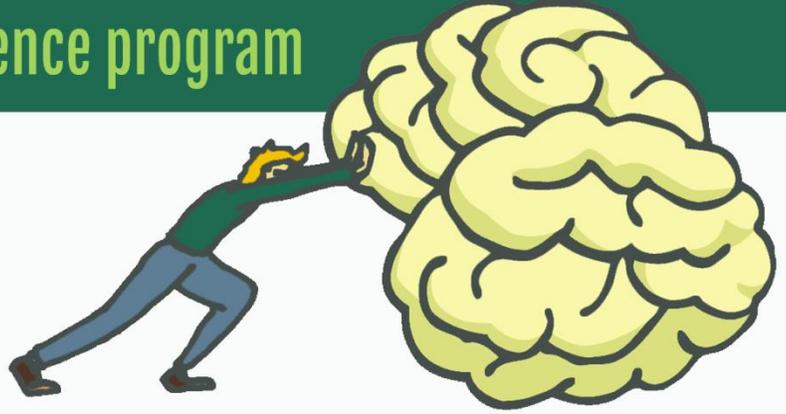


# undergraduate neuroscience program

## information digest 3.23.17



### PROGRAM INFORMATION

**Seniors! Your thesis is due on or before April 1st. That is 9 days away if you are counting.** Please contact Dr. Gavin if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

**Registration will be April 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

#### Fall Upper Level Electives

NBL 425 – Methods in Human Neuroimaging – Thur, 5 - 7:30 pm, Dr. Kristina Visscher

NBL 433 – Diseases of the Nervous System – Tues/Thur, 3:30 – 4:45 pm, Dr. Vlad Parpura

**NOTE:** *There will be no Mechanisms of Memory until spring 2018.*

PY 453+ Lab – Advanced Behavioral Neuroscience – Mon/Wed, 12:20 – 2:10 pm (lec), 2:30 – 3:20 pm (lab)

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

#### Undergraduate Neuroscience Society

**OFFICER ELECTIONS IN PROGRESS.** Polls close on Sunday night at 11:59. Get your votes in!

#### UNS March Outreach

##### **Brain Awareness Week at the McWane Science Center on March 27-31**

Graduate students Mandy Biles and Christian Stackhouse will take the helm this year and direct the annual Brain Awareness Week for 2017! UAB students, trainees and faculty at all levels are needed to help bring the magic of neuroscience to the children of Birmingham. Volunteers are needed primarily for afternoon shifts (1:00 pm-4:30 pm) on

each day of the week. Note that this week does NOT match up with UAB's spring break as it has in previous years. If you're interested in volunteering, please fill out [this form](#).

### Neuroscience Demonstrations for Local School Children

The UNS is seeking volunteers to help turn our fun, interactive neuroscience demonstrations into short 30 minute lessons we can teach to local school children. If you're interested in helping to develop lesson plans and/or volunteer to teach email Jarrod Hicks at [jarrodh@uab.edu](mailto:jarrodh@uab.edu) to set up a meeting.

### Taste of Science Festival

Taste of Science is a week-long nationwide festival aimed at bringing science to the public. While this event actually happens in April, **we are currently looking for volunteers to help organize the Taste of Science events in Birmingham**. We need people who can assist with: contacting speakers, fundraising, coordinating events, managing social media, and publicizing the events. If you're interested in joining the team, please email Jarrod Hicks at [jarrodh@uab.edu](mailto:jarrodh@uab.edu) to set up a meeting.

**The Birmingham, AL Team Hope walk** will be held on **Sunday, April 2, at Oak Mountain State Park**. The goal of the walk is to raise money to support the mission and services of the Huntington's Disease Society of America. If you're interested in participating or volunteering please visit their website. If you'd like to volunteer, please **email Jamie Ansell** to learn how you could help out.

The UNS needs volunteers to help run neuroscience demonstrations on **Saturday, April 15, at Children's Hospital as part of an event hosted by GirlSpring to promote STEM fields to high school girls**. If you're interested, please sign up by filling out [this form](#). The event will be from 9 to 2 and lunch will be provided to all volunteers!

## STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Honors College is pleased to announce the **Experiential Fellowship Program**. This new initiative provides funding to **promote research, creative activity, and community service among honors students**.

To be eligible, you must be an Honors College student in good standing with 1.5 to 2 years left in your program of study. **See the module on Canvas** for additional eligibility requirements. Think of the project you propose for the EFP as an **experiential learning activity**. Supported projects can take a variety of forms – a traditional research project, a service initiative with a non-profit partner, or even a community arts project. You will need to find a faculty mentor to supervise your project.

**The EFP comes with a stipend of \$2500 for the summer, as well as an allowance of up to \$250 for project-related expenses**. In addition to funding, this program also incorporates bi-weekly professional development workshops and the requirement that you present your work at the UAB Summer Expo.

**The deadline to apply for the EFP is April 12, and the program will run from May 22 to July 28.**

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

**Registration is now open for the Civitan International/Simpson-Ramsey Neurodevelopment Symposium on Thursday, April 20th, 2017.** Lunch will be provided to the first 100 registered guests and prizes will be awarded to top abstracts and poster presenters. To be considered for judging, abstracts must be received by Friday, April 7. [Go here to register.](#)

## RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

**Dr. Peter King** is looking for a student to assist with mouse and human studies related to amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and other neuroinflammatory diseases. The student will work with research associates in the laboratory to perform DNA assays, mouse behavioral analyses, immunohistochemistry and other disease-related assessments. The research themes of the laboratory are disease oriented and will provide the student an opportunity to gain experience in biomedical research and be part of research publications. This position is best suited for the motivated and inquisitive student who has an interest in pursuing a biomedical career, either in research or medicine. Ideally the student should be able to work for at least one year. Hours will be negotiable. Students should email their resume, schedule, and research interest statement to [Prachi Matsye, PhD.](#)

**Dr. Zina Trost** is looking for more research assistants that can start immediately in the lab. The position requires people who can dedicate around 10 hours a week, is very organized, and will be able to stay in the lab for the calendar year or longer. The study in question is a virtual blood draw, so the RA's will need to be able to see someone have their blood drawn on a video. All interested applicants should send their CV, completed courses and a semester schedule to [Dr. Trost.](#)

**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  $\alpha$ -synuclein protein into the brains of mice and rats. This abnormally folded  $\alpha$ -synuclein protein "corrupts" the normal  $\alpha$ -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**.

## SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Senior **Sullivan Hanback** is featured as this weeks' Senior Spotlight. **Go here to read about Sullivan's time in the Neuroscience program!**

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Big week for UNP students! Congratulations to all our students that were selected for summer programs across the country, including our Amgen Scholars **Jasmin Revanna** (Day lab, CalTech program), **Niharika Loomba** (Kana lab, Stanford program), and **Cody Savage** (Cowell lab, Washington University St. Louis program). **Tina Tian** (Wilson lab) was selected for a summer internship at the Center for RNA Biology at Ohio State University. Congratulations to you all!

**Emily Jennings** (VanGroen lab) has been selected for the **Fulbright Scholarship** (study) to the Netherlands. She will pursue a Masters of Neurosciences at Vrije University Amsterdam this fall. We are so proud of you Emily!

**Hriday Bhambhani** (Meador-Woodruff lab) was selected as a Fulbright Scholarship (research) alternate to Germany. Congratulations Hriday!

**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.