An extreme anxious temperament early in life is a risk factor for the later development of anxiety, depressive, and substance abuse disorders. Children with an extremely anxious temperament (AT), react to novelty with increased behavioral inhibition and increased levels of physiological arousal. Using a well-validated nonhuman primate model of AT, Dr. Fox’s group has been investigating the neurobiology of this early-life risk. In a series of experiments combining behavioral, brain imaging, molecular, and viral vector techniques, this group has identified specific neuroplasticity-related processes in the extended amygdala as critical contributors to AT. Dr. Fox will discuss how this translational neuroscience approach can help bridge the gap between psychological and molecular processes.

Andrew Fox is an Assistant Professor interested in affective neuroscience. He trained with Drs. Richard Davidson & Ned Kalin at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His research is focused on bridging the gap between our mechanistic understanding of molecular alterations in rodents, with our phenomenological understanding of emotion in humans.

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