



**Dr. Mark E. Stanton**

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### **Developmental psychobiology of learning and memory**

#### **Summary:**

Dr. Stanton is interested in the developmental psychobiology of learning and memory and its applications to developmental neurobehavioral disorders. His current research focuses on the developmental analysis of eyeblink conditioning from a multiple memory systems perspective in rodents and humans. Eyeblink conditioning offers the opportunity to (a) analyze the ontogeny of associative learning in relation to a well-characterized brainstem-cerebellar circuit; (b) study cognitive and affective development in relation to interactions with this circuit of forebrain structures such as the hippocampus, amygdala, and prefrontal cortex; and (c) better compare these aspects of memory development in humans and animal models. Abnormal development of the cerebellum and hippocampus is implicated in a number of neurobehavioral disorders. Dr. Stanton and his colleagues are using eyeblink conditioning to better understand the etiology and developmental determinants of disorders such as autism, fetal alcohol syndrome, and other environmental or genetic conditions.