

# PIONEERS IN BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH SEMINAR

Presented by the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute and co-sponsored by the research institute's Addiction Recovery Research Center and the Center for Health Behaviors Research



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## *In Person Seminar: Why Did I Eat That? Alterations in Brain and Behavior Contributing to Obesity*

While urges to eat are regulated by hunger, satiety, and energy demand, they are also strongly influenced by sights, sounds, and smells that are associated with food (food cues). Dr. Ferrario's lab examines the neurobiological mechanisms of cue-triggered food craving, how these processes are influenced by consumption of sugary, fatty, "junk-food" diets, and susceptibility to obesity. Her lab uses preclinical models and a range of approaches including behavioral pharmacology, biochemistry, and slice electrophysiology in combination with optogenetics. In her talk, she will discuss how alterations in excitatory transmission within the brain's "reward" pathway influence food craving, and the relationship of these alterations to aberrant vs. normative reward-seeking behaviors. In her talk, she will discuss how enhanced responsivity to food cues contributes to obesity, how alterations in excitatory transmission within the brain's "reward" pathway influence food craving, interact with susceptibility to obesity.

FRIDAY, MARCH 4 at 11:00 a.m.

Room G101A-B, 4 Riverside Circle. Registration required to attend in person at <http://fralinbiomed.info/ferrario-seminar>. Masks must be worn. Watch live via Zoom at <https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/82722436593> or at <https://fbri.vtc.vt.edu/events/live-webcast.html>.



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