

2023 MU VRSP mentor profile form

<b>Mentor</b>	<b>Kevin Cummings</b>
<b>Departmental bio web page.</b>	<a href="https://biomed.missouri.edu/kevin-j-cummings-ph-d/">https://biomed.missouri.edu/kevin-j-cummings-ph-d/</a>
<b>Other relevant web pages, as applicable.</b> E.g., lab group/personal web page, Google Scholar/ORCID profiles, others	
<b>Research interests.</b>	Neural control of cardiorespiratory and autonomic function
<b>Active projects.</b>	Role of orexin in cardiorespiratory responses to acute and chronic hypoxia
<b>Research team.</b> E.g., graduate students, post docs, technicians, other scholars	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mentor PhD student (Ruwaida Ben Musa)</li> <li>2. Research Specialist (Jenn Cornelius-Green)</li> <li>3. MU sophomore (Sam Gillespie)</li> <li>4. Collaborate with Drs. Hasser and Kline on projects</li> </ol>
<b>About you...</b> Education/training Personal information, as interested—e.g., hobbies, etc.	<p>I am an Associate Professor in the Department of Biomedical Sciences at the CVM. I was born and raised in Campbell River, a small town on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada. I obtained both my BS and PhD degrees from the University of Victoria, on the southern tip of Vancouver Island. My postdoctoral research took me to the University of Calgary and then on to La Trobe University in Melbourne, Australia, and finally to Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH. My laboratory is located at the Dalton Cardiovascular Research Center. Our research program examines how the central nervous system controls breathing, blood pressure and heart rate in wakefulness and sleep. Our findings are shedding new light on how dysfunction within specific neurotransmitter systems in the brain can lead to diseases like hypertension, sleep apnea and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.</p> <p>I live in Columbia with my wife and our 5 year-old son. We enjoy hiking around in local parks with our two dogs (and sometimes our cat!), hanging out at our local pool, camping, and going on Smoothie King runs. I also enjoy running (but not so much in the heat of summer) and the odd round of golf.</p>

**Mentor Profile**

I am available to mentor students in career and life decisions, even if they do not choose research.

Very Untrue 1 --- 2 --- 3 --- 4 --- **5** Very True

My students are/can be involved in the creation/development of their projects.

Very Untrue 1 --- 2 --- 3 --- 4 --- **5** Very True

I expect students to contribute to manuscripts/publications.

Very Untrue 1 --- 2 --- **3** --- 4 --- 5 Very True (no expectations of this; can if they choose)

<p>Students have the option to continue to work on this project.</p> <p>Very Untrue 1 --- 2 --- 3 --- 4 --- <b>5</b> Very True</p>	
<p>My students often work closely with a research team, e.g., lab tech or other students.</p> <p>Very Untrue 1 --- 2 --- 3 --- 4 --- <b>5</b> Very True</p>	
<p>I frequently touch base with my research team—e.g., students, technicians, etc.</p> <p>Very Untrue 1 --- 2 --- 3 --- 4 --- <b>5</b> Very True</p>	
<p>My mentoring style is very hands off.</p> <p>Very Untrue 1 --- 2 --- <b>3</b> --- 4 --- 5 Very True</p>	
<p>Current/active project profile &amp; timeline, including clinical vs. basic science.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resolving/identifying neural circuits responsible for heightened sympathetic drive in chronic intermittent hypoxia</li> <li>• Role of orexin neurons in these circuits</li> <li>• Role of serotonin in blood pressure regulation</li> </ul>
<p>Lab structure, if applicable.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>What does a typical day of research look like for VRSP scholars?</p>	<p>Reading primary literature, helping graduate student with projects, data analysis, imaging, conducting experiments with conscious animals</p>
<p>What does engagement look like for your lab/project?</p>	<p>Working closely with graduate student on her current projects, developing timelines for completing tasks, asking lots of questions about projects. Hopefully learning something new that excites them about research!</p>