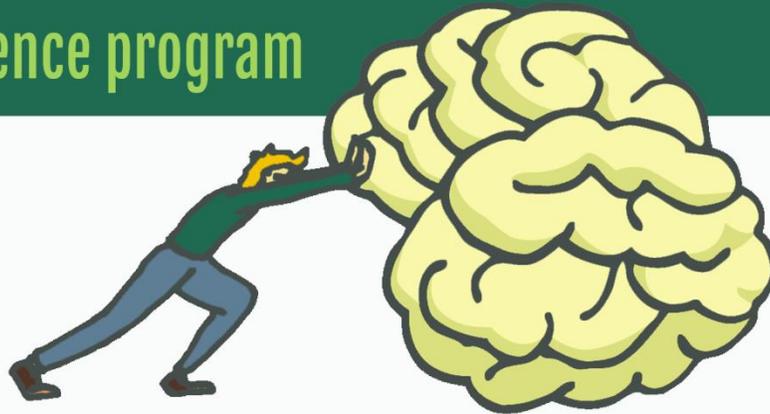


# undergraduate neuroscience program

## information digest 1.12.17



### PROGRAM INFORMATION

The last day to Drop/Add for the spring semester AND last day to submit an application for degree is Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Seniors – Check your GPS ASAP to identify anything that will delay your AFD.

The UNP will be offering **travel awards for five UNP students** (all expenses) that attend NCUR. **Applications for travel awards can be submitted [HERE](#)**. Awardees will be determined by February 15<sup>th</sup>.

Now accepting applications for the UAB Alumni Society **Patsy W. Collat Endowed Scholarship in Neuroscience**. This is a one-time award valued at \$1,250. Recipients are eligible to apply for the award in subsequent years as long as they continue to meet the requirements. All applications **must be completed through B Smart**.

Requirements for applicants:

- currently enrolled in or admitted to a degree-granting program in the Neuroscience Undergraduate Program
- earned at least an overall GPA of 3.0 in coursework completed prior to the time of application,
- female

Applicants are required to submit a personal statement, of at least 250 words and not to exceed 500 words, on what you plan to do with your Neuroscience degree. You will be notified via e-mail regarding their status after the selection committee has met. **The deadline to apply is Friday, February 3, 2017.**

UNP students are encouraged to **update their publication information [here](#)**. This includes any authorship position on a peer-reviewed research or review article, or submissions to *Inquiro*.

### STUDENT GROUPS

#### UNS T-Shirt Fundraiser

The UNS will be selling T-shirts to raise money for activities! T-shirts are available in gray or green, both with the design in white ink, with sizes ranging



from XS to XXL. They have short sleeve shirts (\$15, or \$17 for XXL) and long sleeve shirts (\$20, or \$22 for XXL). Please note that both styles can be either color. You also have the option to **buy both a short and long sleeve shirt for only \$30!** Orders can be made **online** with credit or debit cards. Alternatively, cash payments can be made in person. If a cash transaction is necessary, please email [ckwalker@uab.edu](mailto:ckwalker@uab.edu) to place your order. The sale will end on **Tuesday, January 31, 2017** and you will be notified when the shirts are ready for pickup.

### UNS Raffle

This semester, attendance will be taken at all UNS-sponsored events. For every event you attend, your name will be entered into a raffle. Attendance at select events sponsored by other organizations will be counted as well – we will notify you in advance if an event counts! At the end of the semester, 2 names will be drawn for prizes (more info on the prizes to come).

## STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

The **Civitan International Research Center** is announcing the availability of **trainee travel awards** to facilitate presentations at meetings, conferences or symposia related to research and/or clinical activities addressing neurodevelopmental disabilities. Individual awards of up to \$1000 will apply toward conference registration fees, airfare, hotel and meals according to UAB travel policy. Application deadlines will be April 1 and September 1, 2017. Mentors, this is a great opportunity to procure support for undergraduate conference attendees! Submit applications to: **Vicki Hixon** [vhixon@uab.edu](mailto:vhixon@uab.edu)

Applications should include the following in a single pdf file:

- A description of the travel opportunity and relationship to the trainee program of study
- A one-page CV from the trainee
- A letter of endorsement from the mentor clearly stating how the student will benefit from participation and also that no other support is available for this travel
- Travel budget details
- Copy of abstract – include letter of acceptance

The **HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology in Huntsville** will be hosting **summer internships for undergraduate** students. The BioTrain Internship program places students in engaging experiences in the research labs and associated biotech companies and departments of HudsonAlpha Institute. This unique internship program accepts 20 - 30 interns each summer for a nine-week session that includes a week of Biotech BootCamp and weekly professional development seminars in addition to eight weeks of employment for students.

We are looking for qualified applicants with all levels of experience that are interested in the following areas:

- computational informatics
- genetics and genomics research
- molecular biology
- economic development/business
- marketing and communications
- science education
- chemistry
- computer programming
- graphic arts
- genetic counseling

In addition to traditional wet bench lab work, many of the research labs at HudsonAlpha focus on using sequence data to gain insight into disease and learn more about the world around us. For that reason, several of the intern positions will involve computer programming and informatic work with databases. Students with experience and interest in these areas are encouraged to apply. Our researchers have said that they particularly need people with experience and education in programming, basic biology, and math/statistics.

Students who have graduated high school and are currently enrolled at a college or university in the state of Alabama are eligible to apply. **Online applications will be open January 15 - February 15, 2017.** Students will need a resume, a personal statement and two letters of recommendation. **The 2017 BioTrain Internship will be held May 30 - July 28th.** **Visit the BioTrain Internship website** or see attached flyer for more information.

## RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

**The Visscher lab** is looking for a few spectacular students to help with two ongoing projects. One project is understanding what it means to be a healthy aging brain: how brain activity and structure relate to behavioral function in adults over age 85. The other involves examining human brain plasticity when adults change the way they use their vision. You'll be working on data collection, scoring cognitive assessments, data entry, and quality control of these data to start, and then doing data analysis. We love organized folks, and if you have experience programming, that's a plus. Interested students should email a copy of their CV, completed courses, semester schedule, and a few sentences about why the research interests them to **Dr. Visscher**.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**TONIGHT! Mountain Brook SciCafe** – Emmet O’Neal Library – Drs. **Peter King** and **Mohamed Kazamel**: Unraveling the Mysteries of Lou Gehrig’s Disease. 6:30 – 7:30 PM.

### **Save the date: CIVITAN INTERNATIONAL / SIMPSON-RAMSEY NEURODEVELOPMENT SYMPOSIUM**

Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The symposium will be held at the UAB Hill Center from 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. with a poster reception at The Edge of Chaos to follow at 4:00 p.m. This event satisfies the UNP presentation requirement for seniors.

**Darwin Day!** NPR Science Correspondent Joe Palca (host of “Joe’s Big Idea”) will be delivering a lecture for the **UAB Biology 2017 Darwin Day celebration**. This will take place at **7 PM at the Alumni House**, and afterward there will be a **reception and poster session**. Those interested in presenting a poster should send an email to [evolve@uab.edu](mailto:evolve@uab.edu) (subject line: “Poster”) with their name, department, poster title, and indication of whether they are eligible for the poster competition (undergraduate or graduate students). **Deadline: Friday January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017.**

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**Courtney Walker** and **Hriday Bhambhani** have been selected as the 2016-2017 **Outstanding Students in Neuroscience**. Both students were nominated by their peers. They will be honored at the 2017 OST research competition on April 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Mugdha Mokashi** has been selected as an institutional nominee for the **Truman Scholarship**.

**Hriday Bhambhani** has been selected as a finalist for the **Gates Cambridge Scholarship**.

**Remy Meir** and **Ben Boros** have been selected as institutional nominees for the **Goldwater Scholarship**. As this nomination is dependent on excellence in research, we would like to thank **Dr. Sorge** and **Dr. Herskowitz**, respectively, for being outstanding research mentors and supporting Remy and Ben's applications.

**Dr. Jeremy Day** was featured as the first 2017 "Scientist to Watch" in *The Scientist*. Read the [full article here!](#)

And last, but certainly not least, **Dr. Rajesh Kana** was awarded the **Dean's Excellence in Mentorship Award for 2017**. Dr. Kana was nominated by his mentees, and will be honored on Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at a special Mentorship Awards event.

[Like and follow the UNP on Facebook](#) for more student opportunities, information, events, and neuroscience-related content!

**Students, faculty and staff - want to place information in the digest?** Email your content to **Dr. Cristin Gavin** by Tuesday night the week of. The digest is finalized on Wednesday mornings, so any submissions received on Wednesday will be included in the digest the following week.