



Tyler A. Lesh, Ph.D.

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Program of Research:

My research uses a variety of neuroimaging tools (task fMRI, DTI, structural MRI, neuromelanin MRI) to better understand how cannabis use, immune system perturbation, and other factors play a role in the neurobiology and course of psychotic disorders. Current funded projects focus on examining how fronto-parietal brain activity, neuromelanin imaging of dopaminergic signal, and free water brain inflammatory markers might represent biological signatures that can be used to predict response to treatment in individuals with psychosis. Other projects focus on understanding how substance use in the context of underlying psychotic illness may be associated with more favorable metabolic and lipid profiles even in the context of worse symptomatology. Through collaborations on main campus and the MIND Institute, I also explore many of these brain and behavioral factors in nonhuman primate models of immune activation. My lab receives funding from the State of California Department of Cannabis Control and National Institutes of Mental Health.

Published Work:

<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=soDGCpMAAAAJ&hl=en>