

Network Member Bio



Emilie F. Rissman is a Professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics and a member of the Neuroscience Program at The University of Virginia. Her research focuses on genetic and neuroendocrine mechanisms that control male sexual behavior. She is particularly interested in the effects of steroid receptors on the development and expression of sexually dimorphic behaviors, and their neural correlates. Recently she has started a complimentary research program asking if genes on the sex chromosomes can affect social behavior. She has a long-standing comparative research program as well that uses the musk shrew as a model to study social regulation of puberty. NSF and NIH support her research. She earned her B.A. in Psychology from the University of California, at Berkeley, and her Ph. D. in Psychology from Cornell University, and then completed a postdoctoral fellowship in Zoology at the University of Texas in Austin. She has been on the faculty at the University of Virginia since 1986. Her first 5 years were spent in the Psychology department, the next 10 in the Department of Biology and last year she moved to the Medical School and her current affiliation. She is a council member of the NAS Institute for Laboratory Animal Research and a present or past member of several editorial boards and NIH study sections.