

Curriculum Vitae

Philip Lai

Addresses

Mail: University of Nebraska at Kearney
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Kearney, NE 68849
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Education

- Ph.D.** Language and Communicative Disorders, SDSU/UCSD Joint Doctoral Program, Spring 2015
Advisors: Judy Reilly, Ursula Bellugi. Committee: Mark Appelbaum, Jeanne Townsend, Ignatius Nip
Dissertation: Characterizing the Social and Affective Phenotype of Individuals with Neurodevelopmental Disorders
- M.A.** Psychology, San Diego State University (SDSU), Summer 2009
Advisors: Judy Reilly, Ursula Bellugi. Committee: Robert McGivern, Karen Emmorey, Gwen Littlewort
Thesis: Music and Emotion in Williams Syndrome
- B.S.** Cognitive Science, University of California San Diego (UCSD), Fall 2005
Cognitive Science with a Specialization in Neuroscience

Employment

2017-Present

Associate Professor in the Department of Communication Disorders,
Graduate Program Committee Chair of the Department of Communication Disorders,
Director of Research at LaVonne Kopecky Plambeck Early Childhood Education Center,
Cille and Ron Williams Community Assistant Chair of Early Childhood Education,
Buffett Early Childhood Institute Community Chair, Buffett Early Childhood Institute,
University of Nebraska at Kearney (UNK)

2015-2017

Postdoctoral Fellow. Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health & Human Development NIH-T32HD007489 & P30 HD00352. Waisman Center: University of Wisconsin-Madison

Advisor: Susan Ellis-Weismer Ph.D., Professor, UW-Madison

2014

Teaching Assistant. Human Development Program 1: Introduction to Human Development, Fall Quarter, University of California, San Diego

Advisor: Farrell Ackerman Ph.D., Professor, UCSD

2012

Teaching Assistant. Human Development Program 1: Introduction to Human Development, Fall Quarter, University of California, San Diego

Advisor: Farrell Ackerman Ph.D., Professor, UCSD

2009

Graduate Research Assistant. Developmental Laboratory for Language and Cognition, San Diego State University

Advisor: Judy Reilly Ph.D., Professor, SDSU

2009

Graduate & Teaching Assistant. Psychology 230: Developmental Psychology, Department of Psychology, San Diego State University. Spring Quarter.

Advisor: Judy Reilly Ph.D., Professor, SDSU

2008

Graduate & Teaching Assistant. Psychology 230: Developmental Psychology, Department of Psychology, San Diego State University. Fall Quarter.

Advisor: Judy Reilly Ph.D., Professor, SDSU

2008

Graduate Assistant. Cognitive Ergonomics Research Facility, Department of Psychology, San Diego State University

Advisor: Sandra Marshall Ph.D., Professor, SDSU

2006-2007

Lab Assistant. Research on Aging and Development Laboratory, Department of Neuroscience, University of California, San Diego

Advisor: Jeanne Townsend, Ph.D., Associate Adjunct Professor, UCSD

Advisor: Marissa Westerfield, Ph.D., Assistant Project Scientist, UCSD

2004-2005

Special Project/Research. Brain and Cognition Laboratory, Department of Cognitive Science, University of California, San Diego

Advisor: Seana Coulson, Ph.D., Associate Professor, UCSD

2002-2005

Student Internship. San Diego County Water Authority, San Diego

Advisor: Emily Yanushka, Small Contractor Outreach and Opportunities Program Manager

Journal Articles - Peer Reviewed

Lai P. & Eddy E. (2023). A Longitudinal and Cross-Sectional Study Investigating Students' Wellness: A Closer Look at The Impact of the Pandemic. *College Student Journal*.

Fisher, C., Vu, P., & **Lai, P.** (2022). Faculty course evaluations and class size. *Active Learning in Higher Education*, 1-13. <https://doi.org/10.1177/146978742211267>

Artman, B., Nelson, R. M., **Lai, P.**, & Kathman, R. (2022). Is a 1: 1 Environment Good Enough? *Issues and Trends in Learning Technologies*, 10(1). <https://doi.org/10.2458/itlt.2898>

Lai, P. T., Ng, R., Bellugi, U. (2021). Parents' perspective on the social traits observed in school-age children with autism and children with Williams syndrome. *Research and Practice in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*, 8(2), 174-184. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23297018.2021.1934893>

Lai, P. T., Vu, P., Wojcik, B., and Alavi, S. (2020). Online Course Evaluations in the Digital Age. *Journal of Applied Educational and Policy Research*, 5(1), 149-157.

Lai, P. T. (2020). Expressivity in Children with Autism and Williams Syndrome. *Advances in Autism*, 6(4), 277-288. <https://doi.org/10.1108/AIA-11-2019-0044>

- Lai, P. T.**, Ng, R., & Bellugi, U. (2020). Parental Report of Cognitive and Social-emotionality Traits in School-age Children with Autism and Williams Syndrome. *International Journal of Developmental Disabilities*, 68(3), 309-316.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/20473869.2020.1765296>
- Lai, P. T.** (2020). Music Affinity and Emotion in Williams Syndrome. *Music and Medicine*, 12(2), 122-129. <https://doi.org/10.47513/mmd.v12i2.686>
- Ng, R., **Lai, P. T.**, Brown, T. T., Jarvinen, A., Halgren, E., Bellugi, U., Trauner, D. (2018). Neuroanatomical Correlates of Emotion-processing in Children with Unilateral Brain Lesion: A Preliminary Study of Limbic System Organization. *Social Neuroscience*, 1-13.
www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/17470919.2017.1386126
- Chailangkarn, T., Trujillo, C. A., Freitas, B. C., Hrvoj-Mihic, B., Herai, R. H., Yu, D. X., Brown, T. T., Marchetto, M. C., Bardy, C., McHenry, L., Stefanacci, L., Järvinen, A., Searcy, Y. M., DeWitt, M., Wong, W., **Lai, P.**, Ard, M. C., Hanson, K. L., Romero, S., Jacobs, B., Dale, A. M., Dai, L., Korenberg, J. R., Gage, F. H., Bellugi, U., Halgren, E., Semendeferi, K., Muotri, A. R. (2016). A Human Neurodevelopmental Model for Williams Syndrome. *Nature*, 536(7616), 338-343.
- Järvinen, A., Ng, R., Crivelli, D., Neumann, D., Arnold, A. J., Woo-VonHoogenstyn, N., **Lai, P.**, Trauner, D., & Bellugi, U. (2016). Social Functioning and Autonomic Nervous System Sensitivity Across Vocal and Musical Emotion in Williams Syndrome and Autism Spectrum Disorder. *Developmental Psychobiology*, 58(1), 17-26.
- Lai, P. T.**, & Reilly, J. S. (2015). Language and Affective Facial Expression in Children with Perinatal Stroke. *Brain and Language*, 147, 85-95.
- Järvinen, A., Ng, R., Crivelli, D., Neumann, D., Grichanik, M., Arnold, A. J., **Lai, P.**, Trauner, D. & Bellugi, U. (2015). Patterns of Sensitivity to Emotion in Children with Williams Syndrome and Autism: Relations Between Autonomic Nervous System Reactivity and Social Functioning. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 1-19.
- Ng, R., **Lai, P.**, Levitin, D., & Bellugi, U. (2013). Musicality Correlates with Sociability and Emotionality in Williams Syndrome. *Journal of Mental Health Research in Intellectual Disabilities*, 6(4), 268-279.
- Gothelf, D., Searcy, Y. M., Reilly, J., **Lai, P. T.**, Lanre-Amos, T., Mills, D., et al. (2008). Association Between Cerebral Shape and Social use of Language in Williams Syndrome. *American Journal Of Medical Genetics. Part A*, 146A(21), 2753-2761.

Thesis & Papers

- Lai, P.** (2015). Characterizing the Social and Affective Phenotype of Individuals with Neurodevelopmental Disorders. (Ph.D. Dissertation) San Diego State University/University of California San Diego: Language and Communicative Disorders. San Diego, California.
- Lai, P.** (2013). Underpinnings of Social Behavior in Williams Syndrome. (Integrative Paper) San Diego State University/University of California San Diego: Language and Communicative Disorders. San Diego, California.
- Lai, P.** (2009). Music and Emotion in Williams Syndrome. (Master's Thesis) San Diego State University: Department of Psychology. San Diego, California.

Book Chapters

- Polse, L., **Lai, P.**, & Reilly, J. (2015). Gradients of plasticity: Language and Emotion in Children with Unilateral Perinatal Stroke. In Ulrike Luedtke (Ed.), *Emotion in Language* (pp 343-365). Amsterdam, NL: John Benjamins Publishing Company.
- Reilly, J., **Lai, P.**, Bernicot, J., & Bellugi, U. (2010). Williams Syndrome. In R. Nass (Ed.) and F. Yitzchak (Ed.), *Cognitive and Behavioral Abnormalities of Pediatric Diseases* (pp 267-284). New York: Oxford University Press.

Invited Oral Presentations

- Lai, P. T.** (2025, September 16). Knowledge Network for Early Childhood Workforce (KNEW): Committed to Growing and Supporting Early Childhood Educators in Nebraska. Younes Conference Center North, Kearney NE.
- Lai, P. T.** (2025, April 16). Kearney Dawn Rotary Club, "Knowledge Network for Early Childhood Education Workforce (KNEW)," Kearney Dawn Rotary Club, Kearney, NE.
- Lai, P. T.** (2025, March 7). Spring CDIS 2025 Lunch & Share, "KNEW: Knowledge Network for Early Childhood Education Workforce," CDIS, Kearney, NE.
- Lai, P. T.** (2025, March 3). Project KNEW Communities Unveiling, "Introduction to the KNEW Grant and Next Steps". Regional Engagement Center at UNK.
- Lai, P. T.** (2024, October 29). Project KNEW Celebration with Senator Deb Fischer, "Introduction to the KNEW Grant". Regional Engagement Center at UNK.
- Lai, P. T.** (2024, June 5). IRB: Research Compliance Talk, "SSRP: IRB: Research Compliance Talk". Bruner Hall of Science at UNK.
- Lai, P. T.** (2024, April 23). The 2024 CYFS Early Childhood Research Summit, "Early Childhood Legislation in Nebraska and Reflections on a Research/Policy Partnership. Nebraska Innovation Campus Conference Center at UNL.
- Lai, P. T.** (2022, April 13). The 2022 CYFS Summit on Research in Early Childhood, "Communication in Verbal and Nonverbal Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders". Nebraska Innovation Campus Conference Center at UNL.
- Lai, P. T.** (2022, January 20). Omaha World Herald (OWH) & Kearney Hub Honors Lecturer, "The anti-vaccine movement in the 1990's related to the MMR vaccine and false links to Autism Spectrum Disorder". MSAB Sisler Room at UNK. Host: Dr. Angela Hollman
- Lai, P. T.**, Brandow, E., & Eddy, E. (2021, April 23). 131st Annual Nebraska Academy of Sciences (NAS) Spring Meeting, "Communication and Temperament during Teamwork Tasks". Host: Dr. Scott Tarry and Michaela Lucas. *note: Due to Coronavirus, the oral presentation was done online.
- Lai, P. T.** (2020, September 28). Nebraska Middle Level Education Association's (NMLEA) Professional Development Institute, "Plasticity in the Brain". Host: Nebraska Middle Level Education Association, Online.
- Lai, P. T.** (2020, April 29). Nebraska Center for Research on Child, Youth, Families & Schools Summit on Research in Early Childhood. "Communication in Verbal and Nonverbal Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders" University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Host: Nebraska Center for Research on Child, Youth, Families & Schools (NCYFS). *note: Oral presentation was accepted but due to Coronavirus, the summit was cancelled.

- Lai, P.T.** (2020, April 10). "New Frontiers Faculty Presentations". 22nd Annual Student Research Week. University of Nebraska at Kearney, NE. Date: April 10, 2020. *note: Due to Coronavirus, the oral presentation was done online.
- Lai, P. T., Eddy, E., & Brandow, E.** (2020, April 17). 2020 NAS Annual Spring Meeting, "The Effects of Teamwork on Verbal Output in Individuals When Completing Tasks of Varying Mental and Physical Exertion". Nebraska Wesleyan University Campus. Host: Dr. Scott Tarry and Michaela Lucas. *note: Oral presentation was accepted but due to Coronavirus, the conference was cancelled.
- Lai, P. T.** (2019, October 25). College of Education Excellence in Teaching and Research Forum, "Emotional Expression in School-Age Children with Perinatal Stroke: The Influence of Neuroplasticity," UNK College of Education, COE B154. Host: Matthew Mims, Ed.D. & Martonia Gaskill, Ph.D.
- Lai, P. T.** (2019, September 21). UNK-Community 4th Annual Early Childhood Conference, "Current Topics in Autism Research: The Effects of the Anti-Vaccine Movement and the Current State of Medical Marijuana as a Treatment for Severe Symptoms of Autism." UNK Student Union. Host: UNK Community Early Childhood Conference Committee.
- Lai, P. T., Southard, R., Johnson, B., & Eddy, E.** (2019, April 12). 2019 NAS Annual Spring Meeting, "Verbal And Nonverbal Channels Of Communication After Completing Tasks Varying On Task Difficulty". Nebraska Wesleyan University Campus. Host: Drs. Wayne Babchuk and Emily Jensen
- Lai, P. T.** (2018, October 30). Research Café Oral Presentation, " Communicative Behaviors in Two Groups of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder". UNK Student Union. Host: Richard Mocarski, Ph.D.
- Lai, P. T.** (2018, October 19). UNK-Community 3rd Annual Early Childhood Conference, "Quality of Communication in Young Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder during a Dyadic Social Interaction". UNK Student Union. Host: UNK Community Early Childhood Conference Committee.
- Lai, P. T.** (2017, February 12). Science Café at Cunningham's Journal. Host: Allen Thomas, Ph.D.
- Lai, P. T.** (2017, October 27). College of Education Excellence in Teaching and Research Forum, "Communication during Social Interaction in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders," UNK College of Education, COE B154. Host: Matthew Mims, Ed.D. & Martonia Gaskill, Ph.D.
- Lai, P. T.** (2016, March 10). *Language and the Social Responsiveness Scale (SRS) in School-Age Children with High Functioning Autism*. 49th Annual Gatlinburg Conference. Symposium 11: Life Course Predictors of Social Functioning in Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Chair: Marsha Mailick, Ph.D.; Discussant: Somer Bishop, Ph.D. San Diego, California.
- Lai, P. T.** (2015, September 28). *Characterizing the Social and Affective Phenotype of Individuals with Neurodevelopmental Disorders*. Proseminar Talk. Department of Communicative Science and Disorders. University of Wisconsin-Madison. Host: Cynthia Fowler, Ph.D.
- Lai, P. T.** (2015, June 3). *Characterizing the Social and Affective Phenotype of Individuals with Neurodevelopmental Disorders*. Dissertation Defense in the Department of Language and Communicative Disorders at San Diego State University/University of California San Diego. San Diego, California.

- Lai, P. T.** (2014, May 10). *Characterizing the Social and Affective Phenotype of Individuals with Neurodevelopmental Disorders*. NIMH Cognitive Neuroscience Training Program for the Institute for Neural Computation: Fellows Blitz Talks. San Diego Supercomputer Center, UCSD. Host: Terrence Sejnowski, Ph.D.
- Lai, P. T.** (2013, July 25). *Characterizing the Social and Affective Phenotype of Individuals with Neurodevelopmental Disorders*. Dissertation Proposal Defense. Salk Institute for Biological Studies. Host: Ursula Bellugi Ed.D. & Judy Reilly Ph.D.
- Lai, P. T.** (2013, May 13). *Underpinnings of Social Behavior in Williams Syndrome*. Integrative Paper Talk for the JDP in LCD. Salk Institute for Biological Studies. Host: Ursula Bellugi Ed.D. & Judy Reilly Ph.D.
- Lai, P. T.** (2012, December 10). *Affect and Sociability Within the Project for Cognitive and Neural Development (PCND) Populations*. University of California, San Diego. Host: Doris Trauner, Ph.D.
- Lai, P. T.** (2012, April 18). *Discursis on Individuals with Williams Syndrome*. University of Queensland, St. Lucia Campus. Brisbane, Australia. Host: Daniel Angus, Ph.D., Andrew Smith, Ph.D., & Janet Wiles, Ph.D.
- Lai, P. T.** (2011, September 23). *Language and Affective Expression in Children with Perinatal Stroke*. 15th Annual SDSU/UCSD Joint Doctoral Program in Language and Communicative Disorders Student Colloquium. San Diego State University. Host: SDSU School of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences.
- Lai, P. T.** (2011, March 5). *Language and Affective Expression in Children with Perinatal Stroke*. San Diego State University: 4th Annual Student Research Symposium.
- Lai, P. T.** (2011, February 18). *Language and Affective Expression in Children with Perinatal Stroke*. Developmental Science Forum: San Diego State University. Host: Pamela Moses, Ph.D.
- Lai, P. T.** (2010, November 23). *Language in the Right Hemisphere*. Invited Guest Instructor: Speech. Language, Hearing Sciences 609A: Graduate-Level Course on Acquired Neurogenic Language and Cognitive Disorders. Host: Tracy Love, Ph.D. San Diego State University, San Diego, CA.
- Lai, P. T.** (2010, April 29). *Sociability in Children with Williams Syndrome*. Presentation Talk Given to Psychology 732: Brain and Cognitive Development. Host: Pamela Moses, Ph.D.
- Lai, P. T.** (2010, September 24). *Emotional Facial Expression in Children with Perinatal Stroke*. 14th Annual SDSU/UCSD Joint Doctoral Program in Language and Communicative Disorders Student Colloquium. University of California San Diego. Host: UCSD Center for Research in Language.
- Lai, P. T.** (2009, May 8). *Music and Emotion in Williams Syndrome*. Presentation Talk Given to Developmental Lab Group Meeting. San Diego State University. Host: Pamela Moses, Ph.D.

Invited Joint Oral Presentations

- Nickel, K., Sissel, R., Fogel, J., DeVries, L., & **Lai, P. T.** (2025, September 16). Thriving Children, Families, and Communities Conference, "Knowledge Network for Early Childhood Workforce (KNEW): Committed to Growing and Supporting Early Childhood Educators in Nebraska," Nebraska Children and Families Foundation, Kearney, NE.

- Bellugi, U. & **Lai, P.** (2014, November 25). *Presentation on the Cognitive and Social Profiles of Williams Syndrome*. Invited Guest Instructors: Human Development 1: Introduction to Human Development. Host: Farrell Ackerman, Ph.D. University of California San Diego, San Diego, CA.
- Bellugi, U. & **Lai, P.** (2014, September 25). *Presentation on the Cognitive and Social Profiles of Williams Syndrome*. Invited Guest Speakers: UCSD Neuroscience Boot Camp. Host: UCSD Neuroscience Department. University of California San Diego, San Diego, CA.

Poster Presentations as PI

- Lai, P.**, Davis, P., Souerdyke, C., Lintel, J., Henry, P. (2025). *Investigating Gestures and Physical Contact in a Dyadic Social Interaction in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder*. 2025 Association for Psychological Science (APS) Annual Convention. Washington D.C. Date: May 24, 2025.
- Lai, P.** (2024). *Gesture Use in Parents of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder During a 25 Minute Play Task*. Society for Neuroscience (SFN) Annual Convention. Chicago, Ill. Date: October 5-9, 2024.
- Lai, P.** (2024). *The Relationship Between IQ and Lexical Measures in School-age Children with Williams Syndrome*. Symposium on Research in Child Language Disorders (SRCLD). Madison, WI. Date: May 31, 2024.
- Lai, P.**, Wang, Y., Zangrillo, A., Zhang, Y., Yoon, H., Toner, C., & VandenBos, K. (2023). *Evaluating and Assessing Social Interaction between Parents and their Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder*. Society for Neuroscience (SFN) Annual Convention. Washington D.C. Date: November 11-15, 2023.
- Lai, P.** (2023). *Investigating Social-Emotional Growth Trajectories in Two Groups of Children: Data from the Plambeck Center*. 7th Annual UNK-Community Early Childhood Conference. Kearney, NE: October 13-14, 2023.
- Lai, P.** (2023). *Investigating Social-Emotional Growth Trajectories in Two Groups of Children: Which Developmental Milestones Have Been Reached and Which Are Still Developing?* 2023 Association for Psychological Science (APS) Annual Convention. Washington D.C. Date: May 25-28, 2023.
- Lai, P.** (2023). *Language and Communication in School-age Children with Cortical and Subcortical Brain Injuries*. 30th Annual Cognitive Neuroscience Society. San Francisco, CA. Date: March 25-28, 2023.
- Lai, P.** & Eddy E. (2022). *Students' Sociability and Wellness Preceding the Pandemic and Amidst the Pandemic*. 29th Annual Cognitive Neuroscience Society. San Francisco, CA. Date: April 23-26, 2022.
- Lai, P.**, Kirsch, K., & Neil, C. (2020). *Caretaker's Influence on the Child's Communication Abilities: A Look at the Transactional Theory of Interaction in Autism Spectrum Disorder*. 32nd Annual Association for Psychological Science (APS) Convention. Chicago, IL. Date: June 1, 2020. *note: Due to Coronavirus, virtual poster showcase was done online.
- Lai, P.** (2019). *Different Methods of Communication in Two Groups of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder during a Dyadic Social Interaction*. 26th Annual Cognitive Neuroscience Society. San Francisco, CA. Date: March 23-26, 2019.

- Lai, P.** (2018). *Continuing Development in School-Age Children with Perinatal Stroke: Differing Degrees of Neuroplasticity for Language and Affect*. 25th Annual Cognitive Neuroscience Society. Boston, MA. Date: March 24-27, 2018.
- Lai, P.** & Ellis-Weismer, S. (2017). *A Longitudinal Study Characterizing Communication in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder and their Mothers during a Dyadic Free-Play Situation*. Symposium on Research in Child Language Disorders (SRCLD). Madison, WI. Date: June 9, 2017.
- Lai, P.** & Ellis-Weismer, S. (2017). *Communication between Mothers and Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder during a Free-Play Interaction*. 50th Annual Gatlinburg Conference. San Antonio, TX. Date: March 8-10, 2017.
- Lai, P.** & Reilly, J. (2016). *Characterizing Language Production in School-age Children with Neurodevelopmental Disorders*. 28th Annual Association for Psychological Science (APS) Convention. Chicago, IL. Date: May 26-29, 2016.
- Lai, P.** & Reilly, J. (2016). *Language Quality in School-Age Children with Perinatal Stroke: Morphosyntactic Errors in Children with Parietal Lobe and Subcortical Damage*. 23rd Annual Cognitive Neuroscience Society. New York, NY. Date: April 2-5, 2016
- Lai, P.** & Lopez, A. (2016). *Language and Prosodic Measures in Typically Developing Children and Children with High Functioning Autism*. 44th Annual Meeting of the International Neuropsychological Society. Boston, MA. Date: February 3-6, 2016.
- Lai, P.,** Ignacio, M., Kim, M. B., Bellugi, U., & Reilly, J. (2015). *Communication During a Dyadic Social Interaction in School-age Children with High Functioning Autism and Children with Williams Syndrome*. 45th Annual Society for Neuroscience Conference. Chicago, IL. Date: October 17-21, 2015.
- Lai, P.,** Dang, T., Bellugi, U., & Reilly, J. (2015). *The Relationship Between Gestures and Language in Adults with Williams Syndrome*. 22nd Annual Cognitive Neuroscience Society. San Francisco, CA. Date: March 28-31, 2015.
- Lai, P.,** Yu, C., Trauner, D., Reilly, J. & Bellugi, U. (2013). *Characterizing the Social and Affective Phenotype of Children with Neurodevelopmental Disorders*. Society for Neuroscience. San Diego, CA. Date: November 9-13, 2013.
- Lai, P.,** Wong, W., Trauner, D., Bellugi, U., & Reilly, J. (2013). *Language and Sociability in Children with Perinatal Stroke during the Cookie Theft Picture Description Task*. Cognitive Neuroscience Society. San Francisco, CA. Date: April 15, 2013.
- Lai, P.,** Ignacio, M., Lai, J., Gonzalez, C., Cornelius, K.,Bellugi, U., & Reilly, J. (2012). *Social Phenotype of Children with High Functioning Autism and Children with Williams Syndrome*. 1st Annual San Diego Consortium for Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience. University of California San Diego. Date: November 29, 2012.
- Lai, P.,** Wong, W., Trauner, D., & Reilly, J. (2012). *Language and Sociability in Children with High Functioning Autism and Williams Syndrome during the Cookie Theft Picture Description Task*. Society for Neuroscience. New Orleans, LA. Date: October 13-17, 2012.
- Lai, P.,** Wong, W., Trauner, D., & Reilly, J. (2012). *Language and Sociability in Children with High Functioning Autism and Williams Syndrome during the Cookie Theft Picture Description Task*. Society for Social Neuroscience. New Orleans, LA. Date: October 11-12, 2012.
- Lai, P.,** Ignacio, M., Lai, J., Gonzalez, C., Cornelius, K.,Bellugi, U., & Reilly, J. (2012). *Social Phenotype of Children with High Functioning Autism and Children with Williams*

- Syndrome*. San Diego State University: 5th Annual Student Research Symposium. Date: March 9, 2012. Award: Provost's Award Winner.
- Lai, P.,** Li, A., & Reilly, J. (2011). *Language and Affective Expression in Children with Perinatal Stroke*. Université du Québec à Montréal (UQÀM). 12th International Congress for the Study of Child Language. Date: July 21, 2011.
- Lai, P.,** Bellugi, U., Lazo, D., & Reilly, J. (2010). *Music and Emotion in Williams Syndrome*. Salk Institute for Biological Studies: Salk Science Day Faculty Symposium. Date: March 25, 2010. Award: Semifinalist Poster.
- Lai, P.,** Lazo, D., & Reilly, J. (2010). *Expressivity through Musical Perception in Individuals with Williams Syndrome*. San Diego State University: 3rd Annual Student Research Symposium. Date: March 5, 2010.
- Lai, P.,** Lazo, D., & Reilly, J. (2009). *Music and Emotion in Williams Syndrome*. Department of Psychology: San Diego State University: 2nd Annual Student Research Symposium. Date: February 27, 2009. Award: Provost's Award Winner.

Poster Presentations as Collaborator

- Macy, M., Carithers, C., Edokhamhen, E., **Lai, P.,** & Sweeney, E. (February 2024). *A Collaboration of Education and Healthcare Professionals to Address the Needs of Rural School Communities in Nebraska*. Minority Health Disparities Initiative (MHDI) Health Equity Conference, Lincoln, NE. Date: February 23, 2024.
- Chen, C., **Lai, P.,** Macy, M., & Pool, J. (February 2024). *Cultural Fairness of a School Readiness Measure for Kindergarten Transition*. Conference on Research Innovations in Early Intervention (CRIEI). San Diego, CA. Date: February 15-18.
- Dang, T., **Lai, P.** (2017). *Variables Distinguishing School-age Children with Autism Who Are Held Back in School Compared to Children with Autism Who Are Not Held Back*. 24th Annual Cognitive Neuroscience Society. San Francisco, CA. Date: March 25-28, 2017.
- Woo-Vonhoogenstyn, N., **Lai, P.** (2017). *Development of Language and Social Behaviors in School-Age Children with Autism*. 24th Annual Cognitive Neuroscience Society. San Francisco, CA. Date: March 25-28, 2017.
- Lopez, A. & **Lai, P.** (2016). *Sustainable Language Production in Typically Developing Children and Children with Focal Lesions*. 44th Annual Meeting of the International Neuropsychological Society. Boston, MA. Date: February 3-6, 2016.
- Kim, M. B., **Lai, P.,** Trauner, D., Reilly, J., & Bellugi, U. (2015). *Non-Verbal Communication During the Speaking and Listening Phases of a Dyadic Conversation in Children with High Functioning Autism and Children with Williams Syndrome*. 45th Annual Society for Neuroscience Conference. Chicago, IL. Date: October 17-21, 2015.
- Dang, T. V., **Lai, P.,** Reilly, J., & Bellugi, U. (2015). *Characterizing Multiple Channels of Social Behaviors and Expressivity in Adults with Williams Syndrome during Narratives*. 45th Annual Society for Neuroscience Conference. Chicago, IL. Date: October 17-21, 2015.
- Woo-Vonhoogenstyn, N., **Lai, P.,** Reilly, J., & Bellugi, U. (2015). *Investigating Social Initiation Behaviors with Strangers in Different Groups of Children*. 45th Annual Society for Neuroscience Conference. Chicago, IL. Date: October 17-21, 2015.
- Dang, T., **Lai, P.,** Reilly, J., & Bellugi, U. (2015). *Multiple Channels of Communication and Co-Occurrences in Adults with Williams Syndrome*. 22nd Annual Cognitive Neuroscience Society. San Francisco, CA. Date: March 28-31, 2015.

- Woo-Vonhoogenstyn, N., **Lai, P.**, Reilly, J., & Bellugi, U. (2014). *Affective Prosody in Adults with Williams Syndrome*. Society for Neuroscience. Washington D.C. Date: November 15-19, 2014.
- Tang, B., **Lai, P.**, Reilly, J., & Bellugi, U. (2014). *Music and Emotion in Adults with Williams Syndrome: Expressivity Toward Affective Musical Pieces through Nonverbal Channels of Behaviors*. Society for Neuroscience. Washington D.C. Date: November 15-19, 2014.
- Dang, T., **Lai, P.**, Bellugi, U., & Reilly, J. (2014). *Analyzing Facial Behaviors and Linguistic Output in Adults with Williams Syndrome*. 26th Association for Psychological Science (APS) Annual Convention. San Francisco, CA. Date: May 23, 2014.
- Dewitt, M., **Lai, P.**, Searcy, Y., Reilly, J., & Bellugi, U. (2014). *Temperament and Social Approach Behavior in Children with Autism and Williams Syndrome*. 26th Association for Psychological Science (APS) Annual Convention. San Francisco, CA. Date: May 24, 2014.
- Deng, R., **Lai, P.**, Jarvinen, A., Fillet, P., & Bellugi, U. (2014). *Williams Syndrome: Characterizing Adults with Visual-Motor Deficits Through Image Replication*. 26th Association for Psychological Science (APS) Annual Convention. San Francisco, CA. Date: May 25, 2014.
- O'Loughlin, C., **Lai, P.**, Reilly, J. & Bellugi, U. (2014). *Characterizing the Social Profiles of Adults with Williams Syndrome Through Narrative and Questionnaire*. Cognitive Neuroscience Society. Boston, MA. Date: April 8, 2014.
- Wong, W., **Lai, P.**, Salamanca, L. Arnold, A., Bellugi, U., & Reilly, J. (2013). *Williams Syndrome: Cognitive and Social Behaviors from the Mystery Box*. Society for Neuroscience. San Diego, CA. Date: November 9-13, 2013.
- Tang, B., **Lai, P.**, & Bellugi, U. (2013). *Williams Syndrome: Perception of Affective Musical Pieces and Production of Novel Music on Demand*. Society for Neuroscience. San Diego, CA. Date: November 9-13, 2013.
- Crivelli, D., Jarvinen, A., Arnold, A., **Lai, P.**, Ng, R., & Bellugi, U. (2013). *Williams Syndrome: Autonomic Nervous System Correlates of Increased Social Behavior*. Society for Neuroscience. San Diego, CA. Date: November 9-13, 2013.
- Fillet, P., Ng, R., Arnold, A., Searcy, Y., **Lai, P.**, Jarvinen, A., DeWitt, M., Reilly, J., Korenberg, J., & Bellugi, U. (2013). *Williams Syndrome: Toward a Deeper Characterization of the Social Phenotype-The Strong Association between Personality and Social Drive*. Society for Neuroscience. San Diego, CA. Date: November 9-13, 2013.
- Fillet, P., Ng, R., **Lai, P.**, Searcy, Y., Jarvinen, A., & Bellugi, U. (2013). *The Salk Institute Sociability Questionnaire: Measures of Social Approach and Socioemotional Characteristics in Neurogenetic Disorders*. Society for Research in Child Development. Seattle, WA. Date: April 19, 2013.
- Wong, W., **Lai, P.**, Salamanca, L. Arnold, A., Bellugi, U., & Reilly, J. (2013). *I Wonder What's in the Mystery Box: Cognitive and Social Behaviors in Individuals with Williams Syndrome*. 6th Annual Student Research Symposium. San Diego State University. Date: March 9, 2013.
- Fillet, P., **Lai, P.**, Searcy, Y., Chen, L., Reilly, J., & Bellugi, U. (2012). *Evaluation of Empathy in Williams Syndrome: The Salk Institute Sociability Questionnaire*. 1st Annual San Diego Consortium for Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience. University of California San Diego. Date: November 29, 2012.

- Wong, W., **Lai, P.**, & Bellugi, U. (2012). *Stars in Your Eyes: Sociability in Individuals with Williams Syndrome with Full and Partial Deletions*. 1st Annual San Diego Consortium for Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience. University of California San Diego. Date: November 29, 2012.
- Fillet, P., **Lai, P.**, Chen, L., Ng, R., Searcy, Y., Lincoln, A., Reilly, J., Korenberg, J., & Bellugi, U. (2012). *Evaluation of Empathy in Williams Syndrome: The Salk Institute Sociability Questionnaire*. Society for Social Neuroscience. New Orleans, LA. Date: October 11-12, 2012.
- Arnold, A., **Lai, P.**, Ng, R., Järvinen-Pasley, A.M., Dering, B., Bellugi, U., & Trauner, D. (2012). *Behavioral Identification of Emotional Visual and Auditory Stimuli in Children with Williams Syndrome and High Functioning Autism*. 2nd Annual Southern California Cognitive Neuroscience. Date: March 2, 2012.
- Ignacio, M., **Lai, P.**, Lai, J., Gonzalez, C., Cornelius, K.,Bellugi, U., & Reilly, J. (2012). *Social Phenotype of Children with High Functioning Autism and Children with Williams Syndrome*. 2nd Annual Southern California Cognitive Neuroscience. Date: March 2, 2012.
- Li, A., **Lai, P.**, & Reilly, J. (2011). *Verbal and Nonverbal Communication in School-age Children with Perinatal Stroke*. San Diego Convention Center. 2011 American Speech Language Hearing Association (ASHA) Convention. Date: November 18, 2011.
- Li, A., **Lai, P.**, & Reilly, J. (2011). *Simultaneous Gestures and Language Production in School-age Children with Perinatal Stroke*. Université du Québec à Montréal (UQÀM). 12th International Congress for the Study of Child Language. Date: July 21, 2011.
- Li, A., **Lai, P.**, & Reilly, J. (2011). *Simultaneous Gestures and Language Production in School-age Children with Perinatal Stroke*. San Diego State University: 4th Annual Student Research Symposium. Date: March 4, 2011.
- Westerfield, M. A., **Lai, P.**, Smith, G. L., Lincoln, A., & Townsend, J. (2007). *Auditory-visual Integration in Autism*. Department of Neuroscience: University of California San Diego. 37th Annual Meeting of the Society for Neuroscience, San Diego, CA.

Poster Presentations as a Faculty Mentor to Students

- Lintel, J. & **Lai, P.** (2025). *Variability in Gestures in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder during a Social Task and the Social Responsiveness Scale-2*. Association for Psychological Science (APS) Annual Convention. Washington D.C. Date: May 24, 2025.
- Lintel, J., & **Lai, P.** (2025). *Variability in Gestures in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder during a Social Task and the Social Responsiveness Scale-2*. Spring Student Research Day. University of Nebraska at Kearney, Nebraska Student Union. Date: April 17, 2025.
- Driewer, M. & **Lai, P.** (2024). *Emotional Expression in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder During a Play Session* (Oral + Poster). 2024 Fall Student Research Symposium, University of Nebraska at Kearney. Nebraska Student Union. Date: October 10, 2024.
- Forsberg, M., Driewer, M., Kraft, E., & **Lai, P.** (2024). *Do Mothers and Fathers Have Similar Interaction Patterns with their Child with Autism Spectrum Disorder?* Society for Neuroscience (SFN) Annual Convention. Chicago, Ill. Date: October 5-9, 2024.
- Kraft, E., Driewer, M., Forsberg, M., & **Lai, P.** (2024). *Variability in Physical Contact during a Free-Play Task in Parent and Child with Autism Spectrum Disorder*. Society for Neuroscience (SFN) Annual Convention. Chicago, Ill. Date: October 5-9, 2024.
- Driewer, M., Kraft, E., Forsberg, M., & **Lai, P.** (2024). *Preliminary Findings: Verbal Output Differences in Fathers and Mothers when Interacting with their Child with Autism*

- Spectrum Disorder*. Society for Neuroscience (SFN) Annual Convention. Chicago, Ill. Date: October 5-9, 2024.
- Davis, P., **Lai, P.** (2024). *Gesture Use in Parents of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder during a 25-Minute Play Task*. 2024 Student Research Day. University of Nebraska at Kearney, NE. Date: April 18, 2024. (Tie for 1st Place Graduate Award Winner for Professional & Applied Studies).
- Driewer, M., Kraft, E., Forsberg, M., & **Lai, P.** (2024). *Preliminary Findings: Verbal Output Differences in Fathers and Mothers when Interacting with their Child with Autism Spectrum Disorder*. 2024 Student Research Day. University of Nebraska at Kearney, NE. Date: April 18, 2024.
- Forsberg, M., Driewer, M., Kraft, E., & **Lai, P.** (2024). *Do Mothers and Fathers Have Similar Interaction Patterns with their Child with Autism Spectrum Disorder?* 2024 Student Research Day. University of Nebraska at Kearney, NE. Date: April 18, 2024.
- Kraft, E., Driewer, M., Forsberg, M., & **Lai, P.** (2024). *Variability in Physical Contact during a Free-Play Task in Parent and Child with Autism Spectrum Disorder*. 2024 Student Research Day. University of Nebraska at Kearney, NE. Date: April 18, 2024.
- Jones, M., **Lai, P.** (2023). *Gender Differences in Language Use for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder*. 25th Annual Student Research Day. University of Nebraska at Kearney, NE. Date: April 13, 2023. (Undergraduate Diversity Award Winner)
- Cruz, N., **Lai, P.** (2023). *What is the Effectiveness of Gestures in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder?* 25th Annual Student Research Day. University of Nebraska at Kearney, NE. Date: April 13, 2023.
- Smith, E., **Lai, P.** (2023). *The Social Emotional Profiles of Children with Unilateral Perinatal Stroke: A Literature Review*. 25th Annual Student Research Day. University of Nebraska at Kearney, NE. Date: April 13, 2023.
- Eddy E. & **Lai P.** (2022). *A Longitudinal Study Investigating Students' Wellness and Personality: A Closer Look at the Impact of the Pandemic*. 29th Annual Cognitive Neuroscience Society. San Francisco, CA. Date: April 23-26, 2022.
- Kouma, K., **Lai, P.** (2022). *Assessing and Evaluating Social Interaction between Parents and their Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder: A Literature Review*. 24th Annual Student Research Day. University of Nebraska at Kearney, NE. Date: March 31, 2022.
- Rockenbach, H., **Lai, P.** (2022). *Measuring Social and Emotional Development and their Growth Trajectories in Two Groups of Children*. 24th Annual Student Research Day. University of Nebraska at Kearney, NE. Date: March 31, 2022.
- Roh, R. & **Lai, P.** (2021). *The Relationship Between Leadership and Communication During Teamwork Activities* (Oral + Poster). 2021 Fall Student Research Symposium, University of Nebraska at Kearney-Nebraska Student Union. Date: October 7, 2021.
- Bahns, M. & **Lai, P.** (2021). *What are the effects of emotion-eliciting music on communication in children with High Functioning Autism and children with Perinatal Stroke?* Student Research Week 2021 at UNK. University of Nebraska at Kearney. Date: April 1, 2021. Due to Coronavirus, oral presentation was done online.
- Kirsch, K. & **Lai, P.** (2021). *Developmental Gesture Use and Communication in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder*. Student Research Week 2021 at UNK. University of Nebraska at Kearney. Date: April 1, 2021. Due to Coronavirus, oral presentation was done online.

- Rockenbach, H. & **Lai, P.** (2021). *Investigating communication through gestures in young children with Autism Spectrum Disorders and their mothers*. Student Research Week 2021 at UNK. University of Nebraska at Kearney. Date: April 1, 2021. Due to Coronavirus, oral presentation was done online.
- Neil, C. & **Lai, P.** (2021). *The Impact of Early Brain Injuries on Language and Communication*. Student Research Week 2021 at UNK. University of Nebraska at Kearney. Date: April 1, 2021. Due to Coronavirus, oral presentation was done online.
- Bahns, M. & **Lai, P.** (2021). *A Longitudinal Study Tracking the Development of Communication in Parents with Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders*. National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR). Date: April 14, 2021. Due to Coronavirus, virtual poster showcase was done online.
- Eddy, E. & **Lai, P.** (2020). *The Effects of Teamwork on Verbal Output in Individuals When Completing Tasks of Varying Mental and Physical Exertion*. 32nd Annual Association for Psychological Science (APS) Convention. Chicago, IL. Date: June 1, 2020. *note: Due to Coronavirus, virtual poster showcase was done online.
- Brandow, E. & **Lai, P.** (2020). *The Relationship Between Nonverbal Communication and Temperament When Completing Tasks Varying on Difficulty*. 32nd Annual Association for Psychological Science (APS) Convention. Chicago, IL. Date: June 1, 2020. *note: Due to Coronavirus, virtual poster showcase was done online.
- Neil, C., Kirsch, K., & **Lai, P.** (2020). *A Longitudinal Study Investigating the Communication between Parents and their Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder*. 32nd Annual Association for Psychological Science (APS) Convention. Chicago, IL. Date: June 1, 2020. *note: Due to Coronavirus, virtual poster showcase was done online.
- Kirsch, K., Neil, C., & **Lai, P.** (2020). *Verbal and Nonverbal Development in Toddlers with Autism Spectrum Disorder when Interacting with their Mothers Across Four Years*. 32nd Annual Association for Psychological Science (APS) Convention. Chicago, IL. Date: June 1, 2020. *note: Due to Coronavirus, virtual poster showcase was done online.
- Eddy, E. & **Lai, P.** (2020). *The Effects of Teamwork on Verbal Output in Individuals When Completing Tasks of Varying Mental and Physical Exertion*. 22nd Annual Student Research Week. University of Nebraska at Kearney, NE. Date: April 10, 2020. Award: 1st Place-Graduate Poster Presentation. *note: Due to Coronavirus, an oral presentation was done online.
- Brandow, E. & **Lai, P.** (2020). *The Relationship Between Nonverbal Communication and Temperament When Completing Tasks Varying on Difficulty*. 22nd Annual Student Research Week. University of Nebraska at Kearney, NE. Date: April 10, 2020. Award: 1st Place-Graduate Oral Presentation (Writing Awards). *note: Due to Coronavirus, an oral presentation was done online. Erica's Thesis was also an Honorable Mention by the UNK Graduate Council.
- Clausen, M. & **Lai, P.** (2020). *When Will We See Children's Language Scores Increase in Minimally Verbal Children Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)?*. 22nd Annual Student Research Week. University of Nebraska at Kearney, NE. Date: April 10, 2020. *note: Due to Coronavirus, an oral presentation was done online.
- Kirsch, K., Neil, C., & **Lai, P.** (2020). *Verbal and Nonverbal Development in Toddlers with Autism Spectrum Disorder when Interacting with their Mothers Across Four Years*. 22nd Annual Student Research Week. University of Nebraska at Kearney, NE. Date: April 10, 2020. *note: Due to Coronavirus, an oral presentation was done online.

- Neil, C., Kirsch, K., & **Lai, P.** (2020). *A Longitudinal Study Investigating the Communication between Parents and their Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder*. 22nd Annual Student Research Week. University of Nebraska at Kearney, NE. Date: April 10, 2020. *note: Due to Coronavirus, an oral presentation was done online.
- Mumm, H. & **Lai, P.** (2020). *Comparing and Contrasting Gender Differences in School-age Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders*. 22nd Annual Student Research Week. University of Nebraska at Kearney, NE. Date: April 10, 2020. *note: Due to Coronavirus, an oral presentation was done online.
- Bahns, M. & **Lai, P.** (2020). *A Longitudinal Study Tracking the Development of Communication in Parents with Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders*. National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR). Montana State University, MT. Date: March 26-28, 2020. *note: Abstract was accepted but due to Coronavirus, conference was cancelled.
- Edwards, S., Beaver, E., Meyer, M., & **Lai, P.** (2019). *Developmental Differences in Eye Contact for School-Age Children with High Functioning Autism and Children with Perinatal Stroke*. 49th Annual Society for Neuroscience Conference. Chicago, IL. Date: October 22, 2019.
- Meyer, M., Edwards, S., Beaver, E., & **Lai, P.** (2019). *The Continued Influence of Neuroplasticity on Attention and Emotional Expression in School-Age Children with Perinatal Stroke*. 49th Annual Society for Neuroscience Conference. Chicago, IL. Date: October 22, 2019.
- Beaver, E., Meyer, M., Edwards, S., & **Lai, P.** (2019). *Differences in Social Behaviors as Reflected by Parental Judgement in School-Age Children with Perinatal Stroke and School-Age Children with High Functioning Autism*. 49th Annual Society for Neuroscience Conference. Chicago, IL. Date: October 22, 2019.
- Bahns, M. & **Lai, P.** (2019). *A Longitudinal Study Tracking the Development of Communication in Parents with Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders*. 18th Annual Fall Student Research Symposium. University of Nebraska at Kearney, NE. Date: October 10, 2019.
- Edwards, S., Beaver, E., Meyer, M., & **Lai, P.** (2019). *Developmental Differences in Eye Contact for School-Age Children with High Functioning Autism and Children with Perinatal Stroke*. 18th Annual Fall Student Research Symposium. University of Nebraska at Kearney, NE. Date: October 10, 2019.
- Meyer, M., Edwards, S., Beaver, E., & **Lai, P.** (2019). *The Continued Influence of Neuroplasticity on Attention and Emotional Expression in School-Age Children with Perinatal Stroke*. 18th Annual Fall Student Research Symposium. University of Nebraska at Kearney, NE. Date: October 10, 2019.
- Beaver, E., Meyer, M., Edwards, S., & **Lai, P.** (2019). *Differences in Social Behaviors as Reflected by Parental Judgement in School-Age Children with Perinatal Stroke and School-Age Children with High Functioning Autism*. 18th Annual Fall Student Research Symposium. University of Nebraska at Kearney, NE. Date: October 10, 2019.
- Eddy, E. & **Lai, P.** (2019). *Speech and Gesture Differences in Individuals Based on Levels of Task Difficulty*. 31th Annual Association for Psychological Science (APS) Convention. Washington D.C. Date: May 23, 2019.
- Johnson, B. & **Lai, P.** (2019). *The Relationship Between Facial Expression, Communication, and Task Difficulty*. 31th Annual Association for Psychological Science (APS) Convention. Washington D.C. Date: May 23, 2019.

- Southard, R. & **Lai, P.** (2019). *The Role of Attention and Eye Contact in Speech After Completing Tasks Varying on Physical and Mental Exertion*. 31th Annual Association for Psychological Science (APS) Convention. Washington D.C. Date: May 23, 2019.
- Eddy, E. & **Lai, P.** (2019). *Speech and Gesture Differences in Individuals Based on Levels of Task Difficulty*. 21st Annual Student Research Day. University of Nebraska at Kearney, NE. Date: April 5, 2019. Award: 1st Place-Graduate Research Poster.
- Johnson, B. & **Lai, P.** (2019). *The Relationship Between Facial Expression, Communication, and Task Difficulty*. 21st Annual Student Research Day. University of Nebraska at Kearney, NE. Date: April 5, 2019.
- Southard, R. & **Lai, P.** (2019). *The Role of Attention and Eye Contact in Speech After Completing Tasks Varying on Physical and Mental Exertion*. 21st Annual Student Research Day. University of Nebraska at Kearney, NE. Date: April 5, 2019.
- Leuck, K., Pawloski, K., & **Lai, P.** (2019). *Investigating the Co-Occurrences of Gestures and Eye Contact in Two Sets of Children of Autism Spectrum Disorders*. 21st Annual Student Research Day. University of Nebraska at Kearney, NE. Date: April 4, 2019.
- Pawloski, K., Leuck, K., & **Lai, P.** (2019). *Capturing Four Nonverbal Channels of Communication in Preverbal and Verbal Toddlers with Autism Spectrum Disorders*. 21st Annual Student Research Day. University of Nebraska at Kearney, NE. Date: April 4, 2019.
- Zalman, S. & **Lai, P.** (2019). *Social and Linguistic Profile of School-age Children with High Functioning Autism*. 21st Annual Student Research Day. University of Nebraska at Kearney, NE. Date: April 4, 2019.
- Carriker, B., **Lai, P.** (2018). *The Impact of Parent Behavior through Eye Contact with their Child with Autism Spectrum Disorder*. 20th Annual Student Research Day. University of Nebraska at Kearney, NE. Date: March 28, 2018.

Paper Published as a Faculty Mentor to Students

- Bahns, M. (2021). Tracking the Development of Communication in Parents with Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders. *UNK Undergraduate Research Journal*. Date: December 8, 2021.

Grants (Funded)

Principal Investigator

- Lai, P. T.** (Principal), Zhang, Y. (Co-Principal), Yoon, H. (Co-Principal), "Mental Health and Communication in Parents with Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder," Sponsored by University of Nebraska (NU System), \$52,597.00. (July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025).
- Lai, P. T.** (Principal), Thompson, P., Obasi, S. (Co-Principal), Rech, JP. (Co-Principal), Beard, M. (Co-Principal), Hatton-Bowers, H. (Co-Principal), "Knowledge Network for Early Childhood Education Workforce (KNEW)," Sponsored by the US Department of Education, \$2,000,000 (May 15, 2024 - June 30, 2026).
- Lai, P. T.** (Principal), "Online Course Development Grant-CDIS 881" Contract, Sponsored by UNK Online, University of Nebraska at Kearney, \$750.00. (Spring 2024).
- Lai, P. T.** (Principal), "Coding of Parental Communicative Behaviors in Young Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder," Sponsored by the Undergraduate Research Experiences at

- Small Colleges and Universities, Nebraska EPSCoR, \$5,000.00. (April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024).
- Lai, P. T.** (Principal), Wang, Y. (Co-Principal), Zangrillo, A. (Co-Principal), Zhang, Y. (Co-Principal), Yoon, H. (Co-Principal), Walker, S. (Co-Principal), "Evaluating and Assessing Social Interaction between Parents and their Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder during the Current Pandemic," Sponsored by University of Nebraska (NU System), \$39,120.00. (July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023).
- Lai, P. T.** (Principal), "Students' Wellness Pre and Post Pandemic," Sponsored by UNK Research Services Council (RSC)-Department of Education: Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II Inst Share Research, University of Nebraska at Kearney, \$21,200.00. (June 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021).
- Lai, P. T.** (Principal), "MHDI-RDAR Center Summer Grant Writing and Development Series," Sponsored by UNK Research Services Council (RSC), University of Nebraska at Kearney, \$5,000.00. (May 18, 2021 - July 20, 2021).
- Lai, P. T.** (Principal), Wang, Y. (Co-Principal), Zangrillo, A. (Co-Principal), Zhang, Y. (Co-Principal), Walker, S. (Co-Principal), "Assessing and Evaluating Social Interaction between Parents and their Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder," Sponsored by University of Nebraska (NU System), \$6,548.00. (July 1, 2021 - September 30, 2022).
- Lai, P. T.** (Principal), "Leadership during Difficulty and Uncertainty" Sponsored by NASA Nebraska Space Grant, State, \$12,051.00. (January 1, 2021 – September 30, 2021).
- Lai, P. T.** (Principal), "Early Childhood Research at the LaVonne Kopecky Plambeck Early Childhood Education Center" Sponsored by UNK Research Services Council (RSC), University of Nebraska at Kearney, \$10,000.00 (December 18, 2019 – Present).
- Lai, P. T.** (Principal), Woo-VonHoogenstyn, N. (Co-Principal), "The Relationship Between Emotional Expression in Children with Autism and Parental Report of Social Behaviors" Sponsored by UNK Research Services Council (RSC), University of Nebraska at Kearney, \$4,800.00 (August 26, 2019 – August 26, 2022).
- Lai, P. T.** (Principal), "eCampus Distance Education Stipend-CDIS 488" Contract, Sponsored by UNK eCampus, University of Nebraska at Kearney, \$1,500.00. (Spring 2021).
- Lai, P. T.** (Principal), "The Development of Teamwork and Communication Across Multiple Timepoints" Sponsored by NASA Nebraska EPSCoR, State, \$12,610.00. (September 12, 2019 – March 31, 2020).
- Lai, P. T.** (Principal), "Longitudinal Study Investigating the Development of Communication in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders" Sponsored by the Undergraduate Research Experiences at Small Colleges and Universities, Nebraska EPSCoR, \$5,000.00. (April 1, 2019 – March 31, 2020).
- Lai, P. T.** (Principal), "eCampus Distance Education Stipend-CDIS 354" Contract, Sponsored by UNK eCampus, University of Nebraska at Kearney, \$2,100.00. (Spring 2019).
- Lai, P. T.** (Principal), "Group Communication, Teamwork, and Leadership when Completing Tasks at Varying Degrees of Difficulty" Sponsored by NASA Nebraska EPSCoR, State, \$9,561.00. (August 1, 2018 - February 28, 2019).
- Lai, P. T.** (Principal), "eCampus Distance Education Stipend-TE 899P" Contract, Sponsored by UNK eCampus, University of Nebraska at Kearney, \$2,100.00. (Summer 2018).
- Lai, P. T.** (Principal), "eCampus Distance Education Stipend-CDIS 881" Contract, Sponsored by UNK eCampus, University of Nebraska at Kearney, \$2,100.00. (Summer 2018).

- Lai, P. T.** (Principal), "A Qualitative and Quantitative Study Investigating the Social and Affective Phenotype in Children with Autism and in Children with Early Unilateral Brain Damage" Sponsored by the Undergraduate Research Experiences at Small Colleges and Universities, Nebraska EPSCoR, \$5,000.00. (April 1, 2018 – March 31, 2019).
- Lai, P. T.** (Principal), "eCampus Distance Education Stipend-CDIS 815" Contract, Sponsored by UNK eCampus, University of Nebraska at Kearney, \$2,334.00. (Fall 2017).
- Lai, P. T.** (Principal), "Conveying Information through Verbal and Non-Verbal Channels of Communication after Completion of a Project" Grant, Sponsored by NASA Nebraska EPSCoR, State, \$9,444.00. (November 3, 2017 – February 28, 2018).
- Lai, P. T.** (Principal), "The Co-occurrences of Communicative Behaviors in Two Groups of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders during a Dyadic Social Interaction" Grant, Sponsored by UNK Office of Sponsored Programs and Research Development, University of Nebraska at Kearney, \$4,500.00. (October 3, 2017 – May 2, 2019).

Co-Principal Investigator

- Lai, P. T.** (Co-Principal), Krol, K. (Co-Principal). "Language in Males with ASD while Interacting with their Parent". Sponsored by Undergraduate Research Fellowships (URF), University of Nebraska at Kearney, \$500.00. (August 25, 2025 – May 8, 2026).
- Lai, P. T.** (Co-Principal), Potter, T. (Co-Principal). "Communication in Girls with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)". Sponsored by Undergraduate Research Fellowships (URF), University of Nebraska at Kearney, \$500.00. (August 25, 2025 – May 8, 2026).
- Lai, P. T.** (Co-Principal), Driewer, M. (Co-Principal), "Emotional Expression in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder During a Play Session" Sponsored by Summer Student Research Program (SSRP), University of Nebraska at Kearney, \$2,400.00. (May 28, 2024 - August 14, 2024).
- Chen, C. (Principal), Macy, M. (Co-Principal), Pool, J. (Co-Principal), **Lai, P. T.** (Co-Principal). "Detecting Cross-cultural Differential Item Functioning of a School Readiness Measure: A Pilot Study in Head Start", Woodcock Institute at Texas Woman's University, \$13,785. (September 1, 2023-August 31, 2024).
- Lai, P. T.** (Co-Principal), Smith, E. (Co-Principal), "The Social Emotional Profiles of Children with Unilateral Perinatal Strokes: A Literature Review" Sponsored by Undergraduate Research Fellowships (URF), University of Nebraska at Kearney, \$250.00. (January 23, 2023 - April 30, 2023).
- Lai, P. T.** (Co-Principal), Cruz, N. (Co-Principal), "What is the Effectiveness of Gestures in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder?" Sponsored by Undergraduate Research Fellowships (URF), University of Nebraska at Kearney, \$500.00. (August 22, 2022 - April 30, 2023).
- Lai, P. T.** (Co-Principal), Jones, M. (Co-Principal), "Gender Differences in Language Use for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder" Sponsored by Undergraduate Research Fellowships (URF), University of Nebraska at Kearney, \$500.00. (August 22, 2022 - April 30, 2023).
- Lai, P. T.** (Co-Principal), Roh, R. (Co-Principal), "The Relationship Between Leadership and Communication During Teamwork Activities" Sponsored by Summer Student Research Program (SSRP), University of Nebraska at Kearney, \$1,800.00. (May 31, 2021 - August 13, 2021).

- Lai, P. T.** (Co-Principal), Neil, C. (Co-Principal), "The Impact of Early Brain Injuries on Language and Communication" Sponsored by Undergraduate Research Fellowships (URF), University of Nebraska at Kearney, \$375.00. (August 24, 2020 - April 30, 2021).
- Lai, P. T.** (Co-Principal), Kirsch, K. (Co-Principal), "Developmental Gesture Use and Communication in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder". Sponsored by Undergraduate Research Fellowships (URF), University of Nebraska at Kearney, \$375.00. (August 24, 2020 - April 30, 2021).
- Lai, P. T.** (Co-Principal), Mumm, H. (Co-Principal), "Comparing and Contrasting Gender Differences in School-age Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders" Sponsored by Undergraduate Research Fellowships (URF), University of Nebraska at Kearney, \$375.00. (August 26, 2019 - April 30, 2020).
- Lai, P. T.** (Co-Principal), Clausen, M. (Co-Principal), "The Development of Communication over Three Years in Minimally Verbal Children with Autism" Sponsored by Undergraduate Research Fellowships (URF), University of Nebraska at Kearney, \$375.00. (August 26, 2019 - April 30, 2020).
- Multiteam University of Nebraska Collaboration (Clark, C & Finch, J PI's): **Lai, P. T.** (Investigator), "NU Collaboration: Building the Infrastructure for Early Childhood Executive Function Research in Nebraska" Sponsored by University of Nebraska, State, \$0.00. (May 30, 2019 - Present).
- Lai, P. T.** (Co-Principal), Bahns, M. (Co-Principal), "A Longitudinal Study Tracking the Development of Communication in Parents with Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders" Sponsored by Summer Student Research Program (SSRP), University of Nebraska at Kearney, \$1,800.00. (May 28, 2019 - August 14, 2019).
- Lai, P. T.** (Co-Principal), Zalman, S. (Co-Principal), "Social and Linguistic Profile of School-age Children with High Functioning Autism" Sponsored by Undergraduate Research Fellowships (URF), University of Nebraska at Kearney, \$500.00. (August 21, 2018 - April 18, 2019).
- Lai, P. T.** (Co-Principal), Carriker, B. (Co-Principal), "The Impact of Parent Behavior Through Eye Contact with their Child with Autism Spectrum Disorder," Sponsored by Undergraduate Research Fellowships (URF), University of Nebraska at Kearney, \$500.00. (August 21, 2017 - April 15, 2018).

Grants (Not-Funded)

- Lai, P. T.** (Principal), Zhang, Y. (Co-Principal), Yoon, H. (Co-Principal), "Mental Health and Communication in Parents with Children with ASD," Sponsored by the Great Plains IDEa-CTR Team Research Pilot Grant. University of Nebraska (NU System), \$72,811.00. (February 2023).
- Lai, P. T.** (Principal), "Communication Style in Parents with Young Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder" Sponsored by the Undergraduate Research Experiences at Small Colleges and Universities, Nebraska EPSCoR. (January 2021).
- Lai, P. T.** (Principal), "Similarities and Differences in Communication Style in Fathers and Mothers with Preschool Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders" Sponsored by the Undergraduate Research Experiences at Small Colleges and Universities, Nebraska EPSCoR. (February 2020).
- Lai, P. T.** (Principal), "NASA EPSCoR Mini Grant-March 2020" EPSCoR FY19 Research Mini-Grant. Sponsored by Nebraska NASA, State.

Artman, B. (Principal), Tillman, D. R. (Supporting), **Lai, P. T.** (Supporting), Shawn, L. (Supporting), "Active Learning Center Grant Proposal" Sponsored by Steelcase Education-February 2020, Private.

Lai, P. T. (Principal), "SPACE Conference for Educators at Kennedy Space Center" Sponsored by Nebraska NASA, State.

Lai, P. T. (Co-Principal), Vu, P. H. (Co-Principal), "Collaborative RSC Seed Grant with Phu Vu, Spring 2018" Sponsored by UNK, University of Nebraska at Kearney.

Lai, P. T. (Principal), "Decision Making Based on Different Categories of Information in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (R21)" Sponsored by National Institutes of Health (NIH), Federal.

Lai, P. T. (Principal), Ghazi Saidi, L. (Co-Principal), Wilson, J. (Co-Principal), "Early Childhood Language Development and Community Engagement Study" Sponsored by Caplan Foundation, Private.

Lai, P. T. (Principal), Ghazi Saidi, L. (Co-Principal), Hill, T. (Co-Principal), Wilson, J. (Co-Principal), Gallagher, K. (Co-Principal), "Early Childhood Language Development and Parental Engagement Study" Sponsored by UNK Research Services Council (RSC), University of Nebraska at Kearney.

Lai, P. T. (Principal), "Executive Function in Young Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders" Sponsored by Spencer Foundation, Private.

Lai, P. T. (Principal), "Executive Function Training in Young Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders" Sponsored by Caplan Foundation, Private.

Lai, P. T. (Principal), Cress, C. (Co-Principal), "NU Collaboration: Executive Function Abilities in Young Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders" Sponsored by University of Nebraska, State.

Lai, P. T. (Co-Principal), Wilson, J. (Principal), Ghazi Saidi, L. (Co-Principal), Feinstein, S. (Co-Principal), "RSC Collaborative Seed Grant Fall 2018-Vocab Pilot Study" Sponsored by UNK, University of Nebraska at Kearney.

Lai, P. T. (Principal), "RSC Diversity Seed: Executive Function Abilities in Young Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders" Sponsored by UNK Research Service Council, University of Nebraska at Kearney.

Tillman, D. R. (Supporting), Wojcik, B. W. (Principal), **Lai, P. T.** (Supporting), Vu, P. H. (Supporting), Shawn, L. (Supporting), "Active Learning Center Grant Proposal" Sponsored by Steelcase Education, Private.

Zalman, S. (Co-Principal), **Lai, P. T.** (Co-Principal), "Summer Student Research Program (SSRP) Summer 2018" Sponsored by UNK, University of Nebraska at Kearney.

Scholarships/Fellowships

2015-2017: T32 Postdoctoral Fellow, Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health & Human Development NIH-T32HD007489 and P30 HD00352. Waisman Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

2014-2015: SDSU NIH Predoctoral Training Grant-Neurocognitive Approaches to Communication Disorders, T32 DC 7361.

2014: Dean of the College of Health and Human Services' (SDSU) Travel Award.

2013-2014: Institute for Neural Computation, Training Program in Cognitive Neuroscience Predoctoral Fellowship & San Diego Fellowship, UCSD Office of Graduate Studies; San Diego Fellowship, UCSD Office of Graduate Studies.

2011-2013: Research Supplements to Promote Diversity in Health Related Research (PA-08-190): National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS). Parent Grant: NIH-NINDS/NIMH 5 P50 NS22343.

2011: Dean of the College of Health and Human Services' (SDSU) Travel Award.

2009-2010: San Diego Fellowship, UCSD Office of Graduate Studies and Center for Research in Language (CRL) Fellow.

2008-2009: William A. Hillix and Terry Cronan Scholarship at San Diego State University.

2007-2009: SDSU Graduate Division Graduate Equity Fellowship Program at San Diego State University.

Professional Training

"Write Winning Grant Proposals" Grantpersonship Workshop, sponsored by the Office of Research and Economic Development and presented by Dr. John Robertson of Grant Writers' Seminars and Workshops LLC. March 15, 2019. University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

The National Research Mentoring Network-CIC Academic Network (NRMN-CAN) 4th Annual NRMN-CAN Professional Development and Grantwriting Conference. Chicago, Illinois. September 30-October 2, 2018. The goal of the National Research Mentoring Network is to enhance the diversity of the NIH-funded research workforce.

Faculty Online Training, "eCampus Faculty Online Training Seminar (FOT)," UNK, Kearney, NE, Local. (September 18, 2017 - November 28, 2017).

The National Research Mentoring Network-CIC Academic Network (NRMN-CAN) 2nd Annual NRMN-CAN Professional Development and Grantwriting Conference. Chicago, Illinois. October 30-November 1, 2016. The goal of the National Research Mentoring Network is to enhance the diversity of the NIH-funded research workforce.

Psychophysiology Training Examining Heart Rate Variability. Software: Cardio Edit & Cardio Batch. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, NC. June 19, 2013. Instructor: Drs. Keri Heilman & Steven Porges.

Williams Syndrome Research Completed at Whispering Trails Music and Enrichment Camp at Indian Trails, Grand Rapids, MI. August 12-18, 2012

Discursis Workshop. University of California, San Diego. La Jolla, USA. July 9, 2012. Host: Daniel Angus, Ph.D. & Janet Wiles, Ph.D.

Discursis Workshop. University of Queensland, St. Lucia Campus. Brisbane, Australia. April 13, 2012. Host: Daniel Angus, Ph.D., Andrew Smith, Ph.D., & Janet Wiles, Ph.D.

Computer Expression Recognition Toolbox (CERT). University of California, San Diego. January 2012. Host: Gwen Littlewort Ph.D.

Facial Action Coding System (FACS). University of California Berkeley. December 13-17, 2010. Host: Erika Rosenberg, Ph.D.

Reilly Evaluative Coding System (RECS). San Diego State University. September 2007. Host: Judy Reilly, Ph.D.

Teaching

2025 Fall: CDIS 435/835P, CDIS 881

2025 Spring: Two Sections of CDIS 881

2024 Fall: CDIS 435/835P, CDIS 881

2024 Summer: CDIS 435/835P, TE 824
2024 Spring: CDIS 354, CDIS 881
2023 Fall: CDIS CDIS 435/835P, CDIS 881
2023 Summer: CDIS 435/835P, TE 824
2023 Spring: CDIS 354, CDIS 488
2022 Fall: CDIS CDIS 498/835P, CDIS 881
2022 Summer: CDIS 435/835P, TE 824
2022 Spring: CDIS 354, CDIS 488
2021 Fall: CDIS CDIS 498/835P, CDIS 881
2021 Summer: CDIS 435/835P, TE 824
2021 Spring: CDIS 354, CDIS 488
2020 Fall: CDIS 498/835P, CDIS 881
2020 Summer: CDIS 498/835P, TE 824
2020 Spring: CDIS 354 (f2f), CDIS 354 (online)
2019 Fall: CDIS 498/815, CDIS 881
2019 Summer: CDIS 881, TE 899
2019 Spring: CDIS 354 (f2f), CDIS 354 (online), CDIS 488
2018 Fall: CDIS 261, CDIS 815, CDIS 881
2018 Summer: CDIS 881, TE 899P
2018 Spring: CDIS 261, CDIS 354, CDIS 488
2017 Fall: CDIS 261, CDIS 815, CDIS 881
2017 Summer: TE 800

Thesis Committee Member

2021 Spring: Shelby Hinrichs (CDIS)-Committee Member
2019 Spring: Megan Naylor (CDIS)-Committee Member
2019 Spring: Erica Brandow (CDIS)-Chair of the Committee

Research Advisor/Mentorship

2025-Present: Kylee Krol, Undergraduate Research at UNK
2025-Present: Taylor Potter, Undergraduate Research at UNK
2025-Present: Kenzie Hurlbert, Graduate Researcher at UNK
2024-Present: Rebecca Jonson, Undergraduate Research at UCSD
2025-2025: Bailey Kohout, Graduate Researcher at UNK
2024-2025: Chloe Souerdyke, Graduate Researcher at UNK
2023-2025: Jamie Lintel, Undergraduate Research at UNK
2023-2024: Megan Forsberg, Undergraduate Research at UNK
2023-2024: Emma Kraft, Undergraduate Research at UNK
2023-2024: Melanie Driewer, Undergraduate Research at UNK
2023-2024: Peyton Henry, Undergraduate Research at UNK
2023-2024: Preston Davis, Graduate Researcher at UNK
2023-2024: Elizabeth Smith, Undergraduate Research at UNK
2022-2023: Mikaela Jones, Undergraduate Research at UNK
2022-2023: Nayeli Cruz Lopez, Undergraduate Research at UNK
2022-2023: Holly Rockenbach, Graduate Researcher at UNK

2021-2023: Kayleen Kouma, Graduate Researcher at UNK
 2021-2022: Melody Howard, Graduate Researcher at UNK
 2020-2022: Rebekah Roh, Undergraduate Research at UNK
 2020-2022: Holly Rockenbach, Undergraduate Research at UNK
 2019-2021: Kassidy Kirsch, Undergraduate Research at UNK
 2020-2021: Mikaela Hansen, Graduate Researcher at UNK
 2020-2021: Macey Mathis, Graduate Researcher at UNK
 2019-2021: Megan Bahns, Undergraduate Research at UNK
 2019-2021: Claire Neil, Undergraduate Research at UNK
 2019-2020: Shelby Hinrichs, Graduate Researcher at UNK
 2020-2020: Bailey Gittler, Undergraduate Research at UNK
 2020-2020: Jenilee Woltman, Graduate Researcher at UNK
 2019-2020: Skyler Herrick, Undergraduate Research at UNK
 2019-2020: Madison Clausen, Undergraduate Research at UNK
 2019-2020: Hanna Heil, Graduate Researcher at UNK
 2019-2020: Haley Mumm, Undergraduate Research at UNK
 2018-2020: Erica Brandow, Graduate Researcher at UNK
 2018-2020: Elaina Eddy, Graduate Researcher at UNK
 2018-2019: Sarah Petersen, Undergraduate Research at UNK
 2018-2019: Siany Edwards, Undergraduate Research at UNK
 2018-2019: MacKenzie Meyer, Undergraduate Research at UNK
 2018-2019: Emily Beaver, Undergraduate Research at UNK
 2018-2019: Skyler Zalman, Undergraduate Research Fellows at UNK
 2017-2019: Breana Johnson, Graduate Researcher at UNK
 2017-2019: Rachel Southard, Graduate Researcher at UNK
 2017-2019: Kaitlyn Pawloski, Undergraduate Research at UNK
 2017-2019: Kacy Leuck, Undergraduate Research at UNK
 2017-2018: Bryn Carriker, Undergraduate Research Fellows at UNK

Service

2025-Present: UNK Federal Appropriations Selection Committee-Representative for COE
 2023-Present: Institutional Review Board (IRB) Board Member-Representative for COE
 2023-Present: NAECR Policy Fellows Program
 2023-Present: Sigma Xi Committee-Representative for COE
 2023-Present: CDIS Administrative Team
 2023-Present: Tenure and Promotion Guidelines Review Committee- Representative for CDIS
 2022-Present: Graduate Program Chair of the Department of Communication Disorders
 2022-Present: UNK Research Services Council (RSC), Representative for COE
 2022-Present: UNK Early Childhood Committee
 2022-Present: Nebraska Academy for Early Childhood Research (NAECR) NU Advisory Board
 2020-Present: Honors Program Faculty Advisory Board (HFAB), University of Nebraska at Kearney
 2020-Present: LaVonne Kopecky Plambeck Center Advisory Board
 2019-Present: Inaugural Director of Research at the LaVonne Kopecky Plambeck Early Childhood Education Center at the University of Nebraska at Kearney
 2019-Present: COE Ambassador Program Committee Member for CDIS, College of Education

2019-Present: UNK Early Childhood Education Center Research Advisory Board
 2017-Present: Technology Committee Member, College of Education
 2024: Search Committee Member for the Online Coordinator & Academic Coach in the Department of Communication Disorders
 2023: Search Committee Chair for the Lecturer in Audiology/Speech Language Pathology position in the Department of Communication Disorders
 2023: Search Committee Member for the Early Childhood Inclusive position in the Teacher Education Department
 2023-2024: Faculty Senate Ad Hoc Committee to Review General Studies
 2021-2022: UNK Student Conduct Board
 2021: Committee Member for Strategic Planning on Goal 3 at UNK. COE Representative
 2021: Search Committee Member for the Williams Endowed Chair for Early Childhood Education in the Teacher Education Department
 2021: Committee Member for the Pratt-Heins Faculty Awards Selection Committee. Faculty Senate Representative
 2018-2022: Ethical, Legal, and Professional Practice Taskforce, College of Education
 2018-2022: Strategic Planning Committee Member, Department of Communication Disorders
 2017: Program Committee Member, The Symposium on Research in Child Language Disorders (SRCLD), June 8-10, 2017. Monona Terrace Convention Center in Madison, Wisconsin.
 2016: Program Committee Member, The Symposium on Research in Child Language Disorders (SRCLD), June 16-18, 2016. Monona Terrace Convention Center in Madison, Wisconsin.
 2011-2015: Doctoral Student Representative, SDSU/UCSD Joint Doctoral Program in Language and Communicative Disorders.

Journal Peer Reviewer

2025-Present: Experimental Brain Research
 2025-Present: Child Psychiatry & Human Development
 2024-Present: OBM Genetics
 2021-Present: Journal of Applied Research in Intellectual Disabilities (JARID)
 2020-Present: Advances in Autism (AIA)
 2019-Present: Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders (JADD)

Membership

2025: Committee Member, Early Learning Connection Partners (ELC)
 2025: Early Childhood Data Coalition (ECDC)
 2019: Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR)
 2019: Nebraska Academy of Sciences (NAS)
 2019: Sigma Xi-The Scientific Research Honor Society
 2018: The Nebraska Academy for Early Childhood Research
 2016-2018: National Research Mentoring Network-CIC Academic Network
 2015-2016: International Neuropsychological Society (INS)
 2015-2017: Gatlinburg Conference
 2015-2017: Symposium on Research in Child Language Disorders (SRCLD)

2014: Association for Psychological Science (APS)
2013: Society for Neuroscience (SFN)
2013: Cognitive Neuroscience Society (CNS)
2012-2014: Society for Social Neuroscience (S4SN)
2011-2014: International Association for the Study of Child Language (IASCL)

Awards/Recognition

Endowed Community Chair Reception and UNK Circle of Distinction Award, UNK & Buffett
Early Childhood Institute (10.17.25)
College of Education Outstanding Faculty Scholarship Award 2021 (4.20.22)
College of Education Faculty Mentor Award-Presented by UNK Graduate Studies (3.31.22)
New Frontiers Magazine at the University of Nebraska at Kearney: Class of 2019-2020