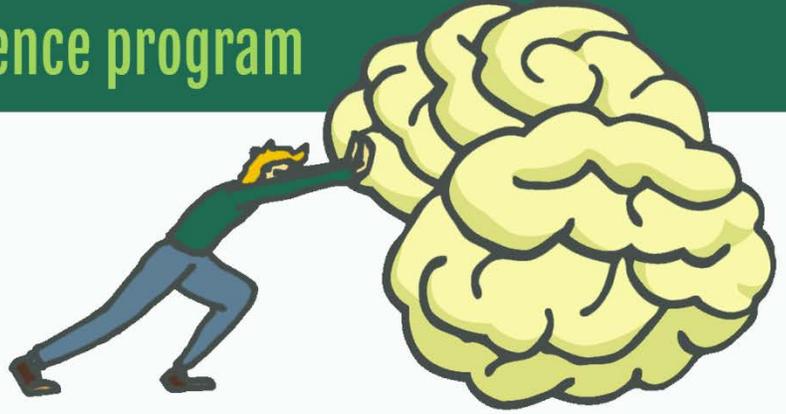


undergraduate neuroscience program

information digest 9.1.16



PROGRAM INFORMATION

Message from the UNP Director, Dr. Scott Wilson

Dear UNP students,

Welcome back to campus for the 2016-17 school year. I hope that all of you had an enjoyable summer and are looking forward to the fall semester. We have recruited another fantastic freshman class, and I encourage all of our returning students to reach out to our new students and assist them during this transition period.



The next few years will surely be exciting for everyone in the UNP, as we will be adding several new academic and research training opportunities to our program. With our outstanding student body and world-renown neuroscience faculty, I look forward to developing the UNP into the top undergraduate neuroscience program in the country. Thank you for being part of the UNP. I wish you all a fantastic semester.

Dr. Scott Wilson

Director, Undergraduate Neuroscience Program

You are invited to attend the **Undergraduate Neuroscience Program meeting on Wednesday, September 7th at 6pm in Heritage Hall 106**. In addition to welcoming our incoming freshman class, we will also have important program announcements and special speakers to inform you of opportunities for Neuroscience student across campus (also: pizza). [Please go here to RSVP](#). We look forward to seeing you!

Students are encouraged to review the **2016-2017 Undergraduate Neuroscience Program Student Handbook**, [available here](#) (and on the Canvas site). This book is designed to provide information for our students in a centralized location to help you best navigate your undergraduate experience.

ALL UNP Freshmen are required to attend the Office of Undergraduate Research's [Fall 2016 Undergraduate Research Workshop Series "A Map for Success"](#). Space is limited so [RSVP to Gareth Jones](#) ASAP. The first workshop is Wednesday September 7th at 12pm in HSC room 203. Lunch provided with RSVP, flyer attached.

UNDERGRADUATE NEUROSCIENCE SOCIETY

Freshmen are strongly encouraged to join the **Undergraduate Neuroscience Society**. The UNS is a student operated organization dedicated to serving and representing the members of UAB's Undergraduate Neuroscience Program, as well as promoting interest in the neurosciences within the larger UAB community. More information about how to join can be found on the **UNP website, here** or in the UNP student handbook.

The UNS is currently in need of **student mentors for incoming freshman**. As a student mentor, your responsibilities are simply to be available to answer questions and offer advice to your mentees when needed. Mentors would also be expected to reach out to their mentees at least once each month during the semester. If interested in becoming a student mentor, or if you have any questions about the position, **email Cody Savage**, UNS Mentoring and Tutoring Coordinator.

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

Equal Access Birmingham (EAB), is a free health clinic, run by UAB medical students, and **we are looking for undergraduate volunteers**. We have a dual mission of serving the uninsured and underinsured of Birmingham and providing meaningful service learning opportunities for students. We are housed in Church of the Reconciler (112 14th St N), and are open twice a week. We have a chronic care clinic Sundays 1-5pm, and an acute care clinic Wednesdays, 5-7pm. This is a great opportunity to serve the underserved in Birmingham, work closely with medical students, and gain some clinical experience. Volunteers should fill out the attached application and submit it to **equalaccess@uab.edu** by **THIS Friday, September 2nd at 5:00pm**. We will choose a cohort of 15-20 student volunteers and let you know about our decision by Tuesday, September 6th.

Women in STEM, a group dedicated to the professional development of undergraduate women in STEM majors, is starting this fall and we need you! It is true that bias against women exists. 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 either participating in Women in STEM as a group member or helping develop the group's goals, please **plan to meet September 12, 2016, Hill Center 206/204 at 12:30pm**. If you have questions, can't make the meeting but want more information, or need have questions, please contact Dr. King (**gdking@uab.edu**) or Mugdha Mokashi (**mmokashi@uab.edu**).

The UAB Research Civitan Club will be holding their annual charity art auction, **The Art of Giving**, on October 20th, 2016 from 6-9 PM at the Civitan International Research Center (CIRC) here on campus. All proceeds from the event will go to benefit local charity **Mitchell's Place**. There will be heavy hors d'oeuvres, live music, and great art up for auction! If you would like to submit artwork for donation, **please go here**. In addition to artwork, we also need many student volunteers in order for the event to succeed. Please **go here to sign up to volunteer**. Support our local neuroscience initiative to give back to the community! Official event flyer attached.

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

Dr. Victor Mark, MD, Department of Physical Medicine is actively seeking undergraduate research assistants for credit. Go here to view his **faculty information** and here to view **recent news** from his lab. He has positions open on a project to evaluate the organization and integration of simultaneous eye and hand movements during visuomanual

search in visually complex environments, in both healthy adult subjects and following brain illness, and the relationship of such quantified patterns to neurological recovery. 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. Mark**.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Honors College presents the **2016 Science Fiction Book Club**. First meeting is **this Wednesday, 8.31.16, 6pm, HHB 549**. Think science fiction is just robots and outer space? Think again. Join Drs. Cristin Gavin and Michelle Cook for a non-traditional, thought-provoking, multi-media science fiction book club experience. By proposing alternative realities, futures, and biological impossibilities, the genre of science fiction pushes us to ask deep questions that we ordinarily wouldn't ask ourselves... Is this our best world? What does it mean to be human? Is it more important to be right or just? Does what we do today actually matter? Come find out how the implausible, the impossible, and the downright bizarre can challenge you to see your world differently! **Go here to RSVP**

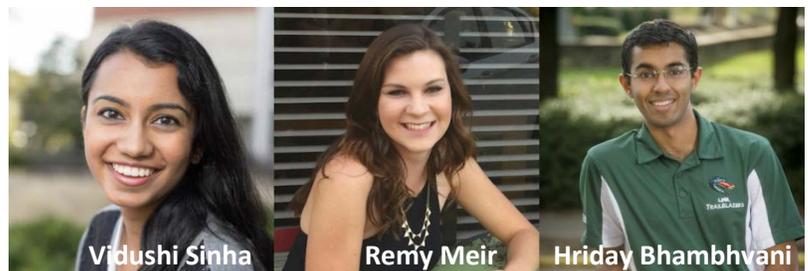
Research -MD, DO, PhD, or MD/PhD? This professional development series aims to answer that question! Acclaimed researchers at UAB will be describing their experience with research from the perspectives of an MD, DO, PhD, and MD/PhD. From the pros and cons of pursuing these different degrees, to why research fascinates their inner being, this professional development series offers a unique opportunity for undergraduate students to ask the necessary questions to clarify their futures in research. Dr. Shacka, PhD, is an assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology. The Shacka lab is actively investigating how the autophagy-lysosome pathway (ALP), an important degradation and recycling pathway for all cells, is disrupted in pre-clinical models of Parkinson's disease (PD) and HIV-Associated Neurocognitive Disorders (HAND); how ALP disruption may contribute to disease pathogenesis; and how they can target the ALP for both therapeutics development and novel biomarker discovery.

Dinner will be provided and all talks will be held in HHB524. The first talk will be this Wednesday, August 31st 6-7PM - Dr. Shacka, PhD – **go here to RSVP!**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Congratulations to our newly elected **UNP Class Representatives!**

Undergraduate Neuroscience Program class representatives, from left: **Vidushi Sinha**, sophomore class; **Remy Meir**, junior class; and **Hriday Bhambhani**, senior class.



Students voted for one student from each class to serve in the role of representative. They were encouraged to select students that were reliable, approachable, assertive, fair, and most importantly, good listeners and effective communicators. Elected representatives will work with program leadership to help make the Neuroscience program the best it can be, and serve as a valued student voice in program development. **Current Neuroscience students are encouraged to contact their representatives with any topics they would like to see addressed in the coming school year.**

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.