**Kenia Rivera**

Email: kenia.rivera@du.edu

**EDUCATION**

BA, Psychology May 2015  
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; Milwaukee, WI  
Overall GPA: 3.77  
Psychology GPA: 3.92  
Senior Thesis: *Psychosocial functioning in younger children with Neurofibromatosis-1 on the BASC-II content scales*

**HONORS AND AWARDS**

2020-2022 Research Supplements to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research

2020-2021 Graduate Education Doctoral Fellowship for Inclusive Engagement

2019-2020 Graduate Studies Doctoral Fellowship Award, University of Denver

2017 IMFAR Student Travel Award: $500

2017 WPA Third Place Graduate Student Research Poster: $200

2015 Frances Degen Horowitz Millennium Scholars Program

2014-2015 Lawton Scholar Award

2014 Support for Undergraduate Research Fellows Award (Summer and Fall)

2013-2014 Support for Undergraduate Research Fellows Award (Academic year)

2013-2014 Lawton Scholar Award

**RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

**Graduate Research Assistant** September 2020 to Present  
Development Origins of Mental and Physical Health Lab   
University of Denver; Denver, CO  
Project Director: Dr. Jenalee Doom

*Learning methods to examine cardiovascular outcomes; learning how to examine sleep outcomes using actigraphy; writing manuscripts for publication; coding qualitative data; working with large secondary datasets; experience working with SPSS; learning new statistical methods such as structural equation modeling via MPLUS; gaining experience on writing grants for research projects; gaining experience on publishing papers such as writing a letter of intent for a special edition of a journal*

**Lab Coordinator** April 2018 to July 2019  
Child Neurodevelopment Research Lab   
University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee; Milwaukee, WI  
Project Director: Dr. Bonnie Klein-Tasman

*Scored psychological and neuropsychological measures; entered data; experience with SPSS; oriented new research assistant; trained research assistants to score measures and enter data; keeps inventory of measures for research projects; scheduled lab meeting for undergraduate research assistants; scheduled research assistants’ daily lab schedule; coordinated tasks for the research assistants; coordinated data entry for two research projects; assisted in participant visits for two research projects; video coding; worked on IRB protocols*

**Research Assistant** January 2016 to May 2019Marquette Autism Project  
Marquette University; Milwaukee, WI  
Project Director: Dr. Amy Vaughan Van Hecke

*Worked on tasks for research projects that examined the social behavior and neural activity in teens and young adults with autism, specifically the outcome of a social skills training intervention; entered data; administered cognitive testing for teens with autism; edited heart rate data; called families for follow-up on missing questionnaires; basic knowledge of EEG process in the lab; developed, submitted, and presented several original research ideas as posters at regional and international conferences; basic web editing using Adobe Contribute; observed and assisted in social skills training intervention (i.e., tracked points earned by participants)*

**Research Assistant** September 2013 to May 2015  
Child Neurodevelopment Research Lab   
University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee; Milwaukee, WI  
Project Director: Dr. Bonnie Klein-Tasman

*Worked on many tasks for research projects that examined cognitive and behavioral characteristics in young children with Neurofibromatosis-1; designed and presented posters at university symposium; developed abstracts, scored psychological and neuropsychological measures; entered data; experience with SPSS; heavily involved in a grant-funded research project examining a computerized intervention’s effect on response inhibition in children with Williams syndrome; tracked participants’ progress; supervised participants during computerized cognitive tasks and training; developed senior thesis proposal; Oriented new research assistant; trained research assistants to score measures and enter data; ordered measures for research projects; assisted in scheduling lab meeting; assisted in scheduling research assistants’ daily lab schedule.*

**Research Assistant**  February 2013 to May 2015  
Cognitive Development Group   
University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee; Milwaukee, WI  
Project Director: Dr. Chris Lawson

*Worked on several facets of research projects that explored cognitive development in preschoolers from 2 to 7 years of age; designed study stimuli; conducted interviews; entered data; developed proposal; designed and presented a poster for a psychology conference.*

**MANUSCRIPTS ACCEPTED**

Doom, J.R., **Rivera, K.M.**, Blanco, E., Burrows, R., Correa-Burrows, P., East, P.L., Lozoff, B., & Gahagan, S. (accepted). *Sensitive periods for psychosocial risk in childhood and adolescence and cardiometabolic outcomes in young adulthood.* Development and Psychopathology.

**MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW**

Scott, S. R., **Rivera, K. M**., Rushing, E., Manczak, E. M., Rozek, C. S., Doom, J. R. (under review*). “I hate this”: A qualitative analysis of adolescents self-reported challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic.* Submitted to Journal of Adolescent Health.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**Rivera, K. M.**, Rozek, C. M. & Doom, J. R. (2020). *Adolescent physical health and health behaviors during the COVID-19 pandemic.* Poster accepted at the 53rd annual meeting for the International Society for Developmental Psychobiology, Virtual.

**Rivera, K. M.**, & Doom, J. R. (2020). *Does neighborhood collective efficacy buffer the association between maltreatment and internalizing and externalizing problems in adolescents?* Poster accepted at the 32nd annual convention for the Association of Psychological Science, Chicago, IL. \*In-person conference cancelled for COVID-19 precaution\*

**Rivera, K. M.**,McVey, A. J., Schiltz, H., Haendel, A., Pleiss, S., Carson, A., Yund, B., Van Hecke, A. V. (2018, May). *Relations between frontal gamma power, socioeconomic status, and IQ among adolescents with and without ASD.* Poster presented at the 17thannual meeting of International Society for Autism Research (INSAR), Rotterdam, Netherlands.

McVey, A. J., Schiltz, H., Haendel, A., Pleiss, S., Carson, A., **Rivera, K. M.**, Yund, B., Vogt, E., Van Hecke, A. V. *Examining the links between restricted interests/repetitive behaviors, respiratory sinus arrhythmia, and anxiety: Do repetitive behaviors mediate the relation between RSA and anxiety?* Poster presented at the 17th annual meeting of the International Society for Autism Research (INSAR), Rotterdam, Netherlands.

Arias, A., McVey, A. J., Schiltz, H., Haendel, A., **Rivera K. M.**, Pleiss, S., Carson, A., Yund, B. D., Van Hecke, A. V. (2018, May). *Adolescent autism traits: Associations with parental age and physiological functioning.* Poster presented at the 17th annual meeting of the International Society for Autism Research (INSAR), Rotterdam, Netherlands.

Haendel, A.D., Barrington, A., Schiltz, H., McVey, A.J., Pleiss, S., Carson, A., **Rivera, K. M.**, Yund, B., Van Hecke, A. V. (2017).  *Inter and intra hemispheric EEG coherence in adolescents with ASD related to social function.* Poster presented at the 17th annual meeting of the International Society for Autism Research (INSAR), Rotterdam, Netherlands.

**Rivera, K. M.**, McVey, A. J., Schiltz, H., Haendel, A., Dolan, B., Pleiss, S., Carson, A., Vogt, E., Van Hecke, A. V. (2017, November). *Treatment outcome of the PEERS****®****intervention among individuals with autism spectrum disorder from different socioeconomic statuses*. Poster presented at the 51st annual convention for the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies (ABCT), San Diego, CA.

**Rivera, K. M**.,McVey, A. J., Schiltz, H., Haendel, A., Dolan, B., Willar, K. S., Pleiss, S., Carson, A., Mata-Greve, F., Vogt, E., Van Hecke, A. V. (2017, May). *Examining the effects of the PEERS® social skills intervention on racial and ethnic minorities with autism spectrum disorder.*Poster presented at the 16th annual International Meeting for Autism Research (IMFAR), San Francisco, CA.

McVey, A. J., Willar, K. S., Schiltz, H., Haendel, A., Dolan, B., Pleiss, S., Carson, A., Mata-Greve, F., Vogt, E., **Rivera, K. M**., Habisohn, E., Hilger, J., Fritz, N., Van Hecke, A. V. (2017, May). *Effects of social skills on anxiety and parasympathetic activity among youth with autism across the PEERS® intervention.*Poster presented at the 16th annual International Meeting for Autism Research (IMFAR), San Francisco, CA.

McVey, A. J., Schiltz, H., Haendel, A., Dolan, B., Willar, K. S., Pleiss, S., Carson, A., Mata-Greve, F., Vogt, E., **Rivera, K. M**., Habisohn, E., Hilger, J., Fritz, N., Van Hecke, A. V. (2017, May). *Adolescent and parent factors that contribute to non-completion of the PEERS® intervention.*  Poster presented at the 16th annual International Meeting for Autism Research (IMFAR), San Francisco, CA

Arias, A., McVey, A. J., Schiltz, H., Haendel, A., Dolan, B., Willar, K. S., Pleiss, S., Karst, J. S., Carson, A., Mata-Greve, F., Vogt, E., **Rivera, K. M**., Habisohn, E., Hilger, J., Fritz, N., Van Hecke, A. V. (2017, May). *Caregiver vs. adolescent report of internalizing symptoms and relationship to physiological arousal across the PEERS® intervention.*Oral presented at the 16th annual International Meeting for Autism Research (IMFAR), San Francisco, CA.

Schiltz, H., McVey, A., Haendel, A., Dolan, B., Willar, K., Pleiss, S., Carson, A., Mata-Greve, F., Vogt, B., Habisohn, E., Hilger, J., Fritz, N., **Rivera, K. M**., Van Hecke, A. (May 2017). *What contributes to parenting stress and challenges in the parent-adolescent dyad?: consideration of both parent and adolescent factors.*Poster presented at the 16th annual International Meeting for Autism Research (IMFAR), San Francisco, CA.

McVey, A. J.\*, **Rivera, K. M.\***, Kraus, E., Koehler, M., van Hauerwermeiren, O., James, M., Caparas, F., Van Hecke, A. (2017, April). *Examining the effect of the PEERS® intervention among individuals with autism spectrum disorder from different income households*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Wisconsin Psychological Association (WPA), Madison, WI. Third-place prize winner for best graduate student research project.

\*Co-first author: authors contributed equally

**Rivera, K. M.**, McVey, A. J., Van Hecke, A. V. (2016, October). *Examining the efficacy of PEERS® for Hispanic/Latino versus non-Hispanic/Latino individuals with autism spectrum disorder.* Poster presented at the 7th annual Diversity in Psychology Research Conference, Milwaukee, WI

**Rivera, K. M**., Helms, M. I., Casnar, C. L., Brei, N. G., Schwarz, G. N., & Klein-Tasman, B.P. (2015, April). *Examining psychosocial functioning in young children with Neurofibromatosis type 1 using the BASC-II content scales.* Poster presented at the 14th Annual UW-System Symposium for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity, Milwaukee, WI.

**Rivera, K. M**., Helms, M. I., Casnar, C. L., Brei, N. G., Schwarz, G. N., & Klein-Tasman, B.P. (2015, April). *Examining psychosocial functioning in young children with Neurofibromatosis type 1 using the BASC-II content scales.* Poster presented at the 29th Annual National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR), Spokane, WA.

Wilson, A. E., Brei, N. G., **Rivera, K. M**., Basche, K. E., & Klein-Tasman, B. P. (2015, April). *Pilot study of response inhibition in adolescents with Williams syndrome using a Go/No-Go task*. Poster presented at the 14th Annual UW-System Symposium for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity, Milwaukee, WI.

**Rivera, K. M.**, Lawson, C. A. (2015, April). *The effects of sequential and simultaneous presentation on preschooler’s inductive generalization: evidence from a diversity-based reasoning task.* Poster presented at the 87th Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association (MPA), Chicago, IL.

Casnar, C.**, Rivera, K. M.,** Helms, M. I., Klein-Tasman, B. P. (2015, February). *Parent and teacher perspectives on BASC-II content scales in young children with NF1.* Poster presented at the 43rd Annual Meeting of the International Neuropsychological Society (INS), Denver, CO.

**Rivera, K. M**., Helms, M. I., Casnar, C. L., Brei, N. G., Schwarz, G. N., & Klein-Tasman, B.P. (2014, April). *Examination of BASC-II content scales in young children with Neurofibromatosis-1.* Poster presented at the 13th Annual UW-System Symposium for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity, Milwaukee, WI.

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND WORK EXPERIENCE**

**Behavioral Treatment Technician** August 2013 to March 2018  
Wiebusch and Nicholson Center for Autism, Inc.; Pewaukee, WI

*Delivered applied behavior analysis therapy to children on the autism spectrum in-home; taught and assisted in daily living skills; administered behavior intervention plan for aggression and self-injurious behavior.*

**Respite Care Provider** March 2017 to Present

*Supervision of children and teens with disabilities in-home and in the community; supervision of siblings with age ranged from toddlers to school-age children; assist with daily living activities.*

**Maternal and Child Health Pipeline Training Program** September 2013 to May 2015  
University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee; Milwaukee, WI

*A training program that focused on teaching cultural competence, interdisciplinary research and service, and advocacy for families with children from underserved population; attended a workshop about policy and advocacy; observed 3 diverse families with children with autism in-home and in community settings; matched with a lab and conducted a project in the lab; received academic and research mentoring.*