

Lea Vella

EDUCATION

SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY/ UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO Joint Doctoral Program in Clinical Psychology MS & Ph.D. <i>Advisor: Elizabeth W. Twamley</i> <i>Specialty Track: Neuropsychology</i> Master's Thesis – <i>Normative Study of the UCSD Performance-Based Skills Assessment – Brief</i> Dissertation – <i>Cognitive Assessment of the Sheltered Homeless</i> (UCSD Academic Senate Grant, PI: Elizabeth W. Twamley)	2007 – 2014	San Diego, CA
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY Mailman School of Public Health MPH, Epidemiology <i>Advisor: Michaeline Bresnahan</i> Master's Thesis – <i>Are Social Circumstances at Birth Risk Factors for Schizophrenia?</i>	2002 – 2004	New York, NY
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS B.S. <i>with Honors</i> , Neurobiology, Physiology and Behavior	1998– 2002	Davis, CA

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

Grants:

Disability Determination Process (DDP) Small Grant Stipend (\$10,000)	2013- 2014
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Topic: Cognitive Impairment & Disability Determination in the Sheltered Homeless• Funding source: Social Security Administration (#IDD11000001)	

Fellowships:

Research (T32) Fellowship in Geriatric Mental Health,	2007-2012
Howard Hughes FIRST Fellowship	Summer 2000
President's Undergraduate Fellowship	2001
Howard Hughes SHARP Fellowship	Summer 2001

Awards:

Best Student Poster (2010), Can Cognitive Training for Psychosis Normalize Cognitive Performance? Cognitive Remediation in Psychiatry, NY NY

RESEARCH & WORK EXPERIENCE

SF VAMC Geriatrics Department <i>VA Quality Scholars Fellow</i>	2016 – Current	San Francisco, CA
Improving Opioid Safety in Veterans Using Collaborative Care and Decision Support Study (SF VA) <i>Care Manager for Dr. Karen Seal</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Performed motivational interviewing treatment arm and educational control arm	2015	San Francisco, CA
BIEEGL Lab (SF VA/NCIRE) <i>Staff Research Associate III for Dr. Daniel Mathalon and Dr. Judy Ford</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• PANSS administration• Co-train research assistants on neuropsychological battery with Dr. Susanna Fryer	2014 – 2016	San Francisco, CA
SMART Lab (UCSD) <i>Doctoral Student of Dr. Elizabeth W. Twamley</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Statistical analysis and data management on grant funded studies of vocational rehabilitation and cognitive training in SMI populations, COMT genotype and cognition in schizophrenia, and validation of real-world outcomes in schizophrenia• Co-therapist for four research cognitive training groups and neuropsychological testing for COMT genotype study in schizophrenia.• Clinical neuropsychological testing at St. Vincent de Paul Village Medical Center in San Diego• Experience with the following tests: MINI, PANSS, ANART, D-KEFS, MCCB, BVM, HVL, MATRICS battery, Neuropsychological Screening Battery, and MoCA	2007 – 2014	San Diego, CA
Behavioral Medicine Research Center (SF VA/UCSF) <i>Research Statistician for Dr. David C. Mohr</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interim study coordinator for Management for Patients With Multiple Sclerosis (R01 HD043323)• Data management and statistical analysis for publications and/or grants on the following studies: CBT via telephone for multiple sclerosis patients, CBT via telephone for rural veterans with depression, stress management for multiple sclerosis patients, and genetic risk factors in multiple sclerosis; also performed roles of experimenter and panelist in the Trier Social Stress Test	2004 –2007	San Francisco, CA

- Survey development: performed the psychometric analysis for the development of the Barriers to Psychological Care Survey

Home Care Services Program, Medical Assistance Program 2003 – 2004 New York, NY
New York City Student Intern

- Financial analysis of unemployment insurance program: created protocol for vendors as to how to change their unemployment insurance, and provided vendors with a cost benefit analysis of their unemployment insurance program.
- Review of Requests for Proposals for financial expenditures; performance analysis of home care vendors, as well as internal departments

Mailman SPH, Department of Epidemiology 2003 – 2004 New York, NY
Master's Student Research Assistant for Dr. Michaeline Bresnahan

- Research Study: Prenatal Determinants of Schizophrenia (PDS) study, a prenatal and follow up study of children born in Alameda county in the 1960's who were subsequently followed up for development of schizophrenia
- Statistical analysis of cohort data – Analysis of longitudinal data in order to determine if low socioeconomic status is a prenatal risk factor for development of schizophrenia. Conducted Kaplan-Meier, Cox proportional hazards and sensitivity analyses

UCD, Department of Epidemiology and Preventative Medicine 2001 – 2002 Davis, CA
Student Research Assistant for Dr. Mark Schenker

- Research assistant for the Study of Hispanic Acculturation, Reproduction and the Environment
- Statistical analysis using Stata, data entry, data cleaning and literature review

Yolo County Suicide Prevention Hotline 2000 – 2002 Davis, CA
Hotline Volunteer

- Worked as hotline volunteer crisis counselor
- Created database with Microsoft Access to organize and analyze call volume and client population

UCD, Department of Neurobiology, Physiology and Behavior 1999 – 2002 Davis, CA
Student Research Assistant for Dr. Barbara Horwitz

- Facilitated and executed a research project examining the immune system and end of life senescence: Determined levels of various cytokines and beta-endorphins, using ELISAs, in relation to relative senescence.

UC San Francisco, Department of Physical Therapy August 1999 San Francisco, CA
Volunteer Research Assistant for Dr. Nancy Byl

- Helped test a new tactile exam for diagnosing focal hand dystonia
- Helped operate primate research trials involving focal hand dystonia at UCSF's Kech Center

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

SF VA Clinical Psychology Internship 2013 –2014 San Francisco, CA

- *Supervisors:* Kellie Rollins, Psy.D., John McQuaid, Ph.D., Johannes Rothlind, Ph.D., Sam Wan, Ph.D., Susanna Fryer, Ph.D., William Hua, Ph.D., & Maggie Chartier, Psy.D.
- Clinical Rotations: General Psychology Outpatient Service; Neuropsychological Consultation service; Substance Use Disorders/Post traumatic Stress Disorders Team; & HIV/HCV Clinic
- Intervention experiences: CBT for insomnia, depression, and anxiety; ACT for depression and anxiety; Neuropsychological assessment (inpatient & outpatient); & Substance abuse assessment & treatment; compensatory cognitive training for HIV related cognitive impairment
- Assessment experiences: PANSS, SANS, SAPS, WAIS-IV, WMS- R and WMS-IV, WRAT-IV, WIAT-II, RBANS, CVLT-II, HVLT-R, BVMT-R, WCST, Trail Making, Generative Naming, Boston Naming Test, Clock Drawing, MMSE, Rey-Osterrieth Figure, Grooved Pegboard, Mattis DRS, BDI, SCL-90-R, CAARS, and WUR.

VA Polytrauma & Inpatient Testing and Therapy 2012 – 2013 San Diego, CA

- *Supervisor:* Mark Jacobson, Ph.D.
- Neuropsychological testing, personality testing (MMPI-2 & MCMI-III), integrated reports, and feedback
- Brief cognitive therapy
- Experience with the following tests: MoCA, portions of WAIS & WMS, Rey 15 item test, Boston Naming Test, D-KEFS, and CVLT-II

VA TBI Cognitive Rehabilitation 2010 –2011 San Diego, CA

- *Supervisors:* Amy Jak, Ph.D. and Elizabeth Twamley, Ph.D.
- Individual cognitive rehabilitation using the CogSMART protocol in Veterans with traumatic brain injury

Neuropsychology Laboratory 2010 –2011 San Diego, CA

- *Supervisor:* Robert Heaton, Ph.D.
- Interpretation of test data, formulation and writing of interpretive reports, and discussing details of reports within a small group supervision.

- Patient type: Psychiatric, neurological / neurosurgical and general medical patients who have known or suspected cerebral disorders

VA Neuropsychological Assessment Unit 2010 –2011 San Diego, CA

- *Supervisors:* Dean Delis, Ph.D, Mark Bondi, Ph.D, Greg Brown, Ph.D., and Vince Filoteo, Ph.D
- Neuropsychological testing and comprehensive reports for individuals with dementia, traumatic brain injury, learning disabilities, history of drug and alcohol dependence, and psychiatric disorders.
- Experience with the following tests: Clock Drawing, CVLT-II, Boston Naming Test, D-KEFS, Rey-O, WRAT-IV, WAIS-III & IV, WMS-IV, WASI, Grooved Pegboard and Finger Tapping Test from the Halstead-Reitan Battery, Heaton Digit Vigilance, Benton Judgment of Line Orientation, WCST, Mattis Dementia Rating Scale (DRS), TOMM, and BDAE

OEF/OIF PTSD Clinic, San Diego VA Medical Center 2009 –2010 San Diego, CA

- *Supervisors:* Amy Amidon, Ph.D. and Sonya Norman, Ph.D.
- *Clinical Techniques:* Prolonged Exposure for PTSD, Cognitive Processing Therapy for PTSD (individual and group), and Motivational Interviewing

SDSU Psychology Clinic 2008 –2009 San Diego, CA

- *Supervisors:* Michael Taylor, Ph.D. and Linda Gallo, Ph.D.
- *Clinical Techniques:* Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for depression, anxiety, panic, and hoarding disorders; exposure for panic disorder and hoarding

PROFESSIONAL PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Publications

1. Depp, C.A., Vella, L., Orff, H.J., Twamley, E.W., (2015) A quantitative review of cognitive functioning in homeless adults. Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease. 203(2):126-31. (PMID: 25594792)
2. Twamley, E.W., Hua, J.P., Burton, C.Z., Vella, L., Chinh, K., Bilder, R.M., Kelsoe, J.R., (2014) Effects of COMT genotype on cognitive ability and functional capacity in individuals with schizophrenia. Schizophrenia Research. 159(1):114-7 (PMID: 25139113)
3. Burton, C.Z., **Vella, L.**, Kelsoe, J.R., Bilder, R.M., & Twamley, E.W. (2015). Catechol-O-methyltransferase genotype and response to Compensatory Cognitive Training in outpatients with schizophrenia. Psychiatric Genetics. 25(3):131-4 (PMID: 25748092)
4. Burton, C.Z., **Vella, L.**, Harvey, P.D., Patterson, T.L., Heaton, R.K., Twamley, E.W., (2013) Factor structure of the MATRICS Consensus Cognitive Battery (MCCB) in schizophrenia. Schizophrenia Research. 146(1-3):244-8 (PMID: 23507359)
5. Harvey, P.D., Raykov, T., Twamley, E.W., **Vella, L.**, Heaton, R.K., Patterson, T.L., (2013) Factor Structure of Neurocognition and Functional Capacity in Schizophrenia: A Multidimensional Examination of Temporal Stability. Journal of the International Neuropsychological Society. 19(6): 656-63. (PMID: 22949733)
6. Twamley, E.W., **Vella, L.**, Burton, C.Z., Heaton, R.K., Jeste, D.V., (2012) Compensatory cognitive training for psychosis: effects in a randomized controlled trial. Journal of Clinical Psychiatry. 73(9):1212-9. (PMID: 22939029)
7. Savla, G.N., **Vella, L.**, Armstrong, C.C., Penn, D.L., Twamley, E.W., (2012) Deficits in domains of social cognition in schizophrenia: A meta-analysis of the empirical evidence. Schizophrenia Bulletin. (Doi:10.1093/schbul/sbs080; PMID: 22949733)
8. Sabbag, S., Twamley, E.W., **Vella, L.**, Heaton, R.K., Patterson, T.L., Harvey, P.D. (2012) Predictors of the accuracy of self assessment of everyday functioning in people with schizophrenia. Schizophrenia Research. 137(1-3):190-5. (PMCID: PMC3351672)
9. Twamley, E.W., **Vella, L.**, Burton, C.Z., Becker, D.R., Bell, M.D., Jeste, D.V. (2011). The efficacy of supported employment for middle-aged and older people with schizophrenia. Schizophrenia Research. 135(1-3):100-4. (PMCID: PMC3288765)
10. Twamley, E.W., Burton, C.Z., **Vella, L.** (2011). Compensatory Cognitive Training for psychosis: who benefits? Who stays in treatment? Schizophrenia Bulletin. 37(S2): S55-S62 (PMCID: PMC3160125)
11. Burton, C.Z., **Vella, L.**, Weller, J.A., & Twamley, E.W. (2011) Differential effects of executive functioning on suicide attempts. Journal of Neuropsychiatry and Clinical Neurosciences. 23(2):173-9. (PMID: 21677246)
12. Burton, C.Z., **Vella, L.**, Twamley, E.W. (2011). Clinical and cognitive insight in a cognitive training intervention. American Journal of Psychiatric Rehabilitation. 14:207-326
13. Sabbag S, Twamley EM, **Vella L**, Heaton RK, Patterson TL, Harvey PD. (2011) Assessing everyday functioning in schizophrenia: Not all informants seem equally informative. Schizophrenia Research. 131(1-3):250-5 (PMCID: PMC3159808)

14. Harvey PD, Raykov T, Twamley EW, **Vella L**, Heaton RK, Patterson TL. (2011) Validating the measurement of real-world functional outcomes: phase I results of the VALERO study. American Journal of Psychiatry. 168(11):1195-201. (PMID: 21572166)
15. Bousman, C.A., Twamley, E.W., **Vella, L.**, Gale, M., Norman, S.B., Judd, P., Overall, I.P., Heaton, R.K. (2010) Homelessness and neuropsychological impairment: Preliminary analysis of adults entering outpatient psychiatric treatment. Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease 198(11):790–794. (PMID: 21048468)
16. Beckner V, Howard I, **Vella L**, Mohr DC. (2010) Telephone-administered psychotherapy for depression in MS patients: Moderating role of social support. Journal of Behavioral Medicine 33(1):47-59. (PMCID: PMC2813530)
17. Julian, L.J., **Vella, L.**, Frankel, D., Minden, S.L., Oksenberg, J.R., Mohr, D.C. (2009) ApoE alleles, depression and positive affect in multiple sclerosis. Multiple Sclerosis. 15(3):311-315
18. Julian, L.J., **Vella, L.**, Vollmer, T., Hadjimichael, O., Mohr, D.C., (2008) Employment in multiple sclerosis: Exiting and re-entering the work force. Journal of Neurology. 255(9):1354-60 (PMCID: PMC3057081)
19. Hart SL, **Vella L**, Mohr DC. (2008) Relationships among depressive symptoms, benefit-finding, optimism, and positive affect in multiple sclerosis patients after psychotherapy for depression. Health Psychology 27(2):230-8. (PMID: 18377142)
20. Mohr, D.C., **Vella, L.**, Hart, S., Heckman, T., Simon, G. (2008) The effect of telephone-administered psychotherapy on symptoms of depression and attrition: A meta-analysis. Clinical Psychology: Science and Practice. 15(3): 243-253 (PMCID: PMC3045729)
21. Mohr, D.C., Hart, S.L., **Vella, L.** (2007) Reduction in disability in a randomized controlled trial of telephone-administered cognitive-behavioral therapy. Health Psychology 26(5):554-63. (PMID: 17845107)
22. Beckner V, **Vella L**, Howard I, Mohr DC. (2007) Alliance in two telephone-administered treatments: relationship with depression and health outcomes. Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology 75(3):508-12 (PMID: 17563167)
23. Bresnahan M, Begg MD, Brown A, Schaefer C, Sohler N, Insel B, **Vella L**, Susser E. (2007) Race and risk of schizophrenia in a US birth cohort: another example of health disparity? International Journal of Epidemiology. 36(4):751-8
24. Mohr, D.C., Hart, S.L., Howard, I., Julian, L., **Vella, L.**, Catledge, C., Feldman, M. (2006). Barriers to psychotherapy among depressed and nondepressed primary care patients. Annals of Behavioral Medicine 32(3):254-8. (PMID: 17107299)
25. Mohr, D. C., Hart, S. L., Julian, L., Catledge, C., Honos-Webb, L., **Vella, L.**, Tasch, E. T. (2005). Telephone-Administered Psychotherapy for Depression. Archives of General Psychiatry 62(9):1007-14. (PMID: 16143732)

Book Chapters

1. Twamley, E.W., Zurhellen, C.H., (co-first authors) & **Vella, L.** (2010). Compensatory cognitive training. In V. Roder and A. Medalia, eds., *Understanding and treating neuro- and social cognition in schizophrenia patients*. Basel, Switzerland: Karger. pp 50-60
2. Burton, C.Z., **Vella, L.**, Twamley, E.W. (2009). Supported employment for individuals with severe mental illness. In I. Soderback, ed., *International Handbook of Occupational Therapy Interventions*. New York: Springer Publishing Company. pp 383-387

Other Publications

1. Vella, L., (2014) Cognitive Impairment and Disability Determination in the Sheltered Homeless. Retrieved from http://ddp.policyresearchinc.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Vella_Final_C3.pdf

In Preparation

1. **Vella, L.**, Twamley, EW, Harvey, PD, McClure, M, Mausbach, B., Taylor, MJ, Patterson, TL, (Submitted). Normative Study of the UCSD Performance-Based Skills Assessment – Brief

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS & ABSTRACTS

Published Abstracts

1. **Vella, L.**, Burton, C.Z., Fosom, D., Twamley, E.W., (2014) Cognitive Impairment Rates in a Sheltered Homeless Population. Journal of the International Neuropsychological Society, 20 (S1), 142. (International Neuropsychological Society).

2. Burton, C.Z., **Vella, L.**, Harvey, P.D., Heaton, R.K., Patterson, T.L., Twamley, E.W. (2011). Performance characteristics and factor analysis of the MATRICS Consensus Cognitive Battery. Schizophrenia Bulletin, 37 (S1), 238. (International Congress of Schizophrenia Research).
3. **Vella, L.**, Burton, C.Z., Harvey, P.D., Heaton, R., Patterson, T., Twamley, E.W. (2011). The MATRICS Consensus Cognitive Battery: Relationships with performance-based measures of functional capacity. Schizophrenia Bulletin, 37 (S1), 255. (International Congress of Schizophrenia Research).
4. Twamley, E.W., **Vella, L.**, Burton, C.Z. (2011). Determinants of objective and subjective quality of life in schizophrenia: Are they different cross-sectionally vs. longitudinally? Schizophrenia Bulletin, 37 (S1), 283. (International Congress of Schizophrenia Research).
5. Harvey, P.D., **Vella, L.**, Twamley, E., Heaton, R., & Patterson, T. (2011). The differential validity of 6 different rating scales for functional outcome in schizophrenia: The Validation of Everyday Real-world Outcomes (VALERO) study results. Schizophrenia Bulletin, 37 (S1), 267. (International Congress of Schizophrenia Research).
6. Twamley, E.W., **Vella, L.**, Burton, C.Z., Jeste, D.V. (2011). Compensatory Cognitive Training for psychosis: Results from a randomized controlled trial. Schizophrenia Bulletin, 37 (S1), 324. (International Congress of Schizophrenia Research).
7. Twamley, E.W., **Vella, L.**, Burton, C.Z. (2010). Compensatory Cognitive Training improves neuropsychological, functional, and clinical outcomes in psychosis. Journal of the International Neuropsychological Society, 16 (S1), 189. (International Neuropsychological Society).
8. Twamley, E.W., Burton, C.Z., **Vella, L.**, Savla, G.N., Guidry, J.J., Abeles, M.B., Minassian, A., Bilder, R.M., Kelsoe, J.R. (2010). COMT genotype, cognition, and functional capacity in schizophrenia. Journal of the International Neuropsychological Society, 16 (S1), 45. (International Neuropsychological Society).
9. **Vella, L.**, Burton, C.Z., Twamley, E.W. (2010). Improvements in neuropsychological, functional, and clinical outcomes after Compensatory Cognitive Training. Journal of the International Neuropsychological Society, 16 (S1), 45. (International Neuropsychological Society).
10. Burton, C.Z., **Vella, L.**, Weller, J.A., & Twamley, E.W. (2010). Differential Effects of Executive Functioning on Suicide Attempts. Journal of the International Neuropsychological Society, 16 (S1), 117 (International Neuropsychological Society).
11. **Vella, L.**, Loebach, N.M., Burton, C.Z., Heaton, R.K., Jeste, D.V., Twamley, E.W. (2009). Assessment of vocational capacity in schizophrenia. Schizophrenia Bulletin, 35 (S1), 326-327. (International Congress of Schizophrenia Research).
12. Burton, C.Z., **Vella, L.**, Twamley, E.W. (2009). Executive Functioning and Functional Capacity in Schizophrenia. Schizophrenia Bulletin, 35 (S1), 289-290. (International Congress of Schizophrenia Research).
13. Twamley, E.W., Burton, C.Z., **Vella, L.**, Savla, G.N., Abeles, M.B., Bilder, R.M., Kelsoe, J.R. (2009). COMT, cognition, and functional capacity in schizophrenia. Journal of the International Neuropsychological Society, 15 (S1), 222. (International Neuropsychological Society).
14. **Vella, L.**, Burton, C.Z., Heaton, R.K., Jeste, D.V., Twamley, E.W. (2009). Correlates of work history and work attainment in supported employment for people with severe mental illness. Journal of the International Neuropsychological Society, 15 (S1), 49. (International Neuropsychological Society).
15. **Vella, L.**, Jeste, D.V., Heaton, R.K., Twamley, E.W. (2008) Neuropsychological functioning and work rehabilitation outcomes in schizophrenia. Journal of the International Neuropsychological Society, 14 (S1), 120. (International Neuropsychological Society).
16. **Vella, L.**, Mohr, D.C. (2006) Effective components of therapist behavior in a telephone-administered psychotherapy for depression. Annals of Behavioral Medicine, 31(S1) S177 (Society of Behavioral Medicine)
17. Inoue, L., **Vella, L.** Mohr, D.C. (2006) Telephone-administered CBT reduces physical disability in patients with multiple sclerosis. Annals of Behavioral Medicine, 31(S1) S118 (Society of Behavioral Medicine)
18. Buss, C.D., **Vella, L.** & Mohr, D.C. (2006) Sexual satisfaction in patients with multiple sclerosis undergoing treatment for depression. Annals of Behavioral Medicine, 31(S1) S118 (Society of Behavioral Medicine)
19. **Vella, L.**, Horwitz, A., Hamilton, J.S. (2002) Effects of aging on serum and brain levels of TNF-a and IL-1b. Poster presentation, FASEB's Experimental Biology, New Orleans, LA

Additional Conference Abstracts and Presentations

1. **Vella, L.**, Burton, C.Z., Twamley, E.W. (2011) Negative symptom changes with Compensatory Cognitive Training for psychosis. Cognitive Remediation in Psychiatry, NY NY

2. Savla, G.N., Armstrong, C.C., **Vella, L.**, Leshen, M., Penn, D.L., Twamley, E.W. (2011, April). Social cognition in schizophrenia: A meta-analytic study. Presentation at the Social Cognition symposium at the International Congress Cognition Satellite Meeting, Colorado Springs, CO
3. **Vella, L.**, Burton, C.Z., Twamley, E.W. (2010) Can cognitive training for psychosis normalize cognitive performance? Cognitive Remediation in Psychiatry, NY NY
4. Twamley, E.W., Burton, C.Z., **Vella, L.**, Savla, G.N., Guidry, J.J., Abeles, M.B., Bilder, R.M., Kelsoe, J.R. (2009). COMT genotype and cognitive/functional capacity in schizophrenia. Emory Conference on Cognition, International Congress on Schizophrenia Research, San Diego.
5. **Vella, L.**, Burton, C.Z., Jeste, D.V., Twamley, E.W. (2008). Improvements in neuropsychological functioning after cognitive training. Poster Presentation. Cognitive Remediation in Psychiatry, New York, NY.
6. Burton, C.Z., **Vella, L.**, Jeste, D.V., Twamley, E.W. (2008). Clinical and functional outcomes following cognitive training in patients with psychosis. Poster Presentation. Cognitive Remediation in Psychiatry, New York, NY.
7. Catledge, C., Daikh, D., **Vella, L.**, Mohr, D.C. (2006) In vitro suppression of cytokine production by dexamethasone and hydrocortisone. Poster presentation, American Psychosomatic Society, Denver, CO.
8. Mohr, D.C., Hart, S., Catledge, C., **Vella, L.** (2005) The Effect of CBT, Positive affect and negative affect on exacerbation in multiple sclerosis. Poster presentation, American Psychosomatic Society, Denver, CO.
9. **Vella, L.** (2002) Effects of aging on serum and brain levels of TNF- α and IL-1 β . Poster presentation, UC Davis' Undergraduate Research Conference, Davis, CA
10. **Vella, L.** (2001) Circulating levels of IL-1 β and TNF- α in young, presenesent and senesent Fisher F344 rats. Poster presentation, UC Davis' Undergraduate Research Conference, Davis, CA