



The Design of Experiments in Neuroscience

By Mary Harrington

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Intended to meet the needs of a student who wishes to begin research in the field of neuroscience or biological psychology, this book provides background to the scientific method, and the use of both experimental and non-experimental research designs. Using examples from published studies in neuroscience, the text discusses control of variables and analysis of results, with a focus on the logic of experimental design. Ethical issues associated with neuroscience research are considered and guidelines are described. Statistical concepts are discussed within the context of the research examples. Many exercises are provided to allow students to apply their knowledge and test their understanding. The background in research skills that this book provides will help students succeed in their research endeavors.

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1. Introduction. 2. Ethics. 3. Getting Started. 4. What Is An Experiment? 5. Controlling Extraneous Variables. 6. More Than One Independent Variable: Factorial Designs. 7. Correlational Designs. 8. Review of All Research Designs. Appendix A: Working with Your Data. Appendix B: Writing a Research Paper. Appendix C: Random Numbers Table. Appendix D: Review Questions. Appendix E: Glossary. Appendix F: Answers to End-of-Chapter Questions.

About the Author

Mary Harrington is a Professor in both the Psychology Department and the Neuroscience Program at Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts and is a member of the Neuroscience and Behavior Program at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, MA. She is an Associate Editor of the Journal of Neuroscience, and has published numerous articles on neural pathways controlling the circadian clock, the internal clock that controls 24-hour cycles such as the sleep-wake cycle. Dr. Harrington teaches courses in Research Methods for both Psychology and Neuroscience students.

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