

Michael Forster, PhD  
Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences  
Institute for Healthy Aging  
Pharmacology & Neuroscience  
**Email:** Michael.Forster@unthsc.edu



## Area of Expertise

The goal of research in my lab is to understand the biology that makes us slow down and become more vulnerable to disease and injury as we grow older. We know that it is possible to combat aging biology because some people achieve advanced age in truly great condition. Studies of the habits and biology of such individuals during their lives are underway, but it may take several human lifetimes for them to be completed. Lower organisms grow old more rapidly and, like humans, show great differences among individuals in terms of how long they remain robust, and resist disease and injury. By studying lower organisms, my laboratory is focused on the promise that we can rapidly discover ways to combat deleterious aging conditions, study how they work, and design trials in humans. Understanding the biology of aging will help us treat all aging-related diseases (i.e., Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, etc).

## Qualifications

MA in Psychobiology, Bowling Green State University  
PhD in Psychobiology, Bowling Green State University  
BA in Experimental Psychology, Muhlenberg College

## Recent Publications

### **Novel pharmacotherapy: NNI-362, an allosteric p70S6 kinase stimulator, reverses cognitive and neural regenerative deficits in models of aging and disease**

Sumien, N., Wells, M. S., Sidhu, A., Wong, J. M., Forster, M. J., Zheng, Q. X. & Kelleher-Andersson, J. A., Dec 2021, In: Stem Cell Research and Therapy. 12, 1, 59.

### **Behavioral effects of four novel synthetic cathinone analogs in rodents**

Gatch, M. B., Shetty, R. A., Sumien, N. & Forster, M. J., Jul 2021, In: Addiction Biology. 26, 4, e12987.

### **Early loss of cerebellar Purkinje cells in human and a transgenic mouse model of Alzheimer's disease**

Chaudhari, K., Wang, L., Kruse, J., Winters, A., Sumien, N., Shetty, R., Prah, J., Liu, R., Shi, J., Forster, M. & Yang, S. H., 2021, In: Neurological Research. 43, 7, p. 570-581 12 p.

### **Carisoprodol pharmacokinetics and distribution in the nucleus accumbens correlates with behavioral effects in rats independent from its metabolism to meprobamate**

Carbonaro, T. M., Nguyen, V., Forster, M. J., Gatch, M. B. & Prokai, L., 1 Sep 2020, In: Neuropharmacology. 174, 108152.

### **Methylenedioxymethamphetamine-like discriminative stimulus effects of pyrrolidinyl cathinones in rats**

Gatch, M. B. & Forster, M. J., 1 Jul 2020, In: Journal of Psychopharmacology. 34, 7, p. 778-785 8 p.

### **Pharmacologic fibroblast reprogramming into photoreceptors restores vision**

Mahato, B., Kaya, K. D., Fan, Y., Sumien, N., Shetty, R. A., Zhang, W., Davis, D., Mock, T., Batabyal, S., Ni, A., Mohanty, S., Han, Z., Farjo, R., Forster, M. J., Swaroop, A. & Chavala, S. H., 7 May 2020, In: Nature. 581, 7806, p. 83-88 6 p.

### **Effects of dietary 5-methoxyindole-2-carboxylic acid on brain functional recovery after ischemic stroke**

Sumien, N., Huang, R., Chen, Z., Vann, P. H., Wong, J. M., Li, W., Yang, S., Forster, M. J. & Yan, L. J., 27 Jan 2020, In: Behavioural Brain Research. 378, 112278.

### **Methylenedioxymethamphetamine-like discriminative stimulus effects of seven cathinones in rats**

Gatch, M. B., Dolan, S. B. & Forster, M. J., 2020, (Accepted/In press) In: Behavioural pharmacology. p. 378-384 7 p.

**Locomotor activity and discriminative stimulus effects of five novel synthetic cathinone analogs in mice and rats**  
Gatch, M. B., Dolan, S. B. & Forster, M. J., 1 Jun 2019, In: Drug and Alcohol Dependence. 199, p. 50-58 9 p.

**Supplementation with N-acetyl cysteine affects motor and cognitive function in young but not old mice**  
Ikonne, U. S., Vann, P. H., Wong, J. M., Forster, M. J. & Sumien, N., 1 Mar 2019, In: Journal of Nutrition. 149, 3, p. 463-470 8 p.

## **Sponsored Projects**

**Anti-Angiogenic Effect of Curcumin on Obesity-Related Inflammation and Oxidative Stress in Middle-Aged C57BL/6 Mice**  
Filipetto, F., Franks, S., Forster, M. & Sumien, N.  
Intramural Research(UNTHSC)  
15/01/12 → 14/01/13

**ASSESSMENT OF COCAINE PHARMACOTHERAPIES**  
Forster, M. & FORSTER, M.  
National Institute on Drug Abuse  
30/09/95 → 29/03/99

**ASSESSMENT OF COCAINE PHARMACOTHERAPIES**  
Forster, M. & FORSTER, M.  
30/09/95 → 29/03/99

**ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL COCAINE TREATMENT MEDICATIONS IN**  
Forster, M.  
National Institute on Drug Abuse  
30/09/92 → 30/09/97

**ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL COCAINE TREATMENT MEDICATIONS**  
Forster, M. & FORSTER, M.  
National Institute on Drug Abuse  
30/09/97 → 29/09/01

**ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL COCAINE TREATMENT MEDICATIONS**  
Forster, M. & FORSTER, M.  
30/09/97 → 29/09/01

**BASE AWARD FOR USING RODENT BEHAVIORAL MODELS TO IDENTIFY SUBSTANCE ABUSE PHARMACOTHERAPIES**  
Forster, M.  
National Institute on Drug Abuse

**Brain aging and antioxidant supplementation**  
Forster, M. & FORSTER, M. J.  
National Institute on Aging  
15/08/06 → 31/05/12

**Brain aging and antioxidant supplementation**  
Forster, M.  
15/08/06 → 31/05/12

**Changes to Serum and Neuronal Levels of Alpha Synuclein in Response to Acute and Chronic Cocaine Administration for Craig Hilburn**  
Forster, M.

Peter F. McManus Charitable Trust  
9/12/09 → 31/12/11

**Cocaine-induced Stroke Susceptibility: Brain Function and Metabolism Signaling Pathways**

Sumien, N., Forster, M. & Yang, S.  
Intramural Research(UNTHSC)  
1/05/16 → 31/08/18

**Contract Year 3 increment in the amount of \$627,561.**

Forster, M. & FORSTER, M.  
National Institute on Drug Abuse

**Contract Year 3 increment in the amount of \$627,561.**

Forster, M.

**Dietary targeting of dihydrolipoamide dehydrogenase for stroke tolerance**

Forster, M., Yan, L., FORSTER, M. J., YAN, L. & Yan, L.  
National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke  
1/04/13 → 30/09/19

**Dietary targeting of dihydrolipoamide dehydrogenase for stroke tolerance**

Forster, M., Yan, L. & Yan, L.  
1/04/13 → 30/09/19

**Dietary Targeting of Dihydrolipoamide Dehydrogenase for Stroke Tolerance**

Forster, M., Huang, R. & Sumien, N.  
NINDS: Neurological Disorders & Stroke  
1/04/13 → 31/03/18

**Effects of Aging on Blood Vessels in the Cerebellar Vermis**

Jin, K., Forster, M. & Sumien, N.  
NIA: National Institute on Aging  
1/04/19 → 31/01/21

**ETHANOL AND AGE ASSOCIATED COGNITIVE DECLINE**

Forster, M.  
National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism  
29/09/94 → 31/08/98

**ETHANOL AND AGE ASSOCIATED COGNITIVE DECLINE**

Forster, M.  
29/09/94 → 31/08/98

**Evaluation of Six Synthetic Tryptamines**

Gatch, M. & Forster, M.  
US Department of Justice  
1/09/18 → 28/02/19

**Evaluation of Synthetic Opioid Substances using the Drug Discrimination Assay**

Gatch, M. & Forster, M.  
US Department of Justice  
1/08/17 → 31/07/18

**Evaluation of Synthetic Opioid Substances using the Drug Discrimination Assay**

Gatch, M. & Forster, M.  
US Department of Justice

1/09/18 → 31/08/19

**FY 13 Rodent Testing to Identify Pharma. for Substance Dependence**

Forster, M.

National Institute on Drug Abuse

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**FY 13 Rodent Testing to Identify Pharma. for Substance Dependence**

Forster, M.

National Institute on Drug Abuse

**High-Resolution Tandem Mass Spectrometer for Advanced Biomolecular Research**

Prokai, L., Forster, M. & Cheng, Y. (.

Intramural Research(UNTHSC)

27/01/17 → 31/01/18

**IGF::OT::IGF: Base Award for Using Rodent Behavioral Models to Identify Substance Abuse Pharmacotherapies**

Forster, M.

National Institute on Drug Abuse

**IMMUNOLOGIC CORRELATES OF MEMORY DECLINE**

Forster, M. & Forster, M.

National Institute on Aging, National Institutes of Health

31/12/89 → 30/06/93

**IMMUNOLOGIC CORRELATES OF MEMORY DECLINE**

Forster, M.

1/01/90 → 1/01/90

**IMMUNOLOGIC CORRELATES OF MEMORY DECLINE**

Forster, M. & FORSTER, M.

1/01/90 → 30/06/93

**Mechanisms of Carisoprodol Abuse**

Forster, M. & Gatch, M.

West Virginia University Research Corp

1/02/12 → 31/05/14

**Mechanisms of Carisoprodol Abuse**

Forster, M., Prokai, L., DILLON, G. & DILLON, G.

1/07/09 → 31/05/14

**Mechanisms of Cognitive Decline During Aging**

Forster, M., SIMPKINS, J., Singh, M., Koulen, P., SUMIEN, N., DILLION, G., SIMPKINS, J., Koulen, P., SUMIEN, N., DILLION, G. & FORSTER, M.

National Institute on Aging

30/09/03 → 29/02/16

**Mechanisms of Cognitive Decline During Aging - Core A**

Forster, M.

NIA: National Institute on Aging

1/03/13 → 29/02/16

**Mechanisms of Cognitive Decline During Aging - Core B**

Sumien, N. & Forster, M.

NIA: National Institute on Aging

1/03/13 → 29/02/16

**Mechanisms of Cognitive Decline During Aging - Project 1**

Forster, M., Sumien, N. & Yan, L.

NIA: National Institute on Aging

1/03/13 → 29/02/16

**Novel Mechanistic Targets of Steroid Hormones in the Brain - Core B**

Forster, M., Shetty, R., Yang, S., Liu, R. & Sumien, N.

NIA: National Institute on Aging

1/12/12 → 30/11/18

**POTENTIAL COCAINE TREATMENT MEDICATIONS**

Forster, M.

30/09/93 → 30/09/97

**Predocctoral Training in the Neurobiology of Aging**

Forster, M., Sumien, N., Singh, M., SIMPKINS, J., SINGH, M., FORSTER, M., SUMIEN, N., Simpkins, J. W., FORSTER, M. & SUMIEN, N.

National Institute on Aging

1/05/02 → 30/04/22

**Rodent Drug Discrimination & Locomotor Activity Testing**

Forster, M.

National Institute on Drug Abuse

**Rodent Drug Discrimination & Locomotor Activity Testing**

Forster, M.

National Institute on Drug Abuse

**Rodent Testing to Identify Pharmacotherapies for Substance Dependence**

Forster, M. & Gatch, M.

NIDA: National Institute on Drug Abuse

31/12/12 → 3/01/18

**Rodent Testing to Identify Pharmacotherapies for Substance Dependence**

Forster, M. & Gatch, M.

NIDA: National Institute on Drug Abuse

4/01/16 → 20/09/18

**ROLE OF MITOCHONDRIAL ERB IN NEURONAL VULNERABILITY TO NEUROTOXIC STRESS**

Singh, M., SIMPKINS, J., Koulen, P., Forster, M., Prokai, L. & ALLERAND, D.

National Institute on Aging

1/01/01 → 30/11/18

**SMALL INSTRUMENTATION PROGRAM**

Forster, M.

National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

1/01/90 → 1/01/90



R., PASCAL, J., SILINSKI, P., , HARTLEY, C., HERR, K., HOGANS, B., NG, H., FISHER, T., BESCH-WILLIFORD, C., FISHER, T., SHUGARTS, P., EDELEN, M., WESTON, J., KVALE, E., NG, H., TAUBEN, D., SPALLEK, H., SCHUMACHER, M., LINDBLAD, R., MANWORREN, R., MUELLER, M., FARRAR, J., SAHLER, O. J., MAHMOUD A., E., SHAEFER, J., BUCKLEY, D., THOMAS, B., HERNDON, C., KRUMMINS, M., KRUMMINS, M., KRUMMINS, M., KRUMMINS, M., KRUMMINS, M., KRUMMINS, M., KRUMMINS, M., KRUMMINS, M., KRUMMINS, M., KRUMMINS, M. & KRUMMINS, M.

**Training in the Neurobiology of Aging and Alzheimer's Disease**

Sumien, N. & Forster, M.

NIA: National Institute on Aging

1/05/19 → 30/04/24

**Training in the Neurobiology of Aging and Alzheimer's Disease**

Sumien, N. & Forster, M.

NIA: National Institute on Aging

1/05/19 → 30/04/24

**Training in the Neurobiology of Aging and Alzheimer's Disease**

Singh, M., Forster, M., Sumien, N., SIMPKINS, J., Forster, M. & Sumien, N.

National Institute on Aging

1/05/02 → 30/04/22

**Using rodent behavioral models to identify substance abuse pharmacotherapies**

Forster, M., Gatch, M., Sumien, N. & Shetty, R.

NIDA: National Institute on Drug Abuse

20/09/18 → 3/01/23