Program Information

Freshman! Check your emails for more information on your Student Stories submission and headshots. Sign up is required.

Seniors! This is your first of many reminders – your thesis is due on or before April 1st. Please contact Dr. Gavin if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

Joint advising for SciTech and UHP are open for signup. Please make every effort you can to attend the joint sessions in lieu of individual advising.

If you plan to take NBL 398 Research credit in Fall of 2017, you can go here to enter information to receive your override in advance.

Student Groups

Lots of volunteer and service opportunities below!

The UNS is partnering with the Brain Awareness Week team and the McWane Science Center to offer neuroscience demonstrations on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month at the McWane Science Center. To make this happen, we need your help!!! If you’re involved with Brain Awareness Week or are interested in learning what it’s all about, this is a great way to get some experience teaching neuroscience to lay audiences through fun interactive demonstrations. The next demonstration session will be held THIS SATURDAY February 25. If you’d like to sign up to work the session, please fill out this form and we will contact you shortly with additional information.

Mitchell’s Place, a local non-profit organization that offers services for children, adolescents, and families affected by Autism Spectrum Disorder and other developmental disabilities, is holding their largest
fundraising event **THIS Sunday, February 26th.** They need our help preparing for this event. **Fill out this form** indicating your availability for February 24-26 and we will provide you with more information.

**Women in STEM meeting line up for spring 2017**

**March 20th at 6pm in HHB 549 – Topic: Pay inequity. Speaker: Dr. Cristin Gavin**

Women don’t negotiate. Women take on administrative roles. Women worry more about a mate than about their career. Women have children. All of these (and many more) are recent assertions put forth in studies trying to understand why pay inequity exists. It exists for women across the educational spectrum and it could affect you. We will understand the theories for why pay inequality continues and discuss strategies to ensure fair and equitable treatment.

**April 10th at 6pm in HHB 549 – Topic: Cheese, whine, and story time. Speakers: Dr. Diane Tucker, Dr. Linda Wadiche, and Kunshani Shah**

Even with everything in the news making us think about the struggles women in STEM face, success stories surround us and the evidence is clear that women are achieving at the highest levels of science. We will hear the stories of 3 UAB women at different stages of their career development and explore the personal path that lead to their success.

**Student Opportunities**

**Want to make the most of your summer?** Consider applying for the **UAB Honors Neuroscience Summer Research Academy.** This summer program is designed to offer highly motivated UNP students intensive research experiences in their current research labs. During the ten-week program, scholars will have the opportunity to make significant advances in their independent research projects while receiving individualized preparation for a competitive graduate school application. **Students will receive a $5,000 scholarship and $750.00 in project funds for use in the lab.**

- **When?** Summer 2017 – June 5th to August 11th. Approximately 30 hours a week will be devoted to research. Students are not encouraged to take summer courses.

- **Who is eligible?** Rising juniors and seniors in the UNP who have demonstrated excellent scientific aptitude and are currently conducting research with a UAB faculty member.

- **How do I apply?** Applicants should start with **this form.** In addition to your application, your research mentor will need to complete an evaluation on your behalf. Mentors will be contacted directly by the program after your application has been initiated. Applications will not be considered until ALL PARTS (including the evaluation) have been completed. Students with incomplete applications will be contacted one week before the submission deadline.

- **When’s that deadline?** **March 15th at midnight.** No late or incomplete applications will be considered, no exceptions.

Please **contact Dr. Gavin** with any additional questions, comments, or concerns.
Call for Abstracts: UA System Honors Research Day. The UAB Honors College is proud to announce a call for abstracts for the 16th Annual University of Alabama System Honors Research Day. It will be held **Saturday, March 25. 8:15am – 1:30pm** at the **University of Alabama at Birmingham Hill Student Center**. Honors students in good standing are invited to submit 250-word abstracts here for completed research projects in any discipline. Deadline to submit is March 10th. A full list of categories can be found on Canvas.

**THIS WEEKEND The Alabama Brain Bee** is a free neuroscience competition for high school students on **Saturday, February 25th**. For the first time in Alabama Brain Bee history, there will be a **POSTER SESSION** for ALL undergraduate students involved in Neuroscience-related research (including, but not limited to psychology, psychiatry, neurology, neurobiology, etc). Want to practice your research presentation? Want to show off your research to your peers? NO faculty judges will be present, so no pressure! First-time or veteran presenters are welcome! (Yes, that even includes YOU, freshmen and sophomores). **Cool prizes for the top three presentations, T-shirt and free food for EVERYONE. Submit your abstracts here.** Contact brainbee@uab.edu with any questions.

The Office of Undergraduate Research will be holding a spring workshop series on the theme of “Expanding Knowledge”. The series will cover a variety of topics meant to support you in your research endeavors both in college and beyond. All workshops will be held in **HHB 524 on Wednesdays in February and March from 12 to 1pm**. Lunch provided with RSVP to **Gareth Jones**, see attached for full list of workshops.

Registration is now open for **Brainhack UAB 2017**. This 3-day workshop will be held March 2nd – 4th at UAB and is part of **Brainhack Global** where a constellation of such events happen simultaneously around the globe. Brainhack events convene researchers from a myriad of disciplines to work together on projects related to neuroscience. Thanks to generous funding from the UAB HSF, registration is free and includes some meals and coffee breaks. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own computers. **To register, go here.** Space is limited, so please only register if you are able to attend. Already registered? **Submit a project idea!** See more information at our Website: [https://docs.uabgrid.uab.edu/wiki/BrainhackUAB](https://docs.uabgrid.uab.edu/wiki/BrainhackUAB)

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR BRAIN AWARENESS WEEK 2017!** March 27th – 31st, 2017 at the McWane Science Center. **Go here to VOLUNTEER TODAY!**

Are you a senior looking for an opportunity to fulfill your presentation requirement? **The UAB Spring Expo** will be held April 13-14th in the Hill Center Ballroom. **Go here to submit an abstract, final day to submit is April 5th.**

**RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES**

Drs. Farah Lubin and Aaron Fobian are looking for a talented and highly motivated student that would be interested in classically conditioning rats to have non-epileptic seizures and measuring epigenetic changes.
The student will be trained to help with set-up and a validation of behavior apparatus and DNA assays, handling rodents, and in some cases assist with cranial surgeries. Students should email their resume, schedule, and research interest statement to Dr. Lubin.

The West lab (Neurology) is looking for a student research scientist to help with ongoing preclinical Parkinson’s disease (PD) projects. PD is a debilitating movement disorder affecting millions of people worldwide. Patients diagnosed with PD typically suffer from progressive loss of fine motor control and resting tremors. At the cellular level, PD is characterized by a drastic loss of dopaminergic neurons in the brain and by the presence of intracellular protease resistant inclusions. In West lab we model PD by injecting abnormally folded α-synuclein protein into the brains of mice and rats. This abnormally folded α-synuclein protein “corrupts” the normal α-synuclein present in the brain cells of mice. The disease progression and presentation we observe in mice and rats is nearly identical to that observed in human post mortem tissue. Using this model we are currently testing several promising compounds that have the potential to be in human trials in the very near future! We are looking for self-motivated individuals who would like to pursue a career in neurodegenerative disease research with a focus on PD. All interested applicants should contact Dr. Delic with a copy of their CV, completed courses and a semester schedule. Priority consideration will be given to students able to make a commitment of 15 hours a week.

The Visscher lab (Neurobiology) 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**

There will be a free screening of “Hidden Figures” on March 8th in the HSC from 5-8 pm with a panel discussion to follow.

**TONIGHT! Neuroscience Café:** Join Drs. Mark Bolding and Asim Bag as they present "Interventional Neuroimaging: Brain Tumors" at Homewood Public Library at 6:30 PM on Thursday, February 23rd.

Save the date: CENTER FOR NEURODEGENERATION AND EXPERIMENTAL THERAPEUTICS (CNET) will host its 5th annual retreat that is open to the UAB community on Friday, March 3rd. Internationally renowned featured speakers from the NIH, Industry, and Academia will be on-hand for networking and interaction opportunities. Go here to register, space is limited. If you are an undergraduate interested in presenting a poster at this event, please contact Dr. Gavin ASAP with your abstract information.
Save the date: CIVITAN INTERNATIONAL / SIMPSON-RAMSEY NEURODEVELOPMENT SYMPOSIUM
Thursday, April 20th, 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.

**Senior Spotlight**

Senior Aseel Dib is featured as we kick off our Senior Spotlight series for the 2017 graduating class. [Go here to read about Aseel's time in the Neuroscience program!](#)

**Acknowledgements**

Congratulations to senior Courtney Walker for being selected as one of three undergraduates to receive the 2017 Dean’s Award. Courtney has been a model student in her time at UAB, and is richly deserving of such an award.

Congratulations to Marie Michenkova for being selected as the recipient of the Patsy W. Collat Endowed Scholarship. In a program full of outstanding women, this is truly an honor!

Congratulations to UNP students Rachael Rainey and Jennifer Okunbor, and their mentor Dr. Burel Goodin. They found out yesterday that their paper will be accepted for publication in *Pain Medicine*. Way to go!

**Check out the special segment** ABC 33/40 ran on Neurobiology faculty member Lynn Dobrunz!

Congratulations to the following students who were selected to receive travel awards to present at NCUR in April: Sid Chandra (West Lab, Neurology), Meghana Gaini (Ball Lab, Psychology), Lillian Chien (Kwon Lab, Ophthalmology), Niharika Loomba (Kana Lab, Psychology), Tina Tian (Wilson Lab, Neurobiology), and Mugdha Mokashi (Gamble Lab, Psychiatry).

**Like and follow the UNP on Facebook** for more student opportunities, graduate 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.