FRESHMAN RESEARCH ORIENTATION for Dr. Gavin’s advisees (and anyone that joined the major AFTER the beginning of the Fall 2016 semester) will be on Friday, December 2nd, from 5pm to 6pm in Shelby 1015. Please arrive 15 minutes early for sign in and materials. Contact Dr. Gavin directly if you are unable to attend.

We are now accepting nominations for Dean’s Outstanding Student Awards. Award recipients must be a senior in good standing with the program. Students may self-nominate and nominate other deserving students. Mentors, you are encouraged to nominate as well. Please email Dr. Gavin the names of any students that you believe should be considered for this award. Deadline for nominations is Friday, December 2nd.

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!

UNDERGRADUATE NEUROSCIENCE SOCIETY

The second Fall workshop in the UNS Fall Professional Development Series will be held on November 28th from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in HHB 524. The presentation, The Interview Process for Medical and Graduate Schools, will be given by Nancy Abney of the Graduate School Professional Development Program. This talk is highly recommended for anyone who wants to attend post-secondary education, and Ms. Abney is an expert! Dinner will be provided with RSVP, go here to register for the event.

STUDENT GROUPS

Calling all female Neuroscience majors! Women in STEM, a group dedicated to the professional development of undergraduate women in STEM majors, is accepting more students! Joining this network as undergraduate will pair you with a graduate or professional school mentor to provide an excellent opportunity to learn about your future. It is true that bias against women exists in STEM fields. Knowing that, how do you prepare? Well, the same way you prepare to be competitive in every other aspect of your life: educate yourself, plan, and be
prepared to compete at the highest possible level. Women in STEM will seek to educate students about the unique challenges facing women in the STEM workforce and provide them with skills to manage these challenges. If you are interested in joining this mentoring and professional development network, please fill out this form! If you have questions or want more information, please contact Dr. King (gdking@uab.edu) or Mugdha Mokashi (mmokashi@uab.edu). The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 30th at 5pm in LRC 210A.

**Student Opportunities**

The UAB Honors College is facilitating a trip to NCUR, the annual conference for the Council on Undergraduate Research this spring. NCUR is a great opportunity for students to present their work in a variety of formats (and it counts for your program presentation requirement!) NCUR encourages submissions in all fields of study including art and media studies, biochemistry, cell and molecular biology, chemistry, engineering, health sciences and public health, literature, music performance, NEUROSCIENCE, physics, political science, sustainability, and more. The upcoming conference is in Memphis, Tennessee, April 6-8, 2017, and the deadline for abstract submission is December 2. The UNP will be offering several travel awards for students that attend the conference. If you are interested in applying for a travel award, please go here to fill out information.

The University of California, Berkeley is pleased to announce the 2017 Amgen Scholars Summer Research Program. This national program provides participants with the opportunity to conduct cutting-edge research with a faculty member and his/her research team, communicate their project findings in poster and oral presentations, prepare for graduate school and the GRE, learn about scientific writing, network with faculty, community building with their peers through various social activities and receive a stipend, housing, meal allowance, and transportation to and from the Berkeley campus. Program dates are May 29-August 4, 2017 and the application deadline is Wednesday, February 1, 2017. Go here to apply.

Save the date: the 6th Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium at the University of West Alabama, College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics will be held on March 7th, 2016. Free dorm housing and free registration are available for student presenters. Abstract deadline is February 14th, 2017.

**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 Tetrapalegia. 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

**Hoover - October Neuroscience Café** – Monday November 28th at 6:30 p.m. at the Hoover Public Library. Graduate Dean Lori McMahon, PhD and Obstetrics & Gynecology Fellow Dr. Emily Goulet, MD, will be giving a talk entitled “Your Brain on Estrogen”. Come support your UNP faculty and research mentors!

## Acknowledgements

Junior **Mugdha Mokashi** has been selected by the Office of Student Involvement and Leadership as a 2016 – 2017 Dr. Aaron Lamar Jr. Scholarship recipient. The Dr. Aaron Lamar Jr. Scholarship was established in an effort to honor Dr. Aaron Lamar Jr., who served as the Associate Vice President / Dean of Students at UAB for
over 25 years. Dr. Lamar truly valued the total development of students through their involvement in co-curricular and community activities. He also valued the diversity of the collegiate environment, and believes that it is an integral part of the education process. Congratulations Mugdha, we are proud of your commitment to developing the UAB student community!

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.