

Mary Kay Lobo, Ph.D.



Dr. Lobo is a Professor of Anatomy and Neurobiology at the University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM). She received her Ph.D. in Neuroscience and her B.S. in Biology from the University of California, Los Angeles. She completed her Postdoctoral Fellowship at University of Texas Southwestern and Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. Dr. Lobo is a co-Director for the UMSOM Center for Substance Use in Pregnancy and she leads the Diversity Committee for the UMSOM Program in Neuroscience. Dr. Lobo's research program identifies brain cell subtype molecular and cellular processes that underlie disrupted brain circuits in preclinical models of substance use disorder, social stress models, and drug exposure during pregnancy. Her work has advanced understanding into neuron subtype molecular mechanisms occurring with exposure to used substances and she has uncovered a new role for mitochondrial processes in psychostimulant exposure. Dr. Lobo serves on multiple editorial boards including a reviewing editor for the Journal of Neuroscience and eLife. She is a member of several professional societies, including the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology. She has received multiple honors including a Blavatnik Young Scientist Honoree, a Kavli Frontiers in Science Fellow, a One Mind Rising Star Award, and a Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers from the Obama administration. Dr. Lobo is committed to mentoring and promoting a culture of inclusivity in neuroscience. For these efforts she has received the 2021 UMSOM Dean's Faculty Award for Diversity and Inclusion and both the 2021 UMSOM Graduate Program in Life Sciences Teacher of the Year Award and the Dr. Mark Shirliff PhD Student Mentor Award.