**Program Information**

**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.

**Student Groups**

**Undergraduate Neuroscience Society**
Reminder: The incoming and outgoing UNS leadership will meet on Monday, April 10th at 5:30 in CH 237.

**UNS officers for 2017-2018 are as follows:**
- President: **Rahul Gaini**
- Vice President: **Cody Savage**
- Service and Outreach Coordinator: **Nisha Palanisamy**
- Lecture and Workshop Coordinator: **Sam Castillo**
- Tutoring and Mentoring Coordinator: **Samantha Thompson**
- Treasurer: **Sameera Grandhi**
- Secretary: **Baraa Hijaz**

Congratulations!

**UNS April 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 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.

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.

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.

Upcoming Events

TODAY at 7pm - The UHP’s (final) First Thursday Lecture will feature one of the world’s leading experts on xenotransplantation! Join us to hear a lecture by David C. Cooper, MD, PhD, FRCS, Co-Director of the Xenotransplantation Program in UAB’s Department of Surgery, Frankenswine or bringing home the bacon: How close are we to clinical trials of xenotransplantation? Lecture is free and open to the public!

Neuroscience Café – Mountain Brook. April 13th from 6:30 – 7:30. Dr. Rajesh Kana and Dr. Justin Schwartz will present Autism: From Behavior to Brain.

Research Opportunities

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 as 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**

Senior Hriday Bhambhvani is featured as this week’s Senior Spotlight. Go here to read about Hriday’s time in the Neuroscience program!

**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) for winning Best Overall Poster at the University of Alabama System Honors Research Day.

The following UNP students were recognized at last week’s 5th Annual UAB Fellowships Luncheon:

- **International Fellowships**
  - Emily Jennings - Fulbright Scholarship (Study, Netherlands)
  - Hriday Bhambhvani - Gates Cambridge Scholarship Finalist
  - Hriday Bhambhvani - Fulbright Scholarship Alternate (Research, Germany)
  - Anisha Das - Fulbright Scholarship Semi-Finalist (ETA, India)

- **Science & Research Fellowships**
  - Benjamin Boros - Goldwater Scholarship
  - Remy Meir - Goldwater Scholarship
  - Jasmin Revanna - Amgen Scholars Program (Caltech)
**Niharika Loomba** - Amgen Scholars Program (Stanford)

**Cody Savage** - Amgen Scholars Program (Wash U, St. Louis)

**Selective Summer Research Programs**

**Stacey Niver** - National Science Foundation REU (Nebraska-Lincoln)

**Tina Tian** - National Science Foundation REU (Kenyon College)

Congratulations to you all!

UNP Mentor Dr. Farah Lubin was featured in the UAB Reporter for her outstanding mentorship. [Read more here](#)

UNP mentors Adrienne Lahti, M.D. and Nina Kraguljac, M.D. were awarded the 2017 Kempf Fund Award for Research Development in Psychobiological Psychiatry by the American Psychiatric Association. Congratulations!

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.