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Zebrafish Locomotion: Understanding of Behavioral Differences as a Function of Age and Sex

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Poster Presentation P16

ZEBRAFISH LOCOMOTION: UNDERSTANDING OF BEHAVIORAL DIFFERENCES AS A FUNCTION OF AGE AND SEX

<u>Tori Tiberi</u>, and Brad Sheese* and Mark Liffiton* Psychology Department, Illinois Wesleyan University

This study examined Zebrafish locomotion in the Novel Tank paradigm are related to age and sex of the fish. Zebrafish are an important model organism commonly used for research in neuroscience and psychology. Despite evidence of variations in behavior as a function of both age and sex, the majority of studies on Zebrafish behavior have ignored these factors. The current research seeks to expand our understanding of behavioral differences as a function of age and sex through the use of an automated tracking system that allows us to utilize a larger sample than has been used in previous studies and to make very fine-grained analyses of behaviors. The sample consisted of 60 fish (25 female, 35 male; 36 older, 24 younger) that were monitored for 60 minutes following their introduction to a novel environment. The results indicate that females of both fish types show much lower activity levels during the first ten minutes than males.