

**Corticolimbic neural recruitment and behavioral changes in response to early life adversity are sex-specific in rats**

**Zack “Cash” Reynolds, Class of 2024**

Excessive stress at any stage of life increases the likelihood that a person may develop mental health problems in the future. However, extensive stress during developmental periods such as juvenility or adolescence predisposes individuals to develop mental health disorders such as anxiety and depression in the future, and disproportionately impacts women. The early-life adversity (ELA) caused by extensive stress can contribute to maladaptive outcomes through the disruption of the development of brain regions directly related to stress