Sandra Sanchez-Roige, Ph.D.

Dr. Sandra Sanchez-Roige is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Psychiatry at the University of California San Diego (UCSD), and the Department of Medicine, Division of Genetic Medicine at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. She received her Ph.D. in 2014 from the University of Sussex, where she worked with Drs. Dai Stephens and Dora Duka using behavioral genetics and neuroscience tools to study substance use disorders and impulsivity in both animal and human subjects. In 2016, she began a postdoc with Dr. Abraham Palmer at UCSD. In April 2019, she was promoted to her current position as Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at UCSD. Dr. Sanchez-Roige has been working in the area of human addiction genetics for over 6 years, and animal addiction genetics for a decade. She currently has 44 publications, has published her work in top tier journals (Nature Genetics, Nature Neuroscience, American Journal of Psychiatry, Biological Psychiatry, Molecular Psychiatry), has won numerous travel awards, been a speaker at multiple international conferences, received several fellowships and grants, and is an active member of many professional societies and international consortiums. Dr. Sanchez-Roige work is focused on understanding causal factors contributing to drug addiction and diseases characterized by high levels of impulsivity. In the past, Dr. Sanchez-Roige used behavioral and pharmacological experiments and molecular analysis to address this question, with special emphasis on translational validity to human studies. She identified that high impulsivity was both a cause and a consequence of human and mouse alcohol binge drinking. Dr. Sanchez-Roige current research focuses on the quantitative analysis of complex traits in humans, and translating some of the research findings in mouse and rat models. In parallel, Dr. Sanchez-Roige newly formed laboratory uses big data and high-throughput phenotyping to identify individuals with substance use disorders phenotyped by using electronic health records, leveraging access to one of the largest biobanks in the US, BioVU. Over the next decade, Dr. Sanchez-Roige seeks to integrate the oceans of data generated (and continually expanding!) by human addiction genetics research with data from model organisms, with the goal of furthering our biological understanding of addiction and bringing the most promising results to the clinic.