

# LEELA SHAH

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/leela-s-a578919b/>

◇ leela.shah@wisc.edu

## EDUCATION

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**[Current Position] University of Wisconsin-Madison MSTP**, Madison, WI

*Medical Student and Neuroscience PhD Trainee, entering class of 2021*

**University of Virginia**, Charlottesville, VA

*B.A., Interdisciplinary Major in Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience and Minor in Spanish*

August 2017 - May 2021

**University of Virginia in Valencia**, Valencia, Spain

*Study abroad in Valencia, Spain, with focuses in language, literature, and global healthcare studies*

May-August 2018

**Hickory High School**, Chesapeake, VA

*National Merit Scholar, Governor's Seal of Biliteracy Recipient*

September 2013-June 2017

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

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**Programming and Statistical Languages:** R, Python

**Foreign Languages:** Spanish, Full Professional Fluency

## CLINICAL CERTIFICATIONS

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**UW-Madison Research Phlebotomy Certification**

**Basic Life Support Certification**

**Basic Life Support in Obstetrics Certification**

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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**UW-Madison: Graduate Student, Developing Brain Imaging Lab** Spring 2024-Present

*Implementing microstructural MRI and multimodal functional imaging techniques to evaluate influences of prenatal and early life exposures on myelination and cognitive development. Roles include MRI acquisition, behavioral assessment administration in Spanish and English, phlebotomy, recruitment and retention activities, MRI data processing and analysis, and undergraduate mentorship.*

**University of Virginia: Research Assistant, Dr. Tanya Evans** Spring 2018 - Spring 2021

*Implementing EEG to study parent-child engagement in autism. Roles include grant writing, project design, subject recruitment, data collection, data analysis, and coordinating undergraduate researchers.*

**University of Virginia: Research Assistant, Dr. Jianhua Cang** Fall 2017 - Spring 2018

*Implementing immunofluorescence techniques to characterize the superior colliculus in mouse models. Roles include cryosectioning, immunostaining, and utilization of fluorescence microscopy.*

## MANUSCRIPTS

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1. Janacsek, K.\*, Evans, T.M.\*, Kiss, M., **Shah, L.**, Ullman, M.T. 2022. *Subcortical Cognition: The Fruit Below the Rind*. \*equal contributions. doi: <https://www.annualreviews.org/doi/abs/10.1146/annurev-neuro-110920-013544>
2. **Shah, L.**, Zhou, X., DiPiero, M.A., Weaver, J.M., Frye, C., Kecksemeti, S.R., Litovsky, R.Y., Alexander, A.L., Planalp, E.M., Dean, D.C. 2025. *Neural Correlates of Inhibitory Control in Children: Evidence using MRI and fNIRS*. Under Review.
3. **Shah, L.**, Yoon, Christy D., LaJeunesse, Alessandra M., Schirmer, Lilly G., Rapallini, Emma W., Planalp, Elizabeth M., Dean, Doug D. 2025. *MRI to Predict Developmental Outcomes in Neonates with Intrauterine Drug Exposure: A Comprehensive Review*. Under Review.

4. **Shah, L.\***, Marzoratti, A.\*, Hofkens, T., Nevill R., Pianta, R., Pelphrey, K., Krafnick, A., Evans, T., 2025. *Child-Parent Behavioral Attunement Shows Opposite Relationships with Language Comprehension Skill and Autistic Symptoms*. \*equal contributions. Under Review.
5. **Shah, L.**, 2023. *A Roadmap for Hyperscanning Studies of Autism Spectrum Disorder*. University of Virginia Interdisciplinary Major Undergraduate Thesis, University of Virginia Thesis Library.

## POSTERS

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1. **Shah, L.**, Zhou, S., DiPiero, M.A., Weaver, J.M., Frye, C., Kecksemeti, S.R., Litovsky, R.L., Planalp, E.M., Dean, D.C., 2023. *T1 relaxation times moderate the relationship between fNIRS brain activation and inhibitory control task performance in children*. UW-Madison Neuroscience Training Program Symposium, Madison.
2. **Shah, L.**, Goebel, C., O'Neill, S. 2023. *A Case Study of Hydralazine-Induced Hemoptysis*. American College of Physicians - WI chapter, Wisconsin Dells.
3. **Shah, L.**, Marzoratti, A., Sjobeck, G., Boker, S., Krafnick, A., Evans, T. 2023. *Parent-Child Neural Synchrony Differentially Predicts Aspects of Children's Literacy*. Org for Human Brain Mapping, Toronto.
4. Dean, D., **Shah, L.**, DiPiero, M., Pletcher, C., Heinrich, L., Planalp, E., Alexander, A., Kecksemeti, S. 2022. *Mapping Brain Development in Infants and Young Children Using MPnRAGE Relaxometry*. International Society for Magnetic Resonance in Medicine, London.
5. Janacek, K.\*, Evans, T.M.\*, Kiss, M., **Shah, L.**, Ullman, M.T. 2019. *The Fruit Below the Rind: Moving Beyond Cortex in the Study of Cognition*. Cognitive Neuroscience Society, San Francisco.
6. Lampi, A.L., **Shah, L.**, Jaswal, V.K., Evans, T.M. 2019. *Educating about neurodiversity: Incorporating autistic perspectives into the classroom*. Society for Neuroscience, Chicago.

## PLATFORM PRESENTATIONS

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1. **Shah, L.**, Bond, E., Dean, D.C., 2025. *Region-of-Interest and Voxel-Based Analyses of Relationships Between Area Deprivation Index and Relaxometry in Infants and Children*, 2024. Wisconsin Neonatology Research Day, Madison.
2. **Shah, L.**, 2023. *A Case Study of Epidural Hematoma in a Pediatric Patient*. UW-Madison Medical Scientist Training Program Research Seminar, Madison.

## AWARDS AND HONORS

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**Waisman Center Trainee Representative, National Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Center Annual Meeting**, Nominated for Fall 2025  
**Waisman Center Morse Society for Childhood Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities**, Accepted Spring 2025  
**Honorary Student Member, NORD Rare Diseases and Orphan Products Breakthrough Summit External Advisory Committee**, Fall 2022  
**University of Virginia Intermediate Honors Award**, Fall 2019  
**Echols Ingrassia Research Grant Recipient**, Summer 2019  
**Claiborne and Martha Whitworth Scholarship**, Summer 2018  
**University of Virginia, Echols Scholar**, Fall 2017 - Spring 2021  
**National Merit Scholar**, Spring 2017

## MEMBERSHIPS

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**American Medical Association**, Student Member, Summer 2022-Present  
**Wisconsin Medical Society**, Student Member, Summer 2021-Present  
**Nu Rho Psi National Neuroscience Honors Society**, Student Member, Summer 2019-Present  
**Society for Neuroscience**, Student Member, Summer 2019-Present  
**University of Virginia Raven Society**, Lifetime Member, Fall 2019-Present

*Membership granted based on academic merit and community service.*

**National Spanish Honors Society**, Member, Spring 2019-Present

## **ACTIVITIES**

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**Student Interviewer, UW MSTP Admissions**, Fall 2024-Present

**Seminar Chair, UW MSTP Seminar**, Fall 2024-Present

**MEDiC Free Clinic at UWSMPH**, Fall 2021-Present

**Care Across the Lifespan, Student Block Leader**, Spring 2023

**Co-President, UWSMPH Students for Rare**, Fall 2021-Spring 2024

**WI Medical Student Reproductive Health and Justice Committee**, Summer 2022-Fall 2023

**Co-President, UWSMPH Medical Education Interest Group**, 2022

**Student Assistant Block Leader, Mind and Motion**, Fall 2022

**UWSMPH Women in Medicine Big/Little Mentorship program**, Spring 2022

**UWSMPH Finding Meaning in Medicine**, Spring 2022