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Education

University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2013–Present
Ph.D., Zoology (Advisor: Dr. Lauren V. Riters)

Tufts University, 2013
B.S., Biopsychology, *cum laude*

Grants & Fellowships

- 2016 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Opportunities Worldwide (NSF GROW)
- 2016 Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) Strategic Fellowship for Overseas Researchers (Host: Dr. Kazuhiro Wada, Hokkaido University)
- 2015 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (NSF GRFP)
- 2014 John Jefferson Davis Travel Award, UW-Madison, Department of Zoology

Honors & Awards

- 2015 Ann E. Kelley Fellowship in Behavioral Neuroscience, UW-Madison, Department of Psychiatry
- 2015 Best Student Poster Presentation, Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology, Division of Neurobiology

Journal Publications

- HAHN, A. H., MERULLO, D. P., SPOOL, J. A., ANGYAL, C. A., STEVENSON, S. A., AND RITERS, L. V. (2017). Song-associated reward correlates with endocannabinoid-related gene expression in male European starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*). *Neuroscience*, **346**, 255–266. DOI: 10.1016/j.neuroscience.2017.01.028.
- MERULLO, D. P., ANGYAL, C. A., STEVENSON, S. A., AND RITERS, L. V. (2016). Song in an affiliative context relates to the neural expression of dopamine- and neurotensin-related genes in male European starlings. *Brain, Behavior and Evolution*, **88**, 81–92. DOI: 10.1159/000448191.

MERULLO, D. P., CORDES, M. A., DEVRIES, M. S., STEVENSON, S. A., AND RITERS, L. V. (2015). Neurotensin neural mRNA expression correlates with vocal communication and other highly-motivated social behaviors in male European starlings. *Physiology and Behavior*, **151**, 155–161. DOI: 10.1016/j.physbeh.2015.07.019.

MERULLO, D. P., CORDES, M. A., STEVENSON, S. A., AND RITERS, L. V. (2015). Neurotensin immunolabeling relates to sexually-motivated song and other social behaviors in male European starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*). *Behavioural Brain Research*, **282**, 133–143. DOI: 10.1016/j.bbr.2015.01.007.

Conference Presentations

MERULLO, D. P., ANGYAL, C. A., STEVENSON, S. A., AND RITERS, L. V. (2016). Song in an affiliative context relates to the neural expression of dopamine- and neurotensin-related genes in male European starlings. *Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology*. Poster presentation. Montreal, Canada.

MERULLO, D. P., CORDES, M. A., DEVRIES, M. S., STEVENSON, S. A., AND RITERS, L. V. (2015). Neurotensin mRNA expression in the medial preoptic nucleus and Area X positively correlates with sexually-motivated song in male European starlings. *Society for Neuroscience*. Poster presentation. Chicago, IL.

MERULLO, D. P., CORDES, M. A., STEVENSON, S. A., AND RITERS, L. V. (2015). Neurotensin immunolabeling relates to sexually-motivated song and other social behaviors in male European starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*). *Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology*. Poster presentation. West Palm Beach, FL.

Popular Writing

MERULLO, D. P. (2017). Corals may show complex, coordinated behavior. *Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology*. <http://www.newswise.com/articles/corals-may-show-complex-coordinated-behavior>.

MERULLO, D. P. (2016). Corals respond to changing ocean conditions by altering regulation of the DNA message. *Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology*. <http://www.newswise.com/articles/corals-respond-to-changing-ocean-conditions-by-altering-regulation-of-the-dna-message>.

MERULLO, D. P. (2015). Hamsters use a novel approach to control aggression. *Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology*. <http://sicb.org/students/merullod.php>.

Teaching at UW-Madison

2015 Instructor for Pre-college Enrichment Opportunity Program for Learning Excellence (PEOPLE)

Leadership, Mentoring, & Outreach at UW-Madison

2016 Volunteer Scientist for Teen Science Cafés
Moderator for Undergraduate Symposium 2016

- 2015 President of Zoology Graduate Student Organization (Fall 2014–Spring 2015)
Graduate Student Panelist for New Graduate Student Orientation
Moderator for Undergraduate Symposium 2015
Volunteer at UW-Madison Science Expeditions
- 2014 President of Zoology Graduate Student Organization (Fall 2014–Spring 2015)
Graduate Student Mentor for undergraduates from Nazarbayev University (Kazakhstan)
Mentor for Bonding Undergraduate and Graduate Students (BUGS) program
Graduate Student Panelist for New Graduate Student Orientation
Volunteer at UW-Madison Science Expeditions

Memberships

Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology
Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology
Society for Neuroscience