**Program Information**

**MANDATORY** senior informational meeting to cover graduation requirements for the major. Next and final meeting is **Sunday November 6th at 6pm** in HHB 524. Email Dr. Gavin directly if you are unable to attend either.

LAST CHANCE to receive a pre-registration override for NBL 398 Research Credit for Spring 2017. Go to the link below to fill out their research information.
https://goo.gl/forms/cboQx5ulPpR7UfCs1

**PY 201 with Dr. Boggiano** will be offered this spring! CRN for the course is 40734.

There will be **2 additional information sessions** (due to popular demand!) for Research Biomedicalology for Animal scientists taught under BY/PY 398 on Tuesday Nov. 1st between 1:00-3:00 in CH152 and Tuesday Nov. 8th between 1:00-3:00 in CH152. Students are not required to stay the entire time, just drop in! Course description:

This hands-on two-credit lab course is designed to instruct students on basic research methodology, animal handling techniques and compound administration. This course will allow students to gain firsthand experience with rodents (rats, mice) while learning the basics of injections, blood collection, breeding and animal care requirements. Each student will complete online animal care and use training as set forth by the UAB Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). Upon completion of this course students will have completed all online and Occupational health and Safety (OH&S) requirements in order to enter research labs utilizing animals and be placed onto a research protocol. This course is designed to prepare students to start in a research lab with the knowledge and training to make them successful animal researchers.

**Upper level elective courses for Spring 2017 for Neuroscience Majors:**

- **NBL 433** – Diseases of the Nervous System
- **PY 431** – Dynamics of Pain
- **PY 463** – Cognitive Neuroscience
- **PY 472** – Social Psychophysiology
- **VIS 456 – Visual Neuroscience**
- **New course** **NBL 454 – The Body Electric: Electronics for Biologists**

Courses of note (recommended but not required) for all Neuroscience students (major or minor):

- **NBL 225** – No Self Control: Motivation, Reward and Addiction. 3 credits.
  **MWF 10:10 am-11:00 am**, **Robin Lester**
  Survival of self and species has been evolutionarily wired into the brain. Largely, involving sub-cortical networks, animals are strongly rewarded by beneficial outcomes and driven away from aversive situations. Overseeing these opposing subconscious determinants of motivated behavior is a pre-frontal cortical command center, which along with additional systems that provide for experiential memory and emotional significance, guide the choices we make. This course will provide the participant with an introduction to the neuronal pathways that underlie normal decision making, with a major focus on how this circuitry becomes compromised during addiction. These topics should be relevant to students interested in biomedicine, health professions or counseling.

- **New Course** **NBL 327** – 100 Things You’ve Always Wanted to Know About the Brain.
  **3 credits. W 5-7:30 pm**, **Robin Lester**
  This course examines intriguing questions in neuroscience as they are presented to the layperson through TED Talks, video presentations, podcasts, Scientific American articles, and newspaper/magazine science op-eds. The aim is to expose students to a wide range of topics about the brain, some fundamental, some controversial, in ways they may not have thought about before; challenging them to discuss the evidence for and against various theories of brain function. There will be no memorization of information, only the willingness to read, post and discuss scientific opinions on articles/videos. Non majors are encouraged!

- **New Section for SciTech Research Approaches** **NBL 240/STH 201** – Introduction to Neuroscience Methods. 3 credits. **MW 3:45-5:45. Scott Wilson and Cristin Gavin**
  This course is designed to develop practical, experience-based laboratory skills in undergraduate student researchers with minimal prior laboratory exposure. Any student that completes this course should have the rudimentary skills (and confidence!) to begin supervised research in primary laboratories around campus. Course will cover techniques ranging from the biomolecular to behavioral and everything in between.

Want a chance to flex your creativity? Wish you had better inside resources as a fledgling student? We are excited to announce the creation of a [UNP student blog](#) to allow current Neuroscience students a platform to talk about the things that matter most to them! Email uabneuroblog@gmail.com if you are interested in writing for the blog, or to suggest ideas and topics that you would like to see covered. First post coming soon!

**Student Groups**
Camions of Care at UAB is hosting a donation drive for feminine hygiene products such as: tampons, pads, pantyliners, and toilet paper. The donation drive boxes have been placed in all of the residence halls on campus (Denman, New Freshman Dorm, Blount, Rast, Camp, and Blazer Hall). Please consider donating whole boxes of products or individual items! For individual donations please put it in ziplock/plastic bag for sanitary purposes. These donations will be used to make care packages for women who struggle to afford these essential items every month. Camions of Care will make and distribute these care packages to local women's shelters and community centers in the Birmingham area. The organization is also selling t-shirts for $15 if you would like to support the initiative in other ways. Go here to purchase. When you purchase the official UAB chapter shirts for the year, be sure to sign up in the link below with your name and shirt size. All proceeds go towards making more care packages.

**Student Opportunities**

Read more about SysNeuro: A Summer study abroad program for undergraduates in systems neuroscience, computational neuroscience, neurodynamics. This program is a study abroad school established in 2003, featuring a unique combination of academic excellence and rich cultural traditions. It was established as an undergraduate program for US and other foreign students offering a study abroad semester in the cognitive sciences in the summer semester. Program dates for 2017 are June 12th - Aug 5th, 2016. Application deadline is MARCH 15, 2017

The Neuroscience Study Abroad Program in Salamanca Spain, sponsored by the University of Connecticut, the University of Salamanca, Johns Hopkins, and Purdue Universities offers neuroscience courses in English for undergrad and graduate students. This unique program provides exposure to neuroscience and research at an international level while helping pre-med, neuroscience, engineering, and audiology students become familiar with Spain, its language, and culture. A short visit to Prague in the Czech Republic teaches neuroscience lab methods. Applications are due: March 15, 2017. Apply here (through UConn’s study away office).

Babysitters wanted! Please email Dr. Gavin your name, phone number, and regular availability to be included in a local child care providers list for young professionals in the Birmingham area. Students should be responsible, reliable, and have their own transportation. Pay from $12 to $25 dollars an hour.

**Research Opportunities**

Dr. Victor Mark, MD, Department of Physical Medicine is actively seeking an undergraduate research assistant for credit. Go here to view his faculty information and here to view recent news from his lab. He has a position open on a project to evaluate hospitalized stroke patients for whether their self-reports of use by the weaker hand is related by several simple assessments of motor tests (strength, speed, smoothness of reaching, dexterity), and whether the MRI assessment of stroke extent or location is related to the difference between use vs. hand motor test results. This project already is approved by the Institutional Review Board. After a week period of training by our Constraint-Induced Movement Therapy research laboratory under Dr. Edward Taub, a motivated student would be ready for conducting the clinical neurological evaluations at the bedside. The position is available immediately. 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. Mark.

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. Edward Taub, PhD, Department of Psychology is seeking an undergraduate research assistant for credit. Go here to view his faculty information. He has an opening on a project working with a patient with Tetraplegia. Trainees will learn EMG biofeedback and shaping procedures using Constraint Induced Movement Therapy. Dr. Taub is only looking for highly motivated students that can make a significant contribution to the lab. 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. Taub.

Dr. Bulent Turan, Department of Psychology is seeking an undergraduate research assistant for credit. Dr. Turan is a social psychologist (and formidable tennis player) who researches the effects of negative social evaluations on biological markers of health and stress. Go here to view his faculty information. The research involves music performance anxiety and includes the collection of saliva for cortisol and other hormone assays. 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. Turan.

**Upcoming Events**

**TONIGHT! October Neuroscience Café – Thursday, October 27th at 6:30 p.m. at the Homewood Public Library.** Drs. Robert Sorge and Burel Goodin will be giving a talk entitled “Understanding Chronic Pain: Promising Treatments and Novel Mechanisms”. Come support your UNP faculty and research mentors!

**Acknowledgements**

Congratulations to Isabella Mak for winning the Ms. UAB 2016 Scholarship Competition! The winners of the Mr. and Ms. UAB competition each receive a $2,500 scholarship and serve as ambassadors of UAB in the coming year. We are so proud of you Isabella! This is the competition’s 35th year.
We would like to thank all of the volunteers that came out to support the Research Civitan Club Art of Giving charity art auction last week. We could not have done it without you!

Neurobiology faculty Dr. Jeremy Day was featured alongside two undergraduate Neuroscience researchers in his lab, Guan-En Graham and Jasmin Revanna, in UAB Magazine. Way to represent UAB Neuroscience! Work from the Day lab will also be featured in the Council for Undergraduate Research Quarterly Highlights in the winter edition. Work by UNP senior Richard Trieu will also be featured!

Jasmin Revanna, a sophomore Neuroscience major in the University Honors Program was awarded First Place in the national student poster competition in the Natural Sciences and Mathematics category at last week’s 51st annual conference of the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) in Seattle. The competition was judged by honors faculty, directors, and deans from across the US and Europe. Jasmin’s poster was titled “Extra-Coding RNAs Regulate DNA Methylation in Neuronal Systems”. Her mentor is Dr. Jeremy Day (Department of Neurobiology). Congratulations to you both!

Like and follow the UNP on Facebook for more 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.