

BĀRBALA OSTROVSKA

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EDUCATION

- 2026 – now** **University of Glasgow, PhD in Neuroscience and Psychology**
Supervisors: Prof Simon Hanslmayr, Dr Matthew Self
- 2020 – 2025** **University of Aberdeen, MSci Neuroscience with Psychology**
(First Class Honours degree)
Thesis title: Electrophysiological Dorsoventral Gradients in Superficial and Deep Layers of the Medial Entorhinal Cortex: A Characterisation of Layer II Stellate and Layer Vb Pyramidal Cells
- Degree included an industrial placement year at Pfizer UK.
Placement thesis title: Remote clinical trial site monitoring: A comparative study evaluating efficiency and impact on on-site visits

WORK EXPERIENCE

- Sep 2025 – May 2026** **Thermo Fisher Scientific, Clinical Trial Coordinator**
 - Supported clinical trial management and documentation, ensuring compliance with study protocols and regulatory standards.
- Jun 2023 – Feb 2026** **University of Aberdeen, Health Services Research Unit Intern**
 - Reviewed the Trial Forge project website, researched and updated what it offers on equality, diversity, and inclusion; recruitment, retention, and data collection materials for trialists.
 - Wrote website content for an audience of researchers and stakeholders.
 - Assisted in data analysis for a research paper on ethnic minority representation in clinical trials.
- Nov 2024 – Jan 2025** **Genomes.io, Project Assistant**
 - Wrote and published blog posts on genomics, focusing on personalized medicine and genetic innovation; received positive feedback from readers.
 - Contributed to strategic planning for developing partnerships with research institutions.
- Sep 2023 – Sep 2024** **Pfizer UK, Clinical Study Operations Undergraduate (Industrial Placement)**
 - Supported the Site Operations team in clinical trial site activations, tracking the completion of various tasks and goals, Trial Master File maintenance, and additional duties as needed.
 - Contributed to testing and implementing a new system for site-facing staff used to enhance organisation of on-site observations and improve recruitment and retention strategy planning.
- Sep 2022 – May 2023** **Manassi Perception Laboratory, Research Assistant**
 - Utilised Python to analyse and visualize experimental data.
 - Assisted on experiments investigating serial dependence.

SKILLS

Data analysis: Conducted statistical data analysis using Python for published research on perception. Completed computation neuroscience and deep learning summer schools, both of which included the development of a computational research project in neuroscience. Matlab knowledge from university and extracurricular courses.

Electrophysiology: Designed and performed whole-cell patch-clamp recordings in acute mouse brain slices, characterising membrane properties and neuronal excitability in the medial entorhinal cortex. Analysed and interpreted single-neuron electrophysiological datasets, with statistical testing of dorsoventral gradients in intrinsic neuron properties.

Scientific Communication: Co-authored peer-reviewed publications in journals such as *Trials* and *Cognition*. Wrote accessible scientific content for blogs and websites such as for the Trial Forge initiative.

PUBLICATIONS

- Dawson, S., **Ostrovská, B.**, Treweek, S., Gillies, K., Witham, M., Devane, D., Khunti, K., Bower, P., Parker, A., Soulsby, I. and Green, H. (2025). Sometimes different, often the same: guidance on how recruitment and retention in trials need to be tailored to enhance participation of ethnic minority groups: a qualitative interview study in England. *Journal of Clinical Epidemiology*, pp.112005–112005. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclinepi.2025.112005>.
- Treweek, S., Gillies, K., Witham, M.D., Devane, D., Kamlesh Khunti, Bower, P., Parker, A., Soulsby, I., **Ostrovská, B.**, Prowse, S. and Green, H. (2024). How should trial teams make decisions about the proportions and diversity of the ethnic groups in their trial? *Trials*, 25(1). doi:<https://doi.org/10.1186/s13063-024-08625-5>.
- Marini, F., Sutherland, C.A.M., **Ostrovská, B.** and Manassi, M. (2023). Three's a crowd: Fast ensemble perception of first impressions of trustworthiness. *Cognition*, [online] 239, p.105540. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cognition.2023.105540>.

OTHER EXPERIENCE & QUALIFICATIONS

- 2025** Certificate of Completion for completion of the interactive track and the course project of Neuromatch Academy Deep Learning using Python
- 2021 – 2025** Member of the University of Aberdeen Health Data Science Patient Public Involvement group
- 2022 – 2023** President of the University of Aberdeen Neuroscience society
- 2021** Certificate of Completion for completion of the interactive track and the course project of Neuromatch Academy Computational Neuroscience using Python
- 2020** Certificate for successful completion of the Code First Girls Introduction to Python Programming course
Additional Certificate for project excellence

LANGUAGES

Latvian (Native); **English** (Excellent, IELTS level C2)