Dr. Jennifer Robinson 1998 DISTINGUISHED



Dr. Jennifer Robinson is a distinguished professor and researcher whose work focuses on cognitive neuroscience with an emphasis on human memory and emotions. She is an internationally recognized authority and pioneer in functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) research.

Jenny's time at LHS may have been predictive of her mastery of multitasking, as she excelled in academics while playing basketball and softball and was very active in Help to Others (H2O) and National Honor Society.

Jenny continued as a standout student-athlete at Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) where she played softball from 1999 to 2002, earning UAA All-Association honors in both her first and last years, while simultaneously earning dual degrees in Biochemistry and Psychology. As catcher, she was instrumental in helping the 2001 team clinch an NCAA championship tournament spot, the first CWRU women's team to do so. Jenny went on to earn Master's and Ph.D. degrees at CWRU in Experimental Psychology with a focus on psychophysiology and neuroscience methodology. Considering herself to be in the right place at the right time, it was during her post-graduate training that CWRU purchased its first high-resolution fMRI scanner and she was tasked to train at Harvard and return to CWRU to convey what she learned.

For her post-graduate fellowship training, Jenny spent two years at the University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio, where she gained experience scanning and analyzing data, eventually assisting neurosurgeons plan surgeries by mapping their patient's brains and conducting groundbreaking research. She then went on to the Baylor Scott & White Health System for four years where she created and directed the Functional Neuroimaging program, performed all brain mapping for the Department of Neurosurgery and implemented a holistic team-based approach to presurgical planning.

Jenny has been a member of the faculty at Auburn University since 2012, where she is a professor in the Department of Psychological Sciences and the chair of the Human Research Protection Program's Institutional Review Board. She also holds appointments in the School of Kinesiology and the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and serves on a variety of committees. Dr. Robinson's research has contributed significantly to the understanding of the neural mechanisms underlying brain function. Hundreds of scientists across the world have used her novel approach of analyzing brain data to understand the complex and dynamic workings of brain structures and their functions. She has published over sixty articles in peer-reviewed journals – fourteen as first author. She has conducted research on pediatric epilepsy, the emotional and memory centers of the brain, pain processing and the effects of nutraceuticals, among other areas. She has spoken at numerous conferences and is considered a leader in the field.

In addition to her research, Dr. Robinson is committed to making scientific research accessible and engaging to a wider audience through communication and outreach. As an instructor, Dr. Robinson has been a transformative figure in the lives of students. She has been honored with the 2021 Gerald and Emily Leischuck Endowed Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching, the 2020 College of Liberal Arts Teaching Excellence Award, the 2019 Alumni Excellence in Teaching Award, the 2019 Veteran's Advocate Award, the 2017 Psi Chi International Honor Society Teacher of the Year award, and the 2016 President's Outstanding Collaborative Units Award. She's spearheaded the Auburn University Brain Camp for high school students since 2013 and often works with the Veterans Resource Center by obtaining grants to help veterans dealing with PTSD. In her spare time, Jenny is a Jeep enthusiast and aspiring beach bum who enjoys spending time with family and friends.