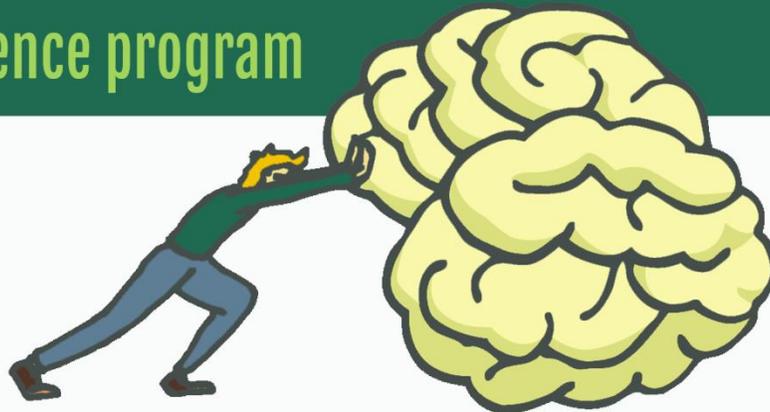


undergraduate neuroscience program

information digest 3.9.17



PROGRAM INFORMATION

Registration information:

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.

Seniors! Your thesis is due on or before April 1st. That is approximately 3 WEEKS from today. Please contact Dr. Gavin if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

STUDENT GROUPS

Undergraduate Neuroscience Society –

The month's UNS workshop will be in partnership with the Pre-PhD society, who kindly allowed us to work with them to organize this event. The workshop will be about **crafting Curricula Vitae (CV's) for graduate school**. We will have a speaker from Career Services and Professional Development at the event. It will be held on **March 23rd from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm in EB 145**.

Though this event is geared towards future graduate school applicants, advice regarding CV's is applicable to all students interested in post-secondary education, including pre-med students! Dinner will be provided with registration - [go here to sign up!](#)

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 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 to set up a meeting.

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.

Pre-PhD Society - Join the **Pre-PhD Society March 23rd, 2017 from 6-8pm in EB 145 for a CV Workshop** in partnership with Career Services and Professional Development! Learn tips and tricks to make your curriculum vitae stand out for graduate and professional school applications! Refreshments will be provided.

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

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 TOMORROW March 10th. A full list of categories can be found on Canvas.

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.

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

TONIGHT! Neuroscience Café: Join **Drs. Jeremy Day and Cayce Paddock** as they present **"Substance Abuse and Addiction"** at Mountain Brook Public Library at 6:30 PM on Thursday, March 9th, 2017.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

What a week for Neuroscience student accomplishment!

Congratulations to **Mugdha Mokashi** and **Siddhu Srikakolapu** for being elected USGA President and Executive Vice President, respectively. **Taylor Leclair, Yazen Shihab, and Affan Rizwan** were elected Senators for the College of Arts and Sciences. Congratulations!

Mugdha was also selected as the **Outstanding Woman UAB Undergraduate Student for 2017**.

Congratulations to **Niharika Loomba** for being selected for the **Amgen Scholars Program at Stanford University**. The summer internship only 5% of students that apply are selected to participate. Well done!

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.