



Ya'el Courtney

Postdoctoral Scholar, Immunology and Rheumatology

 Curriculum Vitae available Online

Bio

BIO

Dr. Ya'el Courtney is a postdoctoral scholar in Immunology and Rheumatology in the Department of Medicine at Stanford University, working with Dr. William H. Robinson. Her research focuses on uncovering the mechanisms underlying post-acute sequelae following viral and bacterial infection. Dr. Courtney earned her PhD from Harvard University, where she investigated the role of the choroid plexus in brain development and its response to maternal psychedelic exposure. Beyond research, she is passionate about science communication and mentoring the next generation of scientists.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Commencement Marshal (selected for leadership and scholarly excellence), Harvard Griffin Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (2025)
- PhD Hooding Ceremony Student Speaker, Harvard Medical School (2025)
- Postdoctoral Fellow - \$228,000 total award, Jane Coffin Childs Fund for Medical Research (2025)
- Certificate of Distinction in Teaching - "The Neurobiology of Behavior", Harvard University (2024)
- Finalist, Schmidt Science Fellows (2024)
- Kirby 2024 Innovation Award, \$60,000, FM Kirby Neurobiology Center (2024)
- Best Poster - Graduate Student, 11th Annual Neuroscience Symposium, Brain Health Research Institute at Kent State University (2023)
- Carl Storm Underrepresented Minority Fellowship Travel Award, \$1,270, Gordon Research Conferences (2023)
- Certificate of Distinction in Teaching - "The Neurobiology of Behavior", Harvard University (2023)
- Professional Development Travel Award, \$2,315, Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (2023)
- Trainee Professional Development Award, Society for Neuroscience (2023)
- "Spirit of Pathology" Research Award, Boston Children's Hospital Department of Pathology (2022)
- Best Poster Award, Harvard Medical School Pathology Retreat (2022)
- Certificate of Distinction in Teaching - "The Neurobiology of Behavior", Harvard University (2022)
- Excellence in Service Award, Harvard Program in Neuroscience (2022)
- Certificate of Distinction in Teaching - "Cellular Basis of Neuronal Function", Harvard University (2021)
- Gilliam Fellowship for Advanced Study, \$159,000, Howard Hughes Medical Institute (2021)
- Graduate Research Fellowship, \$138,000, National Science Foundation (2021)
- Neuroscience Scholars Program Associate, Society for Neuroscience (2021)
- Best Poster Award, Kent State Undergraduate Research Symposium (2019)
- Graduate Prize Fellowship, Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (2019)

- Judith Koonce Award for Outstanding Graduating Senior, Kent State University Department of Biological Sciences (2019)
- Best Poster Award, Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (2018)
- Dickie-Nelson Scholarship, \$500, Kent State University Department of Biology (2018)
- Palmer Honors Research Scholarship, \$1,000, Kent State University (2018)
- Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting Travel Award, Faculty for Undergraduate Neuroscience (2018)
- Best Poster Award, Fifth Annual Neuroscience Symposium at Kent State University (2017)
- Best Poster Award, Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (2017)
- ML Weixel Noval Endowed Scholarship, \$4,000, Kent State University (2017)
- Opportunity Scholarship, \$1,000, GAR Foundation (2017)
- Marie Barzan Scholarship for Women in Science, \$2,400, Kent State University (2016)
- Honors Scholarship, \$21,250, Kent State University (2015)
- Ohio College Opportunity Scholarship, \$1,300, Ohio Department of Higher Education (2015)
- Trustee Scholarship, \$16,000, Kent State University (2015)
- Best Project, American Statistical Association, International Science and Engineering Fair (2014)
- Best Project, American Chemical Society, International Science and Engineering Fair (2014)
- Best Project, Consortium for Ocean Leadership, International Science and Engineering Fair (2014)
- Fourth Place in Environmental Sciences, Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) (2014)

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- Ph.D., Harvard University , Neuroscience (2024)
- B.S., Kent State University , Cellular and Molecular Biology (2019)

STANFORD ADVISORS

- William Robinson, Postdoctoral Faculty Sponsor

LINKS

- My Website: <https://www.yaelcourtney.com/>
- Robinson Lab: <https://robinsonlab.stanford.edu/>

Research & Scholarship

LAB AFFILIATIONS

- William Robinson, Robinson Lab (1/6/2025)

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **Cytotoxic T cell recognition of α -synuclein drives pathogenic immune responses in multiple system atrophy.** *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*
Moon, J. S., Moutusy, S. I., Zhang, M., Ndayisaba, A., Rodriguez, D., El Koadi, D. N., Kuzkina, A., Younis, S., Jahanbani, S., Dam, L. S., Courtney, Y., Netanel, A., Sharpe, et al
2026; 123 (14): e2537271123
- **Temporal and cell-type specific SPAK-NKCC1 disruption following severe TBI in the developing gyrencephalic brain.** *Acta neuropathologica communications*
Hochstetler, A., Courtney, Y., Oloko, P., Baskin, B., Ding-Su, A., Stinson, T., Alber, E., Chung, D. Y., McGuone, D., Haynes, R., Lehtinen, M. K., Costine-Bartell, B.

2026

- **EBV reprograms autoreactive anti-CNS B cells as antigen presenting cells in multiple sclerosis.** *bioRxiv : the preprint server for biology*
Younis, S., Rasouli, S., Loeffler, J. W., Sattarnezhad, N., Courtney, Y., Moutusy, S. I., Jahanbani, S., Pandit, M., Tomczak, A., Wong, H. H., Sharpe, O., Utz, P. J., Meffre, et al
2026
- **Gestational psychedelic exposure disrupts brain development and offspring behavior in mice.** *bioRxiv : the preprint server for biology*
Courtney, Y., Anderson, J. M., Lagares-Linares, C., Wenthur, C. J., Lehtinen, M. K.
2025
- **Apocrine secretion by the choroid plexus.** *Fluids and barriers of the CNS*
Courtney, Y., Lehtinen, M. K.
2025; 22 (1): 75
- **Choroid plexus apocrine secretion shapes CSF proteome during mouse brain development** *NATURE NEUROSCIENCE*
Courtney, Y., Head, J. P., Dani, N., Chechneva, O. V., Shipley, F. B., Zhang, Y., Holtzman, M. J., Sadegh, C., Libermann, T. A., Lehtinen, M. K.
2025
- **Simultaneous, real-time tracking of many neuromodulatory signals with Multiplexed Optical Recording of Sensors on a micro-Endoscope.** *bioRxiv : the preprint server for biology*
Kalugin, P. N., Soden, P. A., Massengill, C. I., Amsalem, O., Porniece, M., Guarino, D. C., Tingley, D., Zhang, S. X., Benson, J. C., Hammell, M. F., Tong, D. M., Ausfahl, C. D., Lacey, et al
2025
- **Choroid Plexus Pathophysiology.** *Annual review of pathology*
Courtney, Y., Hochstetler, A., Lehtinen, M. K.
2024
- **A choroid plexus apocrine secretion mechanism shapes CSF proteome and embryonic brain development.** *bioRxiv : the preprint server for biology*
Courtney, Y., Head, J. P., Yimer, E. D., Dani, N., Shipley, F. B., Libermann, T. A., Lehtinen, M. K.
2024
- **Pattern Similarity Analyses of FrontoParietal Task Coding: Individual Variation and Genetic Influences.** *Cerebral cortex (New York, N.Y. : 1991)*
Etzel, J. A., Courtney, Y., Carey, C. E., Gehred, M. Z., Agrawal, A., Braver, T. S.
2020; 30 (5): 3167-3183
- **A Guide for Undergraduates to the Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting.** *Journal of undergraduate neuroscience education : JUNE : a publication of FUN, Faculty for Undergraduate Neuroscience*
José-Edwards, D. S., Johnson, N. X., Jimenez, J., Courtney, Y., Khoussine, J. O., Herzog, E. D.
2017; 15 (2): E10-E12