

# Curriculum Vitae

Robert Louis Hastings

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## Education

2009	Graduated from Copperas Cove High School
2009 – 2014	Bachelor's of Science Degree in Biology from the University of Texas at Austin
2014 – Present	Doctor of Philosophy Student within the Texas A&M Institute for Neuroscience (TAMIN) at Texas A&M University

## Personal Statement

I worked as an undergraduate research assistant in George Bittner's lab at the University of Texas at Austin from May 2012 to August 2014. During my time in the Bittner Lab, I gained extensive experience working with rats as a model experimental animal. I performed *in vivo* surgical manipulations on rat sciatic nerves. I also became proficient in handling and training rats to perform behavioral assays.

Currently, I am a graduate student in Wesley Thompson's lab at Texas A&M University. I research the neuromuscular junction using mice as a model organism. Primarily, my work consists of histological staining/imaging of mouse muscles and the *in vivo* imaging of the mouse sternomastoid muscle, a technique known as Vital Imaging. I am also involved in the maintenance of the Thompson Lab mouse colony.

## Techniques and Skills

- Maintenance of rat and mouse colonies
  - Handling and training
  - Postoperative care
  - Husbandry and genotyping (mice)
- *In vivo* techniques
  - Aseptic surgical technique
  - Anesthesia administration and maintenance
  - Skin and muscle suturing for wound closure
  - Micro-suturing of rat sciatic nerves
  - Compound action potential (CAP) recordings of rat sciatic nerves
  - Intubation of mice
  - Vital Imaging of mouse sternomastoid muscles

