalaureate Diploma Recipient , International Baccalaureate Organization
	○ New American University Scholar , Arizona State University

Certifications

Oct 2022 – Present	○ Emergency Medical Technician, Basic , Arizona Department of Health Services, National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians
Jan 2022 – Jan 2026	○ IRB – Social and Behavioral Research (Group 2) , CITI Program
Oct 2021 – Present	○ Basic Life Support (BLS) , American Heart Association