

Katherine M. Serafine

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EDUCATION

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 2012 Ph.D. | Behavior, Cognition, and Neuroscience,
American University, Washington, DC |
| 2009 M.A. | Biological/Experimental Psychology,
American University, Washington, DC |
| 2005 B.A. | Psychology,
Norwich University, Northfield, VT |

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

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|----------------------|---|
| 2024- present | Associate Dean of the Graduate School, The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP), El Paso, TX (50% Administrative Appointment) |
| 2015- present | Associate Professor with Tenure, UTEP, Department of Psychology, El Paso, TX, *Tenure Track Assistant Professor from 2015-2021 |
| 2022 - 2023 | American Psychological Association (APA)/American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Executive Branch Science, Technology & Policy Fellow, Science Policy and Evaluation Branch, Office of Science Policy, Planning and Communications, National Institute on Mental Health, Bethesda, MD |
| 2021- 2022 | Biomedical Research Awareness Day Program Specialist & Social Media Coordinator, Americans for Medical Progress, Washington, DC |
| 2012-2015 | Postdoctoral Fellow, The University of Texas Health Science Center (UTHSCSA) Department of Pharmacology, San Antonio, TX |
| 2011-2012 | Adjunct Faculty, George Washington University
Department of Psychology, Washington, DC |
| 2011 | Summer Research Fellow, National Institute on Drug Abuse
Minority Research Training Program
Molecular Neurobiology Branch, Baltimore, MD |
| 2009-2011 | Adjunct Faculty, American University
Department of Psychology, Washington, DC |
| 2009-2010 | Research Assistant, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Department of Medical and Clinical Psychology, Bethesda, MD |

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

*indicates student/trainee author

My Bibliography:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/myncbi/katherine.serafine.1/collections/59660025/public/>

1. *Beltran NM, *Ramos J, Landavazo A, Blough BE, **Serafine KM**. (2025) Eating a high fat diet enhances sensitivity of rats to serotonin syndrome. *Physiology and Behavior*. Oct 15;300:115031. Epub 2025 Jul 13. [PMID: 40664305](#)
2. *Elsley MK, *Beltran NM, **Serafine KM**. (2025) Eating a ketogenic diet enhances sensitivity of rats to the effects of methamphetamine, but not dopamine D₂/D₃ receptor agonist quinpirole. *Pharmacology, Biochemistry, and Behavior*. Oct: 255:174072. Epub 2025 Jul 24. [PMID: 40714138](#)
3. *Beltran NM, *Sullivan LL, *Naime GN, Minervini V, **Serafine KM**. (2025) Eating a high fat/high carbohydrate diet enhances morphine tolerance, while eating a ketogenic diet mitigates morphine withdrawal. *European Journal of Pharmacology*. Aug 5;1000:177709. Epub 2025 May 8. [PMID: 40348326](#)
4. *Beltran NM, *Garcia TI, *Naime GN, Minervini V, **Serafine KM**. (2025) The effects of high fat diet consumption on morphine-induced constipation. *Behavioural Pharmacology*. Apr 1;36(5):343-346. Epub 2025 Apr 29. [PMID: 40293965](#)
5. *Beltran NM, *Parra AN, *Serrano AP, *Castillo J, *Castro IM, *Elsley MK, Minervini V, **Serafine KM**. (2024) The effects of eating a traditional high fat/high carbohydrate or a ketogenic diet on sensitivity of female rats to morphine. *Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics*. Sept 18;391(1):30-38. [PMID: 39060162](#)
6. Doyle MR, *Beltran NM, Bushnell MSA, Syed M, Acosta V, Desai M, Rice KC, **Serafine KM**, Gould GG, Daws LC, Collins GT. (2024) Effects of access condition on substance use disorder-like phenotypes in male and female rats self-administering MDPV or cocaine. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, Oct 1;263:112408. [PMID: 39141975](#)
7. Cruz B, Ortegon S, Matos F, Rodriguez-Crespo A, *Galindo KI, **Serafine KM**, Nazarian A, O'Dell LE. (2021) Insulin resistance produced by a high fat diet regimen enhances the reinforcing effects of nicotine to a greater extent in female versus male rats. *Neuropharmacology, Special Issue: Vulnerabilities in Substance Abuse*, 1;200:108787.doi: 10.1016/j.neuropharm.2021.108787. Epub 2021 Sept 24. [PMID: 34571112](#)
8. **Serafine KM**, O'Dell LE, Zorilla EP. (2021) Converging vulnerability factors for compulsive food and drug use. *Invited review paper, Neuropharmacology, Special Issue: Vulnerabilities in Substance Abuse*. 15; 196:108556. doi: 10/1016/j.neuropharm.2021.108556. Epub 2021 Apr 20. [PMID: 33862029](#)
9. *Beltran NM, *Ramos J, *Galindo KI, *Echeverri JI, *Cruz B, *Hernandez-Casner C, **Serafine KM**. (2021) Intermittent dietary supplementation with fish oil prevents high fat diet-induced enhanced sensitivity to dopaminergic drugs. *Behavioural Pharmacology*, 32(1): 9-20. [PMID: 33399293](#)
10. Charles N, Strong S, Burns L, Bullerjahn M, **Serafine KM**. (2021) Increased mood disorder symptoms, perceived stress, and alcohol use among college students during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Psychiatry Research*, 296:113706.doi: 10.1016/j.psychres.2021.113706. Epub 2021 Jan 5. [PMID: 33482422](#)

11. Darcey VL, **Serafine KM**. (2020) Omega-3 fatty acids and vulnerability to addiction: Reviewing preclinical and clinical evidence. *Current Pharmaceutical Design*, 26(20): 2385-2401. [PMID: 32348211](#)
12. *Ramos J, *Hardin EJ, *Grant AH, *Flores-Robles G, *Gonzalez AT, *Cruz B, *Martinez AK, *Beltran NM, **Serafine KM**. (2020) The effects of eating a high fat diet on sensitivity of male and female rats to methamphetamine and dopamine D₁ receptor agonist SKF 82958. *Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics*, 374(1):6-15. [PMID: 32265322](#)
13. *Hernandez-Casner C, *Woloshchuk CJ, *Poisson C, *Hussain S, *Ramos J, **Serafine KM**. (2019) Dietary supplementation with fish oil reverses high fat diet-induced enhanced sensitivity to the behavioral effects of quinpirole. *Behavioural Pharmacology*, 30(4): 370-375. [PMID: 31085944](#)
14. Cruz B, Flores RJ, Uribe KP, Espinosa EJ, Spencer CT, **Serafine KM**, Nazarian A, O'Dell LE. (2019) Insulin modulates the strong reinforcing effects of nicotine and changes in insulin biomarkers in a rodent model of diabetes. *Neuropsychopharmacology*, 44(6): 1141-1151. [PMID: 30647447](#)
15. *Ramos J, *Hernandez-Casner C, *Cruz B, **Serafine KM**. (2019) Sex differences in high fat diet-induced impairments to striatal Akt signaling and enhanced sensitivity to the behavioral effects of dopamine D₂/D₃ receptor agonist quinpirole. *Physiology & Behavior, Special issue: Hormones, Sex Differences and Drug Response 1*; 203: 25-32. [PMID: 29154786](#)
16. *Hernandez Casner, C, *Ramos J, **Serafine KM**. (2017) Dietary supplementation with fish oil prevents high fat diet-induced enhancement of sensitivity to the behavioral effects of quinpirole. *Behavioural Pharmacology* 28(6): 477-484. [PMID: 28574870](#)
17. **Serafine KM**, Rice KC, France CP. (2016) Characterization of the discriminative stimulus effects of lorcaserin in rats. *Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior*, 106(2): 107-116. [PMID: 27640338](#)
18. **Serafine KM**, *Labay C, France CP. (2016) Dietary supplementation with fish oil prevents high fat diet-induced enhancement of sensitivity to the locomotor stimulating effects of cocaine in adolescent female rats. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, 165:45-52. [PMID: 27242289](#)
19. **Serafine KM**, Rice KC, France CP. (2015) Directly observable behavioral effects of lorcaserin in rats. *Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics*, 355: 381-385. [PMID: 26384326](#)
20. **Serafine KM**, *Bentley TA, *Kilborn DJ, Koek W, France CP. (2015) Drinking sucrose or saccharin enhances sensitivity of rats to quinpirole-induced yawning. *European Journal of Pharmacology*, 764: 529-536. [PMID: 26189020](#)
21. **Serafine KM**, *Bentley TA, Koek W, France CP. (2014) Eating high fat chow, but not drinking sucrose or saccharin, enhances the development of sensitization to the locomotor effects of cocaine in adolescent female rats. *Behavioural Pharmacology*, 26: 321-325. [PMID: 25485647](#)
22. **Serafine KM**, *Bentley TA, *Grenier AE, France CP. (2014) Eating high fat chow and the behavioral effects of direct- and indirect-acting dopamine receptor agonists in female rats. *Behavioural Pharmacology*, 25:287-295. [PMID: 24949571](#)

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23. **Serafine KM**, France CP. (2014) Restricted access to standard or high fat chow alters sensitivity of rats to the 5-HT_{2A/2C} receptor agonist 1-(2,5-dimethoxy-4-methylphenyl)-2-aminopropane (DOM). *Behavioural Pharmacology*, 25:44-52. [PMID: 24346289](#)
24. *Briscione MA, **Serafine KM**, *Merluzzi AM, Rice KC, Riley AL. (2013) The effects of 5-HT₃ antagonism on cocaine-induced conditioned taste aversions. *Pharmacology, Biochemistry and Behavior*, 105: 112–117. [PMID: 23415734](#)
25. **Serafine KM**, *Briscione MA, Rice KC, Riley AL. (2012) Dopamine mediates cocaine-induced conditioned taste aversions as demonstrated with cross-drug preexposure to GBR 12909. *Pharmacology, Biochemistry and Behavior*, 102: 269-274. [PMID: 22579912](#)
26. **Serafine KM**, *Briscione MA, Riley AL. (2012) The effects of haloperidol on cocaine-induced conditioned taste aversions. *Physiology and Behavior*, 105: 1161-1167. [PMID: 22212241](#)
27. **Serafine KM**, Riley AL. (2010) Preexposure to cocaine attenuates aversions induced by both cocaine and fluoxetine: Implications for the basis of cocaine-induced conditioned taste aversions. *Pharmacology, Biochemistry and Behavior*, 95: 230-234. [PMID: 20122955](#)
28. **Serafine KM**, Riley AL. (2009) Possible role of norepinephrine in cocaine-induced conditioned taste aversions. *Pharmacology, Biochemistry and Behavior*, 92: 111-116. [PMID: 19027784](#)
29. Roma PG, Rinker JA, **Serafine KM**, Chen SA, Barr CS, Cheng K, Rice KC, Riley AL. (2008) Genetic and early environmental contributions to alcohol's aversive and physiological effects. *Pharmacology, Biochemistry and Behavior*, 91: 134-139. [PMID: 18639579](#)

EDITED BOOK CHAPTERS

Serafine KM, Riley AL. Cocaine-induced conditioned taste aversions: Role of monoamine reuptake inhibition. In Hall, FS. ed. 2013 *Serotonin: Biosynthesis, Regulation and Health Implications*, Hauppauge, NY: NOVA Science Publishers, Inc. ISBN: 978-1-62417-636-4 [Available here.](#)

RESEARCH FUNDING

Current

2023-2027

R16 GM149426-01 (Serafine, PI) Title: The effects of eating a high fat diet on the therapeutic and abuse-related effects of morphine. Description: SURE proposal to assess the antinociceptive effects, as well as the adverse effects, tolerance and withdrawal produced by morphine in rats eating a low fat, a high fat/high carbohydrate, or a high fat/low carbohydrate (ketogenic) diet.
Role: PI, Total Award Amount: \$605,440.00

Completed

2020-2024

NSF 1947551 (Heckert, PI) Title: Emotional distress and pathways of embodied maternal health vulnerability among immigrant women on the US-Mexico border. Description: Project examining stress among immigrant women.
Role: Co-PI. Total Award Amount: \$318,383.00

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- 2022-2024** **NIDA-funded RCMI Supplement 3U54MD007592-29S4: Pilot Project**
Title: The impact of diet on the therapeutic, rewarding, and aversive effects of morphine. Description: Pilot project submitted through Parent U54 BBRC grant at UTEP (Kirken, PI). Completed early (Fall 2023).
Supplement Role: PI, Total Award Amount: \$147,840.00
- 2021** **Career Enhancement Award**, College of Liberal Arts, UTEP. Description: Research support for grant proposal development during Summer 2021.
Role: PI
- 2020** **University Research Institute**, UTEP, Pilot Project Award Title: The interaction between sex hormones and diet on sensitivity of females to cocaine. Description: UTEP internal funding mechanism to support research. **Role: PI**
- 2020** **Career Enhancement Award**, College of Liberal Arts, UTEP. Description: Salary support for time off from teaching to develop and submit federal grant proposals during Spring 2020. **Role: PI**
- 2018-2019** **UTEP College of Liberal Arts Proposal Enhancement Funds.**
Description: Pilot project funds to collect data related to an upcoming federal grant proposal submission. **Role: PI**
- 2016-2018** **Rising Faculty Science and Technology Acquisition and Retention (STARs) Program Grant.** Description: Research funds for startup and for recruiting new faculty from The University of Texas Systems. **Role: PI**

TEACHING/TRAINING-RELATED FUNDING

Current

- 2026-2029** **Sloan Foundation Centers for Systemic Change (SCSC) Implementation Grant (Crites, PI)** Title: Empowering the Next Generation of Highly Skilled STEM Professionals through Access, Intentionality and Effectiveness.
Role: Co-PI, oversee Sloan Scholar selection process, professional development and training for UTEP STEM doctoral students.
- 2020-2028** **R25 DA033613 (O'Dell, PI)** Title: Summer Mentoring and Research Training: Methods in Neuroscience of Drug-abuse (SMART:MIND)
Description: Undergraduate training grant to facilitate summer neuroscience research in addiction.
Role: *Co-PI, assist with grant management and program coordination.
**Temporarily stepped down during APA fellowship role from 2022-2023.*

Completed

- 2022** **Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) AWARD**, \$2800
Awarded to Madeline Elsey, Funded by the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET)
- 2019-2020** **Caetano Alcohol Research Award**, \$2500 Awarded to Kayla Galindo, Funded by the Latino Alcohol and Health Disparities Research Center

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- 2019-2020** **TeachTech Research Award**, small grant to create innovative and affordable classroom materials, UTEP.
- 2019** **SURF AWARD**, \$2800 Awarded to Nina Beltran, Funded by ASPET

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2015- Present** **The University of Texas at El Paso**
Department of Psychology, El Paso, TX
Graduate Courses: Psychopharmacology
 Neuroscience Seminar
 Pharmacology & Toxicology

Undergraduate Courses: Introduction to Psychology
 Introductory Neuroscience
 Drugs, the Brain, and Behavior
- 2011** **George Washington University**
Department of Psychology, Washington, DC
Undergraduate Course: General Psychology
- 2009-2011** **American University**
Department of Psychology, Washington, DC
Undergraduate Courses: Psychology as a Natural Science
 Drugs and Behavior

RECENT AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2026** **J.H. Woods Award in Behavioral Pharmacology**, American Society of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET), recognizing outstanding original research by investigators within 15 years of their terminal doctoral degree, in behavioral pharmacology. [Details here.](#)
- 2023-2024** **Transforming Biomedical Research and Academic Faculty through Leadership Opportunities, Training and Mentorship (TRANSFORM) Scholar**, formal leadership training program for underrepresented mid-career faculty, Supported by R25 5R25GM143262-02 at the University of Pittsburgh. [More information here.](#)
- 2022** **Shideman-Sterling Lectureship Award**, selected by the Department of Pharmacology, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN.
- 2020-2021** **Biomedical Research Awareness Day (BRAD) Senior Fellow**, sponsored by the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ACNP) and Americans for Medical Progress (AMP). Advocacy/outreach program promoting animal research.
- 2020** **Mentoring Award**, College of Liberal Arts, sponsored by BUILDing Scholars to recognize excellence in mentoring students in research by one full-time faculty member from each college, UTEP

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- 2019** **Future Research Leader**, NIH Scientific Diversity Workforce Office, selected as one of ~30 leaders to participate in the Future Research Leaders Conference at NIH, Bethesda, MD
- 2019-2020** **BRAD Fellow**, sponsored by the ACNP and AMP. Advocacy/outreach program promoting animal research. [Details here](#), and [here](#).
- 2018** **Department of Psychology Nominee** for the University of Texas (UT) Systems Regents' Outstanding Teaching Award, UTEP
- 2018** **Diversity Scholars Network**, National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), program for underrepresented minority junior faculty
- 2018** **Nominee**, Young Psychopharmacologist Award, American Psychological Association Division 28: Psychopharmacology and Substance Abuse
- 2017** **College of Liberal Arts Nominee** for the UT Systems Regents' Outstanding Teaching Award, UTEP
- 2017** **Department of Psychology Nominee** for the UT Systems Regents' Outstanding Teaching Award, UTEP
- 2015** **Mentoring Institute for Neuroscience Diversity (MIND) Scholar**, Early career faculty mentoring program for underrepresented minorities, supported by R25, NS076414 at University of Florida
- 2015** **ASPET Washington Fellow**, science policy/advocacy program. More information [here](#).
- 2013-2015** Ruth L. Kirschstein **National Research Service Award** (NRSA, T32 DA031113), Postdoctoral Training Fellowship in Drug Abuse Research: Behavior and Neurobiology

RECENT TRAVEL AWARDS

- 2019** **Travel Award**, Texas Research Society on Alcoholism (TRSA), to attend annual meeting in San Antonio, TX
- 2017** **Travel Award**, NIH BUILDing Scholars, to present at the annual meeting of the ASPET in Chicago, IL
- 2016** **Travel Award**, National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) Women & Sex/Gender Differences, to present at the annual meeting of the College on Problems of Drug Dependence (CPDD) in Palm Springs, CA
- 2016** **Travel Fellowship**, Winter Conference on Brain Research to present and co-chair a panel at the annual meeting in Breckenridge, CO

MENTORING EXPERIENCE

UTEP Undergraduates Funded by Training Grants

NIH R25 DA033613 SMART-MIND Trainees

- 2026 Destiny Umpstead
2025 Fernanda Villa-Ortiz
2024 Thelma Garcia

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2023	Natalia Martinez
2022	Alyssa Parra
2022	Ana Paulina Serrano
2021	Isabella Castro
2019	Alex Serna
2018	Hunter Franks
2018	Adam Avila
2017	Adrian Gonzales
2016	Claudia Woloshchuk
2016	Carli Poisson

NIH TL4 GM118971, UL1 GM118970, RL5 GM118969 BUILDing SCHOLARS Trainees

2019-2022	Madeline Elsey, *High School student research assistant (2018-2019); LSAMP PRELS postbacc (2022-2023)
2015-2018	Caroline Hernandez-Casner
2015	Sarah Rodarte

NIH R25 GM069621 RISE Research Scholars Trainees

2019-present	Oscar Sandoval
2017-2019	Nina Beltran, *ASPET Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) Individual Award (2019)

UTEP Undergraduate Research Volunteers

2026-present	Nicholas Dominguez
2026-present	Nicholas Pisciotta
2026-present	Destiny Umpstead *SMARTMIND student 2026
2025-present	Michael Aguirre
2025-present	Carlos Palomino
2024-present	Angelica Romero
2024-present	Adrian Perez
2024-present	Fernanda Villa-Ortiz *UTEP Summer Undergraduate Research Program Assistantship (SURPASS) student 2025, *SMARTMIND student 2025
2023- present	Leslie Sullivan *LSAMP Summer Undergraduate Research Fellow (2023)
2023- 2025	Gabriela Naime
2023- 2024	Thelma Garcia*SMARTMIND student 2024
2022- 2024	Natalia Martinez *SMARTMIND student 2023
2022- 2023	Alyssa Parra *SMARTMIND student 2022
2021-2022	Erika Denio
2020-2022	Guillermo Ornelas *UTEP SURPASS student 2021
2019-2021	Amanda Alfsen
2019-2021	Nayla Bejarano
2019-2023	Isabella Castro *SMARTMIND student 2021
2019-2021	Raymond Mendoza *UTEP SURPASS student 2020
2018-2019	Arantxa Martinez
2018-2019	Jose Echeverri
2017-2019	Ethan Hardin, *NIH BUILD summer student (2018), UTEP Mentored Experiences in Research, Inquiry, and Creativity for Undergraduate Scholars (MERITUS) student 2018-2019

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2017-2019	Paloma Serna, *NIH BUILD summer student (2018), UTEP MERITUS student 2018-2019
2017-2018	Grace Flores-Robles, *NIH BUILD summer student (2017)
2016-2017	Edith Hernandez
2016	Ivan Herrejon
2016	Adriana Rico
2016	Alicia Lopez

UTEP Graduate Students

2024-present	Leslie Sullivan *former undergraduate student (see above)
2020-2025	Nina Beltran, Ph.D. *former undergraduate student (see above)
2017-2021	Kayla Galindo, M.A.
2015-2019	Jeremiah Ramos, M.A.
2016-2017	Samirah Hussain

Other Recent Mentoring Experience

2024-2026	Sarah Galindro, Valle Verde Early College High School student, UTEP
2023	Stephanie Phillips, postbacc research volunteer, UTEP
2023	Amber Quintero, postbacc research volunteer, UTEP
2021-2023	Sanjana Mada, medical student, Texas Tech Health Science Center
2015	Caitlin Labay, ASPET SURF student, The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UTHSCSA)
2014	Ghazal Saleh, Health Careers High School student, UTHSCSA
2013-2014	Dylan Kilborn, Health Careers High School student, UTHSCSA
2012-2013	Todd Bentley, Health Careers High School student. UTHSCSA
2012	Amandine Grenier, undergraduate summer student, UTHSCSA
2011-2012	Andrew Merluzzi, undergraduate research assistant, American University
2010-2012	Maria Briscione, undergraduate research assistant, American University

STUDENT AWARDS

2025	Nina Beltran – Outstanding Dissertation Award, College of Liberal Arts, UTEP. More info here .
2023-2024	Nina Beltran –Washington Fellow for ASPET); science communication/advocacy fellowship. More info here .
2024	Nina Beltran – Scientist Mentoring and Diversity Program (SMDP) Biotech; mentored program for students interested in industry careers. More info here .

STUDENT PRESENTATION/POSTER AWARDS

ASPET Poster Competition

2022	Nina Beltran 3 rd Place Graduate Poster Award (Dolores C. Shockley)
2019	Ethan Hardin 2 nd Place Undergraduate Poster Award, (Behavioral Pharmacology Division [BPD])
2018	Caroline Hernandez-Casner 1 st Place Undergraduate Poster Award (BPD)
2016	Caitlin Labay 1 st Place Undergraduate Poster Award (BPD)
2013	Maria Briscione 2 nd Place Undergraduate Poster Award (BPD)

UTEP Campus Office for Undergraduate Research Initiatives (COURI) Symposia

Summer 2019	Nina Beltran, Life Sciences Division, Best Poster Award
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Summer 2019	Madeline Elsey, Life Sciences Division, Honorable Mention Poster Award
Spring 2019	Nina Beltran - Life Sciences Division, Honorable Mention Poster Award
Spring 2017	Caroline Hernandez-Casner, Life Sciences Division, Best Poster Award
Summer 2016	Carli Poisson, Physics & Natural Sciences Division, Best Poster Award

STUDENT TRAVEL AWARDS

Behavior, Biology & Chemistry: Translational Research in Addiction (BBC) Conference held annually in San Antonio, TX

2026	Fernanda Villa-Ortiz
2025	Leslie Sullivan *also awarded in 2024
2025	Nina Beltran *also awarded in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2022 and 2023
2025	Gabriela Naime
2023	Alyssa Parra
2023	Sanjana Mada
2022	Isabella Castro
2022	Guillermo Ornelas
2020	Kayla Galindo *also awarded in 2018 and 2019
2020	Madeline Elsey *also awarded in 2019
2020	Oscar Sandoval
2019	Arantxa Martinez
2019	Ethan Hardin
2019	Paloma Serna
2018	Caroline Hernandez-Casner *also awarded in 2017 and 2016
2018	Jeremiah Ramos *also awarded in 2016
2017	Samirah Hussain

American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET) at Experimental Biology (EB) location varies, ^meeting canceled due to COVID-19

2025	Nina Beltran – Portland, OR *ASPET only (EB disbanded)
2023	Nina Beltran – St. Louis, MO *ASPET only (EB disbanded)
2022	Nina Beltran – Philadelphia, PA
2020	Nina Beltran- San Diego, CA^
2020	Kayla Galindo- San Diego, CA *funded by UTEP/Grad School^
2019	Kayla Galindo- Orlando, FL
2019	Ethan Hardin- Orlando, FL
2019	Kayla Galindo- Orlando, FL *funded by UTEP/Dodson
2018	Kayla Galindo- San Diego, CA *funded by the Federation for American Societies on Experimental Biology (FASEB)
2018	Caroline Hernandez-Casner- San Diego, CA *also awarded in 2017, Chicago, IL
2018	Jeremiah Ramos- San Diego, CA *also awarded in 2016, San Diego, CA
2016	Caitlin Labay- San Diego, CA

Texas Research Society on Alcoholism (TRSA) in San Antonio, TX

2019	Nina Beltran
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RECENT INVITED TALKS / ORAL PRESENTATIONS

*indicates student/trainee co-author

1. **Serafine KM** (2026) *Dietary Impacts on Drug Sensitivity*. Invited talk and recipient of J.H. Woods Award in Behavioral Pharmacology, Behavioral Pharmacology Division Awards Session at the Annual American Society of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET) conference, Minneapolis, MN
2. *Beltran NM, Minervini V, **Serafine KM** (2026) *Morphine Tolerance is Enhanced by Eating a High Fat diet, but Not Food Restriction*. Oral presentation selected for the session: “*Modifying Motivation: GLP-1 Signaling and SUDs*” at the annual College on Problems of Drug Dependence (CPDD) conference, Portland, OR
3. **Serafine KM** (2025) *Dietary Impacts on Morphine Tolerance and Withdrawal: Implications for Pain Management and Opioid Use Disorder*. Invited speaker for the session: “What food systems can teach us about drug use and addiction” at the Annual Society for the Study of Ingestive Behavior (SSIB) conference, Oxford University, Oxford, UK
4. *Beltran NM, *Sullivan LL, *Naime GM, Minervini V, **Serafine KM** (2025) *Eating a high fat/high carbohydrate diet enhances morphine tolerance, while eating a ketogenic diet mitigates morphine withdrawal in male rats*. Oral presentation for the session: “*Beignet or not to Beignet: Relations Between Diet, Metabolics, and SUDs*” at the annual CPDD conference, New Orleans, LA
5. **Serafine KM** (2025) *Linking Diet to Aggression and Drug Sensitivity*. Invited speaker for the Interdisciplinary Research and Education Community of Practice Seminar Series at UTEP, El Paso, TX
6. **Serafine KM** (2023) *Addressing Concerns from Non-Scientists about Animal Research*. Invited speaker, Effective Communication with the General Public about Scientific Research that Requires the Care and Use of Animals, Workshop hosted by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering & Medicine. More information available [here](#).
7. **Serafine KM** (2023) *Diet, Drugs and Dopamine*. Webinar speaker, Culture of CARE Week, hosted by LabCorp BioPharma.
8. **Serafine KM** (2023) *Animal Research in Addiction Science: Historical Examples and How to Become an Advocate*. Invited speaker for the Division of Addictions at Yale (DAY) Seminar, Department of Psychiatry, Yale University School of Medicine, Hartford, CT.
9. **Serafine KM** (2022) *You Are What You Eat: How Dietary Intake Alters Drug Sensitivity*. Shideman-Sterling Lectureship, Department of Pharmacology, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN.
10. **Serafine KM** (2022) *The Historical Role of Animal Research in Addiction Science*. Invited speaker for the Presidential Symposium, at the annual CPDD conference, Minneapolis, MN. Press release available [here](#).
11. **Serafine KM** (2021) *Diet and Drug Sensitivity*. Invited speaker, Basic Research and Instruction in Neuroscience (BRAIN) Alliance, California State University Long Beach, Long Beach, CA.

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12. **Serafine KM** (2020) *Omega 3 fatty acids block diet-induced enhancement of dopamine-dependent behaviors*. Presentation of research and mentorship as part of the tenure/promotion process, Department of Psychology, The University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, TX.
13. **Serafine KM** (2020) *Diet, Dopamine and Drug Abuse*. Invited speaker, Department of Pharmacology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.
14. **Serafine KM** (2019) *Predicting and preventing metabolic syndrome in rats*. Invited speaker, Future Research Leaders Conference, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD.
15. **Serafine KM** (2018) *Using “good fats” to combat the effects of “bad fats” on drug sensitivity*. Invited seminar speaker, School of Life Sciences, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ.
16. **Serafine KM** (2018) *Omega-3 fatty acids prevent and reverse high fat diet-induced enhanced sensitivity to dopaminergic drugs*. Invited seminar speaker, Department of Psychology, California State University Long Beach, Long Beach, CA.
17. **Serafine KM** (2018) *Fighting fat with fat: Dietary supplementation with omega-3 fatty acids prevents and reverses high fat diet-induced enhanced sensitivity to the behavioral effects of dopaminergic drugs*. Invited speaker at the annual meeting of ASPET at Experimental Biology, San Diego, CA.
18. **Serafine KM** (2016) *Dopamine system dysfunction: A common feature of drug abuse and metabolic disease*. Invited speaker at the College of Health Sciences Healthy Exchange Lecture Series, The University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, TX.
19. **Serafine KM** (2016) *High fat diet-induced dopamine system dysfunction: Implications for obesity and metabolic diseases*. Invited speaker at the San Antonio Life Sciences Institute Neuroscience Symposium: Translational Immunology, held at the University of Texas at San Antonio, San Antonio, TX.
20. **Serafine KM**, *Hernandez-Casner C, and *Ramos J. (2016) *Sex differences in high fat diet-induced enhancement of sensitivity to the behavioral effects of the dopamine D₂/D₃ receptor agonist quinpirole in adolescent rats*. Oral communication presented at the annual CPDD conference, Palm Springs, CA.
21. **Serafine KM**. (2016) *Dietary impact on the behavioral effects of drugs*. Oral communication presented in a panel at the Winter Conference on Brain Research, Breckenridge, CO.

LEADERSHIP/ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS HELD

2024-present

Associate Dean, Graduate School, UTEP

Duties: coordinate special projects related to grant submission, individual development plans and other graduate student support activities; serve as program director for UTEP masters in multidisciplinary studies. * workload distribution: 50% associate dean service, 30% research and 20% teaching. More info [here](#).

Katherine M. Serafine

- 2024-present** **Provost Faculty Fellow in Student Professional Development and Career Readiness, Office of the Provost, UTEP**
Duties: work closely with the Vice Provost for Professional Development, Engagement, and Strategic Initiatives to develop strategic partnerships with academic departments and local, regional, and national employers to increase internship pathways for students. More info [here](#).
- 2023 – 2024** **Associate Department Chair, Department of Psychology, UTEP**
Duties: coordinate with the Department Chair regarding high level decision making that might impact faculty or graduate students.
- 2021 – 2024** **Graduate Program Director, Department of Psychology, UTEP**
Duties: Chair Graduate Program Committee and oversee activities including graduate curriculum changes and review, graduate admissions, grad student advising, graduate student funding, benefits and hiring, and serve as a liaison between Department of Psychology and Graduate School. *workload distribution: 35% program director service, 35% research and 30% teaching.
- 2019 – present** **Co-Director, Undergraduate Neuroscience Major, UTEP**
Duties: Co-directing UTEP's first interdisciplinary undergraduate major alongside faculty in Biological Sciences, oversee curriculum changes and review, and provide guidance and support to undergraduate advising staff. More info [here](#).

RECENT SERVICE AT LARGE

- 2026** **Symposium Organizer and Chair, *Non-Academic Careers for Pharmacologists*, American Society of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET) annual meeting, Minneapolis, MN**
- 2025** **Grant Reviewer, ZDA1 CEM-N(M2) Translating Socioenvironmental Influences on Neurocognitive Development and Addiction Risk (TRANSINDA) + Data Coordination Center, National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) Special Emphasis Panel, NIH Center for Scientific Review (CSR), Bethesda, MD**
- 2025-2027** **Committee Member, Committee on Animal Research and Ethics (CARE), American Psychological Association (APA)**
- 2025-present** **Executive Committee Member, Behavioral Pharmacology Division, ASPET, Bethesda, MD. More information [here](#).**
- 2024** **Grant Reviewer, ZGM1 RCB-7(SU) Special Emphasis Panel (SEP). This SEP reviewed applications for the Support for Research Excellence (SuRE) R16 program, NIGMS, Bethesda, MD**
- 2024** **Grant Reviewer, Biobehavioral Regulation, Learning and Ethology BRLE Study Section, Scientific Review Group, NIH CSR, Bethesda, MD**
- 2023-2024** **Grant Reviewer, Neurobiology of Motivated Behavior (NMB) Study Section, Scientific Review Group, NIH CSR, Bethesda, MD**

Katherine M. Serafine

2023	Grant Reviewer , Pennsylvania Department of Health Formula Grants Performance Review, 23-24 Cycle A. Grant Reviewer for PDOH formula grants, information available here .
2021-present	Committee Member , Animals in Research Committee, American College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ACNP), Washington, DC
2021-present	Behavior, Biology, and Chemistry: Translational Research in Addiction (BBC) Conference, Diversity Task Force Member , San Antonio, TX
2021-2022	ASPET Diversity Task Force Member , Washington, DC
2021	Grant Reviewer , ZNS1 SRB-D (15) R25 Summer Research Education Experience, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) Special Emphasis Panel, NIH CSR, Bethesda, MD
2021; 2026	Invited advocate , APA CARE Committee, selected to advocate about the importance of animal research to elected officials.
2021	Invited advocate , Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), selected to represent FASEB and ASPET while advocating for appropriations for scientific research funding.
2021-present	Committee Member , Animals in Research, College on Problems of Drug Dependence (CPDD), Committee Chair 2023-present
2020	Invited advocate , Supporting Truth about Animal Research (STAR) Coalition, selected to represent ACNP while advocating about the importance of animal research to elected officials. *Hill day cancelled due to COVID-19
2019-2022	ASPET Science Policy Committee Member
2019-present	Committee Member , Animal Research Committee, ACNP
2019	Guest Speaker , NIDA T32 Training Grant, UTHSCSA, San Antonio, TX
2018, 2019	Session Chair , <i>Oral Communications Session</i> , BBC Conference, San Antonio, TX
2018	Early Career Grant Reviewer , Biobehavioral Regulation, Learning and Ethology BRLE Study Section, Scientific Review Group, NIH CSR, Bethesda, MD
2018	Panel member , <i>Wondering about Women in Science</i> , BBC Conference, San Antonio, TX
2018-2021	Member, National Standards Advisory Panel , High School Psychology Curricula (2022 Revision), APA
2016- 2021	Conference Programming Committee Member , BBC Conference, San Antonio, TX
2016- 2017	Travel Awards Task Force Committee Member , ASPET, Washington, DC

Katherine M. Serafine

- 2016** **Panel Co-Chair**, *Grub, Smokes and Slippery Slopes*, Winter Conference on Brain Research, Breckenridge, CO
- 2015-2018** Mentoring and Career Development **Committee Member**, ASPET, Washington, DC
- 2015-2017** Executive **Committee Member**, Behavioral Pharmacology Division, ASPET, Bethesda, MD

RECENT SERVICE AT UTEP

- 2026- present** **Research Compliance Committee**, Research & Innovation, UTEP
- 2025** **Job Search Committee Chair** for the position of Assistant Dean for the Graduate School, Graduate School, UTEP
- 2024** Vice President for Health-Related Research **Job Search Committee Member**, Office of Research & Innovation, UTEP
- 2023, 2024** Performance Annual Review **Committee Member**, College of Pharmacy, UTEP
- 2023-2024** Behavioral Neuroscience Faculty **Job Search Committee Member**, Department of Psychology, UTEP
- 2020** College of Liberal Arts Research **Task Force Member**, UTEP Task Force formed to develop strategies for safe research practices during the pandemic and reopening.
- 2020-2021** Behavioral Ecology Faculty **Job Search Committee Member**, Department of Biological Sciences, UTEP
- 2019-2020** Social/Cultural Psychology Faculty **Job Search Committee Member**, Department of Psychology, UTEP
- 2019** **Workshop Speaker**, *Using Individual Development Plans with Your Trainees*, Graduate School workshop series for faculty
- 2018- present** Alternate **Committee Member**, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)
- 2018-2023** Risk Response and Prevention **Committee Member**, Department of Psychology, UTEP
- 2016- 2022** **Faculty Advisor**, Women Interested in STEM Education (WIISE) Student Organization
- 2015, 2016** **Panel member**, UTEP chapter of Psi Chi, Spring Recruitment Event
- 2015- present** **Affiliated faculty**, Border Biomedical Research Center
- 2015- 2024** Graduate Programming **Committee Member**, Department of Psychology
- 2015- 2024** UTEP/BBC **Liaison**, coordinating funding for UTEP trainees to attend the BBC meeting in San Antonio, TX annually

GRADUATE STUDENT DEFENSE COMMITTEES

University of Texas at El Paso

- 2026-present** **Thesis Committee Chair** for Leslie Sullivan, Ph.D. Student: Thesis Title: Exploring impacts of diet and semaglutide, a GLP-1 receptor agonist, on morphine sensitivity. Department of Psychology
- 2024- present** **Dissertation Committee Member** for Peter Fogel, Ph.D. Candidate: Dissertation Title: The role of the prelimbic cortex and dorsomedial striatum in costly drug-taking and voluntary abstinence. Department of Biological Sciences
- 2024-present** **Dissertation Committee Member** for Sebastian Ortegon, Ph.D. Candidate: Dissertation Title: Examination of obesity interventions on nicotine and food intake in obese/insulin-resistant rats. Department of Psychology
- 2024-2025** **Dissertation Committee Chair** for Nina Beltran, Ph.D. Candidate: Dissertation Title: The effects of diet on sensitivity of rats to the antinociceptive, rewarding and adverse effects of morphine. Department of Psychology *College of Liberal Arts Outstanding Dissertation Award, more information [here](#).
- 2024-2025** **Thesis Committee Member** for Claudia B. Gill, M.S. student: Thesis Title: Assessing the role of HCFC1 in developmental seizures using a zebrafish model. Department of Biological Sciences
- 2023-2026** **Dissertation Committee Member** for Veronika Espinoza, Ph.D. Candidate: Dissertation Title: TBD. Department of Psychology
- 2023-2024** **Thesis Committee Member** for Sebastian Ortegon, M.A. student: Thesis Title: Examination of the effects of various pharmacotherapies for diabetes on nicotine intake and pain sensitivity in female and male rats that consumed a high-fat diet. Department of Psychology
- 2023** **Dissertation Committee Member** for Briana Pinales, Ph.D. Candidate: Dissertation Title: Characterization of developmental phenotypes in zebrafish with mutations in MMACHC, Department of Biological Sciences
- 2022- 2023** **Dissertation Committee Member** for Israel Garcia, Ph.D. Candidate: Dissertation Title: Long-term effects of juvenile ketamine and/or social stress exposure on spatial memory performance in C57BL/6 mice. Department of Psychology
- 2022-2023** **Thesis Committee Member** for Pauline Ku, M.A. student: Thesis Title: I lie awake, a coming-of-age novel with themes of mental illness, trauma, and racism. Department of Creative Writing

Katherine M. Serafine

- 2022- 2024** **Dissertation Committee Member** for Valeria Garcia, Ph.D. Candidate: Dissertation Title: Functional mapping of brain reward structures in male and female rats: Characterizing brain reward systems to improve research on substance use disorders. Department of Psychology
- 2022** **Thesis Committee Chair** for Nina Beltran, M.A., student: Thesis Title: The effects of diet on sensitivity of rats to the adverse effects of serotonergic drugs. Department of Psychology
- 2020-2021** **Thesis Committee Member** for Minerva Rodriguez, M.A. student: Thesis Title: Long term effects of fluoxetine exposure on autophagy and tau phosphorylation in the prefrontal cortex and hippocampus of male mice. Department of Psychology
- 2019-2020** **Dissertation Committee Member** for Bryan Cruz, Ph.D. Candidate: Dissertation title; Characterization of the neurochemical effects of nicotine in the mesolimbic pathway of diabetic rats, Department of Psychology
- 2019** **Thesis Committee Chair** for Kayla I. Galindo, M.A. Candidate: Thesis title: The effects of eating a high fat diet on sensitivity of rats to the rewarding effects of methamphetamine. Department of Psychology
- 2018- 2019** **Dissertation Committee Member** for Rodolfo Flores, Ph.D. Candidate: Dissertation title: Examination of sex differences and the role of ovarian hormones in modulating nicotine withdrawal in rats. Department of Psychology
- 2018** **Thesis Committee Member** for Bryan Cruz, M.A. student: Thesis title: Examination of the role of insulin in modulating the reinforcing effects of nicotine in a rodent model of diabetes. Department of Psychology
- 2018** **Dissertation Committee Member** for Allyson Hughes, Ph.D. Candidate: Dissertation title: Seeking health information in the diabetes online community (DOC); The role of health literacy, social support, and community interaction on treatment adherence. Department of Psychology
- 2017** **Thesis Committee Member** for Jeremiah Ramos, M.A. student: Thesis title: The impact of dopaminergic lesions on cognition: Insights into non-motor Parkinson's disease symptomology. Department of Psychology
- 2016-2017** **Thesis Committee Member** for Rodolfo Flores, M.A. student: Thesis title: Beta-estradiol promotes the reinforcing effects of nicotine in female rats. Department of Psychology
- 2016-2017** **Dissertation Committee Member** for Mayra Gisel Flores-Montoya, Ph.D. Candidate, Dissertation title: A behavioral and neuroimmune system model of the effects of chronic low-level lead exposure in young male C57BL/6J mice. Department of Psychology
- 2015-2016** **Dissertation Committee Member** for Joseph Pipkin, Ph.D. Candidate, Dissertation title: Examination of the mechanisms that promote nicotine reward in diabetic animals. Department of Psychology

External Student Committee Service

- 2023-2025** **External Dissertation Committee Member** for Adriana Vasquez, Ph.D. Candidate: Dissertation title: The role of gonadal hormones in female-extinction learning. Department of Psychology, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX
- 2020-2022** **External Dissertation Committee Member** for Julia Maritz, Ph.D. Candidate: Dissertation title: Preoptic modulation of sex differences in cocaine response. Department of Psychology, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX
- 2017** **External Thesis Committee Member** for Katharine Nelson, M.A. student: Thesis title: Assessment of the aversive and rewarding properties of the second generation “bath salt” α -pyrrolidineopentiophenone (α -PVP). Department of Psychology, American University, Washington, DC

RECENT ADDITIONAL TRAINING/CERTIFICATION

- 2024** **Building Professional Leadership Skills** – 6.5 hour course on leadership skill building through the University of Texas at Austin, Center for Professional Education.
- 2023-2024** **Student Engagement with Technology Institute at UTEP - a** yearlong training program that includes sessions to discuss community building, engaging delivery of course materials, and exploration of important course concepts using technology. The goal is for faculty to provide an ever-evolving learning experience based on student feedback and learning management system analytics. More information through [UTEP InSPIRE](#)
- 2023** **Writing Compelling Digital Copy** – 7-hour virtual course on using UX writing principles to write clear, easy-to-consume information for digital platforms. Provided by the [Nielsen Normal Group](#) to the Office of Science Policy, Planning and Communication at the National Institute of Mental Health, Washington, DC.
- 2022** **Plain Language Training** – 7 module online course that provides information per the Plain Writing Act (2010) to help individuals communicate clearly and in a way the public can understand. Provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC.
- 2022** **Implicit Bias Training** – 3 module online course designed to teach about bias, how to recognize it, and how to minimize its impact. Hosted by the [National Institutes of Health](#), Bethesda, MD.
- 2021** **Anti-racism Training** – intensive 6-hour training course on understanding the impact of systemic racism in America. Hosted by the [Borderland Rainbow Center](#), El Paso, TX.

Katherine M. Serafine

- 2020** **Teaching Online Academy at UTEP** – 4-week course from the UTEP Center for Instructional Design to help train faculty on best practices for online learning, El Paso, TX.
- 2019** **Mental Health First Aid Training Course** – 8-hour training program to help individuals recognize signs of distress among employees, students, trainees, and peers, and provide individuals with resources to help those experiencing mental health emergencies. Hosted by [Emergence Health Network](#), El Paso, TX.
- 2018** **Classroom Technologies: Friends, not foes** – professional development workshop through UTEP for incorporating advance technologies into classroom teaching, El Paso, TX.
- 2016** **Grant writing workshop**- professional development workshop through the Mentoring Institute for Neuroscience Diversity (MIND) Scholarship program, supported by NIH R25 NS076414 at University of Florida, held at the Society for Neuroscience 2016 annual meeting, San Diego, CA.
- 2016** **NIDA Grant writing workshop** - workshop sponsored by the National Institute on Drug Abuse focused on obtaining NIH grant funding. Held at the 2016 annual meeting of the College on Problems of Drug Dependence, Palm Springs, CA.
- 2015** **JumpStart Your Research Career** – short course in grantsmanship through the Office of Sponsored Research and Programs, University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, TX.
- 2015** **Managing a Research Lab** - professional development workshop through the Mentoring Institute for Neuroscience Diversity (MIND) Scholarship program, supported by NIH R25 NS076414 at University of Florida, held at the Society for Neuroscience annual meeting, Chicago, IL.
- 2015** **Writing Research Papers with High Impact and Integrity** – weekend workshop through the Mentoring Institute for Neuroscience Diversity (MIND) Scholarship program, supported by R25, NS076414 at University of Florida, held in Denver, CO.
- 2015** **Optimizing the Practice of Mentoring** – on-line training course for higher education faculty to learn effective research mentoring techniques for trainees. Offered by the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN

MEDIA

- 2026** **Associate Professor of Psychology Wins Award**, College of Liberal Arts News Release. [Available here](#). See also [ASPET's official press release](#).
- 2023-2024** **Dr. Serafine Named TRANSFORM Scholar**, College of Liberal Arts News Release. [Available here](#).

Katherine M. Serafine

- 2023** **Career Development Spotlight: Dr. Katherine Serafine**, Office of Research Training, Diversity and Disparities Newsletter, June/July 2023, National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). [Available here.](#)
- 2022** **Welcoming new APA congressional and executive branch policy fellows**, American Psychological Association website news story. [Available here.](#)
- 2022** **Jentsch and Serafine Announced as 2022 Presidential Symposia Speakers**, College on Problems of Drug Dependence news story. [Available here.](#)
- 2021** **UTEP Professor to Study COVID-19's Effect on Hispanics**, UTEP News story. [Available here.](#)
- 2020** **Ask an Expert**, featured as an animal research expert for Biomedical Research Awareness Day's video series. [Available here.](#)
- 2019** **UTEP Awards First Interdisciplinary Bachelor's Degree in Neuroscience**, UTEP Communications newsfeed. [Available here.](#)
- 2019** **BRAD at ACNP Annual Meeting**: Interview with Logan France, D.V.M. and Katherine Serafine, Ph.D., *ACNP Bulletin*. [Available here.](#)
- 2019** **University of Texas at El Paso Faculty Member Awarded ACNP-AMP BRAD Fellowship** to Expand Public Knowledge about the Critical Role of Animals in Health Research, Press release, Americans for Medical Progress. [Available here.](#)
- 2019** **Katherine M. Serafine, Ph.D., named the 2019/2020 ACNP-AMP BRAD Fellow**, *ACNP Bulletin*. [Available here.](#)
- 2019** **Inaugural UTEP Biomedical Research Awareness Day**, *UTEP Prospector* interview. [Available here.](#)
- 2019** **UTEP Psychology Professor Earns Fellowship**, UTEP Communications newsfeed. [Available here.](#)
- 2015** **Meet the ASPET Washington Fellows**, website highlighting the 2015 ASPET science policy fellows. [Available here.](#)
- 2015** **Highlighted article**, publication highlighted in the December 2015 issue of the *Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics*. [Available here.](#)
- 2015** **El Faro interview**, quarterly newsletter, National Hispanic Science Network. [Available here.](#)

AD HOC REVIEWER

- Addiction Biology
- Behavioural Brain Research
- Behavioural Pharmacology
- Experimental and Clinical Psychopharmacology
- International Journal of Neuropsychopharmacology
- Neuroscience Letters
- Neurochemistry International
- Nutritional Neuroscience
- Obesity
- Pharmacology, Biochemistry, and Behavior
- Physiology and Behavior
- Psychopharmacology
- PLOS one
- Scientific Reports
- Translational Psychiatry

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS

- Regular Member, College on Problems of Drug Dependence (CPDD)
- Member, American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)
- Member, American Psychological Association (APA): Division 28
- Member, American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET)
- Member, Behavioral Pharmacology Society (BPS)
- Member, National Hispanic Science Network (NHSN)
- Lifetime Member, Psi Chi National Honor Society in Psychology
- Associate Member, Society for Stimulus Properties of Drugs (SSPD)

RECENT VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 2025 | Panel speaker , UTEP's Strategic Substance Use Initiatives, panel at the El Paso Regional Summit hosted by Texas Substance Use Symposium (TXsus), El Paso, Tx |
| 2024 | Guest speaker , Psychology Career Day at El Paso Community College, El Paso, TX |
| 2023 | Guest speaker , at Jefferson/Silva High School, El Paso, TX |
| 2021 | Guest speaker , Hispanic Heritage Month, Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics, and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) UT Health San Antonio, San Antonio, TX |
| 2021 | Guest speaker , Brain Awareness Week, presentation for UTEP scientists and the community sponsored by the Sun City chapter of the Society for Neurosciences, El Paso, TX |
| 2020 | Guest speaker , Taste of Science San Antonio, presentation for scientists and the public, Freetail Brewery, San Antonio, TX |
| 2020 | Skype-A-Scientist , volunteer scientists speaking virtually with high school students around the country about careers in STEM |
| 2017-2019,
2022-2023, 2025 | American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET) Behavioral Pharmacology Division, Best Abstract Competition poster judge |

Katherine M. Serafine

2016-2020, 2023, 2025	Behavior, Biology, & Chemistry: Translational Research in Addiction (BBC) poster judge* , San Antonio, TX *oral communication judge 2025
2016-2020	Campus Office of Undergraduate Research Initiatives (COURI) Summer Symposia poster judge , El Paso, TX
2019	Keynote speaker at MiniCAST El Paso, High School Teacher Workshop, UTEP, El Paso, TX
2019	Guest speaker at El Paso ISD Center for Career and Technology Education, El Paso, TX
2019	Guest speaker at Americas High School, El Paso, TX
2019	Science consultant , STEM/LEGO club at Elaine S. Schlather Intermediate School, Cibolo, TX
2016-2018	ASPET Dolores C. Shockley Award for Underrepresented Minority Trainees, Best Abstract Competition poster judge
2016	UTEP Outstanding Teaching Awards for Graduate Students judge , El Paso, TX

RECENT CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

*indicates student/trainee author, ^indicates a meeting that was cancelled due to COVID-19

2026

1. *Beltran NM, Minervini V, **Serafine KM**. *Eating a high fat/high carbohydrate diet or a ketogenic diet, but not food restriction, alters sensitivity of male rats to morphine*. Abstract presented virtually at the annual meeting of the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ACNP), Nassau, Bahamas.
2. *Sullivan LL, *Beltran NM, **Serafine KM**. *Establishment of GLP-1 receptor agonist liraglutide as a discriminative stimulus in rats*. Abstract presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET), Minneapolis, MN.
3. *Sullivan LL, *Beltran NM, **Serafine KM**. *Establishment of GLP-1 receptor agonist liraglutide as a discriminative stimulus in rats*. Abstract presented at the annual meeting of Behavior, Biology and Chemistry: Translational Research in Addiction (BBC), San Antonio, TX.
4. *Villa-Ortiz F, *Sullivan LL, *Perez AG, **Serafine KM**. *The effects of dietary manipulation on sensitivity of male rats to morphine-induced conditioned place preference*. Abstract presented at the annual BBC meeting, San Antonio, TX.

2025

5. *Beltran NM, Minervini V, **Serafine KM**. *Eating a ketogenic diet, but not a high fat/high carbohydrate diet, mitigates morphine withdrawal in male rats*. Abstract presented at the annual ASPET meeting Portland, OR.

6. *Sullivan LL, *Beltran NM, **Serafine KM**. *Characterization of the discriminative stimulus effects of GLP-1 receptor agonist liraglutide in rats*. Abstract presented at the annual ASPET meeting, Portland, OR.
7. *Beltran NM, *Sullivan LL, *Naime GM, *Perez AG, **Serafine KM**. *Morphine tolerance is enhanced by consumption of a high fat/high carbohydrate diet, but not a ketogenic diet*. Abstract presented at the annual BBC meeting, San Antonio, TX.
8. *Naime GM, *Beltran NM, *Perez AG, *Sullivan LL, **Serafine KM**. *The impact of dietary manipulation and morphine on animal models of stress, aggression and defensive behavior*. Abstract presented at the annual BBC meeting, San Antonio, TX.
9. *Perez AG, *Beltran NM, *Naime GM,, *Sullivan LL, **Serafine KM**. *The impact of dietary manipulation on morphine-induced sensitization*. Abstract presented at the annual BBC meeting, San Antonio, TX.
10. *Sullivan LL, *Beltran NM, **Serafine KM**. *Characterization of the discriminative stimulus effects of GLP-1 receptor agonist liraglutide in rats*. Abstract presented at the annual BBC meeting, San Antonio, TX.

2024

11. *Beltran NM, Minervini V, **Serafine KM**. *Morphine-induced antinociception and constipation in rats eating a high fat/high carbohydrate or ketogenic diet*. Abstract presented at the annual meeting of the ACNP, Phoenix, AZ
12. *Beltran NM, Minervini V, **Serafine KM**. *The effects of morphine on antinociception and gastrointestinal motility in rats eating a high fat/high carbohydrate or ketogenic diet*. Abstract presented at the annual meeting of BBC, San Antonio, TX
13. *Sullivan LL, *Beltran NM, **Serafine KM**. *The impact of fish oil and anorectic drugs on the reinforcing effects of food*. Abstract presented at the annual BBC meeting, San Antonio, TX.
14. *Beltran NM, *Parra AN, Minervini V, **Serafine KM**. *Morphine-induced antinociception and fecal motility in rats eating a high fat/high carbohydrate or ketogenic diet*. Abstract presented at the annual meeting of ASPET, Crystal City, VA.
15. *Beltran NM, Minervini V, **Serafine KM**. *The effects of morphine on fecal motility among rats eating a high fat/high carbohydrate or ketogenic diet*. Abstract presented at the CPDD annual meeting, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.
16. Cordova EA, Charles NE, **Serafine KM**, Strong S. *An exploration of thoughts of self-harm and perceived discrimination in a Latine/Hispanic sample*. Abstract presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Society (APS), San Francisco, CA.
17. Cordova EA, Charles NE, **Serafine KM**, Strong S. *The association between substance use, perceived discrimination, acculturation and self-harm*. Abstract submitted for presentation at the annual meeting of NLPA, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

2023

18. **Serafine KM**, *Beltran NM, *Eley ME, Minervini V. *Morphine-induced antinociception, tolerance and withdrawal in rats eating a high fat/high carbohydrate or ketogenic diet*. Abstract presented at the annual meeting of the ACNP, Tampa, Florida
19. *Beltran NM, *Parra AN, *Castro IM, *Eley MK, *Serrano AP, *Castillo J, Minervini V, and **Serafine KM**. *The effects of eating a high fat or ketogenic diet on withdrawal following morphine discontinuation*. Abstract presented at the annual BBC meeting, San Antonio, TX
20. *Parra AN, *Beltran NM, *Castro IM, *Eley MK, *Serrano AP, *Castillo J, Minervini V, and **Serafine KM**. *The effects of eating a high fat or ketogenic diet on sensitivity of rats to the antinociceptive effects of morphine*. Abstract presented at the annual BBC meeting, San Antonio, TX
21. *Mada SR, *Beltran NM, Reddy S, **Serafine KM**, and Heckert C. *Hair cortisol levels among individuals seeking prenatal healthcare in the US-Mexico border region*. Abstract presented at the annual BBC meeting, San Antonio, TX.
22. *Beltran NM, *Parra AN, *Castro IM, *Eley MK, *Serrano AP, *Castillo J, Minervini V, and **Serafine KM**. *The effects of eating a traditional high fat or a ketogenic diet on sensitivity of female rats to morphine-induced antinociception, tolerance and withdrawal*. Abstract presented at the annual meeting of ASPET, St. Louis, MO.
23. *Eley MK, *Beltran NM, Minervini V, and **Serafine KM**. *Eating a high fat/high carbohydrate or ketogenic diet does not impact sensitivity to morphine-induced antinociception in rats with hindpaw inflammation*. Abstract presented at the annual meeting of ASPET, St. Louis, MO.

2022

24. *Castro IM, *Galindo KI, *Serna P, and **Serafine KM**. *The effects of eating a high fat diet on sensitivity of rats to methamphetamine-induced conditioned place preference*. Abstract presented at the annual BBC meeting, San Antonio, TX.
25. *Ornelas G, *Mendoza R, *Castro IM, Strong SJ, Cordova E, Charles NE, and **Serafine KM**. *Dietary and drug use habits of college students during the COVID-19 pandemic*. Abstract presented at the annual BBC meeting, San Antonio, TX.
26. *Beltran NM, Ramos J, Landavazo A, Blough BE, and **Serafine KM**. *Eating a high fat diet enhances sensitivity of rats to the unconditioned effects of serotonergic drugs*. Abstract presented at the annual BBC meeting, San Antonio, TX.
27. *Eley MK, *Beltran NM, and **Serafine KM**. *Eating a high fat or a ketogenic diet increases sensitivity of rats to methamphetamine-induced locomotion*. Abstract presented at the annual meeting of ASPET at Experimental Biology, Philadelphia, PA.
28. *Beltran NM, Ramos J, Landavazo A, Blough BE, and **Serafine KM**. *Eating a high fat diet enhances sensitivity of rats to 5-HT_{1A} receptor-mediated behavioral effects of serotonergic drugs*. Abstract presented at the annual meeting of ASPET at Experimental Biology, Philadelphia, PA.

29. **Serafine KM**, *Eley ME, *Beltran NM. *The impact of eating a high fat or ketogenic diet on sensitivity of rats to dopaminergic drugs*. Abstract presented at the annual meeting of ACNP, Phoenix, AZ.

2021

30. *Beltran NM, Landavazo A, Blough BE and **Serafine KM**. *Eating a high fat diet enhances sensitivity of rats to serotonin syndrome*. Abstract presented at the annual meeting of ASPET at Experimental Biology, virtual meeting.
31. *Galindo KI, *Serna Castillon P, and **Serafine KM**. *Methamphetamine-induced conditioned place preference in male rats eating standard or high fat chow*. Abstract presented at the annual meeting of ASPET at Experimental Biology, virtual meeting.
32. **Serafine KM**, *Beltran NM, *Ramos J, Landavazo A, Blough BE. *Behavioral indices of serotonin syndrome are enhanced among rats eating a high fat diet*. Abstract presented at the annual meeting of the ACNP, San Juan, Puerto Rico.
33. Kenwood M, Erwin L, France LK, Clifford P, Gibson C and **Serafine KM**. BRAD: Biomedical Research Awareness Day. Abstract presented at the annual meeting of the ACNP, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

2020

34. *Beltran NM, Landavazo A, Blough BE and **Serafine KM**. *Eating a high fat diet enhances sensitivity of rats to serotonin syndrome*. Abstract presented at the annual meeting of BBC, San Antonio, TX. Abstract also accepted for the annual meeting of the National Hispanic Science Network (NHSN), virtual meeting.
35. *Galindo KI, *Serna Castillon A, and **Serafine KM**. *The effects of eating high fat chow on sensitivity of rats to ethanol*. Abstract presented at the annual meeting of BBC, San Antonio, TX. Abstract also accepted for the annual meeting of the NHSN, virtual meeting.
36. *Eley MK, *Beltran NM, and **Serafine KM**. *The effects of eating a high fat or ketogenic diet on sensitivity of female rats to methamphetamine*. Abstract presented at the annual meeting of BBC, San Antonio, TX. Abstract also accepted for the annual meeting of the NHSN, virtual meeting.
37. *Sandoval O and **Serafine KM**. *The effects of probiotic supplementation on high fat diet-induced enhanced sensitivity to the behavioral effects of methamphetamine*. Abstract presented at the annual meeting of BBC, San Antonio, TX.
38. *Beltran NM, Landavazo A, Blough BE and **Serafine KM**. *Eating a high fat diet enhances sensitivity of rats to serotonin syndrome*. Abstract accepted for presentation at the annual meeting of ASPET at Experimental Biology[^], San Diego, CA.
39. *Galindo KI, *Serna Castillon A, and **Serafine KM**. *The effects of eating high fat chow on sensitivity of rats to ethanol*. Abstract accepted for presentation at the annual meeting of ASPET at Experimental Biology[^], San Diego, CA.
40. *Eley MK, *Beltran NM, and **Serafine KM**. *The effects of eating a high fat or ketogenic diet on sensitivity of female rats to methamphetamine*. Abstract accepted for presentation at the annual meeting of ASPET at Experimental Biology[^], San Diego, CA.

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42. **Serafine KM**, France LK, Clifford P and Gibson C. BRAD: Biomedical Research Awareness Day. Abstract accepted for presentation at the annual meeting of ASPET at Experimental Biology[^], San Diego, CA. [Available here](#). Abstract also accepted for presentation at the annual meeting of the ACNP, virtual meeting.

2019

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44. **Serafine KM**, *Ramos J. *Females are more sensitive than males to enhanced sensitivity to dopaminergic drugs caused by eating a high fat diet*. Abstract presented at the annual meeting of ACNP, Orlando, FL.
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49. *Beltran NM, *Galindo KI, *Echeverri J, *Hernandez-Casner C, and **Serafine KM**. *Intermittent dietary fish oil supplementation prevents high fat diet-induced enhanced sensitivity to the behavioral effects of quinpirole*. Abstract presented at the annual meeting of ASPET at Experimental Biology, Orlando, FL.
50. *Hardin E, *Ramos J, and **Serafine KM**. *Sex differences in high fat diet-induced enhanced sensitivity to methamphetamine and dopamine D₁ receptor agonist SKF 82958*. Abstract presented at the annual meeting of ASPET at Experimental Biology, Orlando, FL.
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2018

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2016

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