

Elizabeth A Heller, Ph.D.



Dr. Elizabeth A Heller is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Systems Pharmacology and Translational Therapeutics at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. She is also a core faculty member of the Penn Epigenetics Institute. Dr. Heller received her PhD from the Rockefeller University under the mentorship of Dr. Nathaniel Heintz and conducted postdoctoral work under Dr. Eric Nestler at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. Dr. Heller's postdoctoral work was supported by a NIDA National Research Service Award and a Robin Chemers Neustein

Postdoctoral Fellowship. The Heller Lab research program is focused on elucidating the causal mechanisms by which drug- and stress-induced epigenetic reprogramming contributes to neuropsychiatric disease. To this end, Dr. Heller utilizes her primary expertise in molecular biology, rodent behavioral assays, and gene-targeting technology development, to better understand how changes in the chromatin landscape are affected by and contribute to the pathologies of addiction and depression. The Heller lab applies targeted epigenetic editing to determine the direct causal relevance of histone modifications to transcription and behavior. Dr. Heller is the recent recipient of a Charles E Kaufman Foundation New Investigator Award, a Whitehall Foundation Grant, a NARSAD Young Investigator Grant and an NIH Director's Pioneer Award.