NBL 398 Activity Logs are due to Dr. Gavin by Friday, April 21st at 5pm. Each log needs to be signed and graded by the student’s research mentor prior to submission.

New BRAINSTORM post is up on the student blog. Check it out here! If there are any students interested in taking over the editorial position for the blog, email Dr. Gavin for more information.

Literature-based thesis presentations will be held on Friday April 21st from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. in Shelby 1015. We encourage any free students, faculty, and staff to come and see our seniors present.

Schedule:
- Tamara Iman 10:00-10:15
- Mary-Elizabeth 10:20-10:35
- Emily Montoya 10:40-10:55
- Sullivan Hanback 11:00-11:15
- Piyush Borse 11:20-11:35
- Arthi Reddy 11:40-11:55
- Ellen Grappe 3:00-3:15
- Anisha Das 3:20-3:35
- Emilee Brodie 3:40-3:55
- Michelle Nguyen 4:00-4:15
- Aaron Cheng 4:20-4:35
- Celeste Fong 4:40-4:55

The Division of Student Affairs invites the UAB community to join us for a memorial gathering as we will remember the students, faculty and staff we have lost this past year. During this time, we will honor the memory of UNP student Molly Wilson. We hope you can join us. The event will take place on Friday, April 21 at 12 noon in the Blazer Hall RLC.

Student Groups
Undergraduate Neuroscience Society

UNS Outreach

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

Need to write that perfect cover letter or personal statement for your application to graduate school, professional school, or job application? Dr. Gavin, Co-Director of the Undergraduate Neuroscience Program and Co-Director of the UAB Postbaccalaureate Research Education Program will lead a more tailored personal statements/cover letter workshop on Thursday April 20th at 6pm in HHB 524 to meet the interests of the diverse UAB Honors College! RSVP and suggest what you want to cover at this link and check out the event on Facebook.

Paid Summer Research Opportunity in the TRIP Lab. Students will conduct research on driving behaviors and translational injury prevention under the mentorship of Dr. Despina Stavrinos. See attached flyer for eligibility and other details.

Data Management Project: The Meador-Woodruff Lab is looking for a student to develop and implement information management tools for use in a neuroscience research lab. The student will have the opportunity to participate in the creation of a database from the ground up and will apply skills learned in computer science and information technology courses to a practical biomedical research application. The ideal candidate will be a motivated self-starter who is able to effectively communicate with both technology experts and end users. Completion of CS103 (or the equivalent) and general knowledge of Python or R programming languages is preferred. Hours are negotiable. Interested students should email their resume and a brief career statement describing their academic and professional goals to Toni Mueller, PhD.

Artists: The Meador-Woodruff Lab is looking for artistic students to create visually appealing and scientifically accurate diagrams, models, and/or animations of cell biological processes and molecular interactions. Enrollment in or successful completion of BY123 (or equivalent) is required. This is an ideal position for students interested in a career in biomedical illustration/animation. A variety of projects are available based on student interest and experience; some projects will provide training on the use of VMD molecular modeling software. All works produced will be appropriately credited to the artist and may be included in scientific publications or presented at national or international research conferences. Interested
students should email Toni Mueller, PhD for additional information about available projects or to schedule an in-person interview.

**Upcoming Events**

Next Thursday! Neuroscience Café – Homewood Public Library. April 27th from 6:30 – 7:30. Dr. James Houston and Blake Feltman will present *Concussion in Football: What we Know and What we are Doing About It.*

**Research Opportunities**

The Meador-Woodruff Lab is looking for a student to assist with studies investigating molecular features of schizophrenia patient brain. The student will work closely with postdoctoral researchers and research associates and will learn to measure gene and protein expression levels as well as perform assessments of glycoprotein carbohydrate composition. This position will provide experience in postmortem human brain research and the motivated student will have opportunities to present their findings and contribute to research publications. Hours are negotiable. The ideal candidate should be available to work for at least 1-2 years and have interest in pursuing a biomedical career in research or medicine. Interested students should email their resume and a brief research interest statement to Toni Mueller, PhD.

Dr. Karen Cropsey, Psy.D, Department of Psychiatry, is seeking an undergraduate research assistant for credit. Go here to view her faculty information, and here to view recent coverage of the lab’s exciting work! Her research lab focuses on substance abuse projects working with criminal justice and other disenfranchised clients. Ongoing NIH and other projects include studies using combination pharmacotherapy and behavioral therapy for the treatment of tobacco use in a criminal justice population, as well as training on recognizing the signs of opioid overdose to administer naloxone. They have a new project that will use computerized brief interventions and an algorithm as a decision aid for providers to treat alcohol use disorders among person living with HIV engaged in treatment for their HIV. The student volunteer would spend their time recruiting for studies, conducting consent and assessments, and data entry. Interested students should email a copy of their CV, completed courses, fall schedule, and a few sentences about why the research interests them to Dr. Cropsey.

Dr. Pariya Fazeli Wheeler is seeking highly motivated research assistants interested in assisting with neuropsychological assessment for a study examining successful aging in individuals with and without HIV. The study goes through May 2019, and it is desired that the student can commit to assist for at least 1 year with the possibility of 2 years. The position requires dedicating around 10 hours a week to involvement with the study but the schedule can be flexible and we will work around school deadlines, etc. In addition to testing, assistants may be involved with other duties such a data entry and literature reviews. All interested applicants
should send their CV, list of completed courses, a semester schedule, and a few sentence statement of anticipated plans/goals after graduation to Dr. Wheeler.

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 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.

**Senior Spotlight**

Double dose of awesome! Seniors **Kristina Fong and Anisha Das** are featured as this weeks’ Senior Spotlight(s). Click on their names to read about Kristina’s and Anisha’s time in the UNP.

**Acknowledgements**

Congratulations to the six students selected for this year’s **Honors Neuroscience Summer Research Academy**: Josh Purvis (Taub lab), Kaval Patel (Cowell lab), Sid Chandra (West Lab), Marie Michenkova (Bevensee lab), Caroline Spigner (Trost lab), and James Sexton (Hendricks lab).

Congratulations to Samantha Thompson (Roberson lab) and JaVarus Humphries (Stavrinos lab) for being selected to participate in the Genentech Summer Research Program.

Please join me in congratulating the **UNP students selected to be on the Honors College Leadership Council** for 2017-2018:

- Secretary: **Nadia Anabtawi**
- Social Chair: **Ala'a Abu-Spetani**
- Professional Development Chair: **Tina Tian**
- Communications Co-Chair/Representatives: **Sidhanth Chandra**
- STH: **Anna Siddiq**
- UHP: **Anna Siddiq**
- At-Large Representatives: **Aubrey Johnson**
- Shreya Malhotra

**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.