# Introduction to Neural Networks

Garrett M. Dancik, PhD



- Artifical neural networks (ANNs) are inspired by biological neural networks
- A neuron receives inputs, and *fires* if its inputs exceed a threshold



### Perceptron



A perceptron consists of a single neuron that "fires" if the sum of its weighted inputs exceeds a threshold (i.e., the bias term, b)

## A single perceptron is a linear classifier





# Multilayer perceptron

- Consists of an input layer, 1 or more hidden layers, and an output layer
- Is fully connected: each node in a a layer connects to all nodes in the next layer
- Each hidden node uses a non-linear activation function that outputs a value between 0 and 1 (rather than either a 0 or 1)
- Can learn non-linear relationships
- Is a type of feedforward artificial neural network (the signal only moves forward)



### Training neural networks

- The weights and bias terms are updated during the training process in order to optimize a loss (or cost) function, which measures the performance of the fitted model (the goal is to minimize the loss)
- For classification, cross entropy loss is used.
- An *epoch* refers to one forward pass of each training sample in a *batch*, and one backward pass (to update the weights and bias terms)
- General overview: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sZAIS3\_dnk0</u>