



Heather Soder, PhD  
Postdoctoral Research Fellow  
Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences

*Using Electroencephalogram to Measure Brain Responses in Cocaine Use Disorder*

Heather Soder, Ph.D. is currently a postdoctoral research fellow at the Center for Neurobehavioral Research on Addiction at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. Dr. Soder completed her bachelor's degree in Psychology at Montclair State University in New Jersey. She went on to complete her doctoral degree in Psychology at the University of South Florida in Tampa, Florida. In graduate school, she studied Cognitive Neuroscience with a minor in Psychopharmacology. The main method Dr. Soder uses to study the brain is Electroencephalography or EEG.

Dr. Soder's research seeks to identify biomarkers of reward and emotional functioning to better understand motivation and decision-making. Specifically, she is interested in individual differences in neurobiological factors associated with feedback-processing that lead to risky choice and impulsive behaviors in healthy adults and persons with substance use disorders. Her work takes a multidisciplinary approach by leveraging both basic and clinic research with the use of neurological (e.g., event-related potentials), physiological (e.g., heart rate variability), and pharmacological (e.g., genetics and drug manipulation) methods, with an eye towards setting the foundation for translational work on prevention, screening, and interventions for substance use disorders.