



Civitan International Research Center

September 2016

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Civitan Art Show
October 20, 2016
- Emerging Scholars
November 3, 2016

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Alan Percy, MD
Interim Director

Lucas Pozzo-Miller, PhD
Scientific Co-director

Rita Cowell, PhD
Director
Communications and
Outreach

Vicki Hixon, BS
Managing Director



Ribbon Cutting

With a new state-of-the-art full-body magnetic resonance imaging scanner, the University of Alabama at Birmingham opened the Civitan International Neuroimaging Laboratory in UAB Highlands Hospital. The facility is supported by Civitan International, an organization of volunteer service clubs around the world, dedicated to helping people in their own communities.

Investment in the lab includes \$3 million for the 3T MRI, the fastest scanner for human use, along with \$1 million for renovation of the space. The lab has 5,000 square feet of space to support advanced MRI research and clinical MRI imaging.

The lab officially opened during a ceremony at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, March 3, 2016 at the lab on the first floor of UAB Highlands.

The lab's imaging equipment will be used for both research purposes and patient care in conditions such as autism, dementia, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, schizophrenia, macular degeneration, spinal cord injury, glioma, ALS and traumatic brain injury.

Bob Shepard, Media Relations

New Interim Directors

April 2016



Alan Percy, M.D.



Lucas Pozzo-Miller, Ph.D.

We are pleased to announce that Alan K. Percy, M.D., will serve as interim director of the Civitan International Research Center (CIRC) along with Lucas Pozzo-Miller, Ph.D., who will serve as interim scientific co-director. Dr. Percy is recognized nationally and internationally for his achievements in the clinical aspects of neurodevelopmental and related disorders, while Dr. Pozzo-Miller is an accomplished researcher in the basic and translational sciences of autism and intellectual disabilities. Both have extensive expertise in the study of Rett syndrome.

Please join us in congratulating Alan and Lucas on these appointments.

**Richard B. Marchase | Vice President for Research and Economic
Development
UAB | The University of Alabama at Birmingham**

**Selwyn M. Vickers, M.D., F.A.C.S.
James C. Lee, Jr. Endowed Chair
Professor of Surgery
Senior Vice President for Medicine
Dean, School of Medicine**

CIVITAN INTERNATIONAL NEURODEVELOPMENT SYMPOSIUM



The Civitan International Simpson-Ramsey Neurodevelopment Symposium was held April 21 - 22, 2016 at the UAB Alumni House. The event featured keynote speakers along with UAB researchers, all of whom shared data about their on-going work.

Over 125 registered guests enjoyed the two day event along with a poster session at the Abroms-Engel Institute for the Visual Art (AEIVA). Student speakers and posters were judged and awards presented accordingly.

Winners were Rhiana Simon (Jeremy Day lab), Mary Phillips (Lucas Pozzo-Miller lab), Abbey Herringshaw (Rajesh Kana lab), Jamie Holloway (Fred Biasini lab), Rebecca Donnelly (Rajesh Kana lab), David Figge (David Standaert lab), Emma Sartin (Rajesh Kana lab), Haley Johnson Bishop (Despina Stavrinou lab).



Civitan International Convention

Norfolk, VA

July 2016

Dr. Alan Percy spoke at the Civitan International Convention in Norfolk, VA in July. Showing the newly released Civitan Research Center video, Dr. Percy shared his vision for the future. The video featured some of the leading researchers as they gave a brief overview of their ongoing research.

The video was produced by Jim Willett, a long-standing member of the Civitan. Special thanks to Jim for all his work in making the video possible. The video can be ordered for \$10 by contacting Vicki Hixon at: vhixon@uab.edu.



PUBLICATION



Discovery may lead to a treatment to slow Parkinson's disease

Researchers have found that an interaction between a mutant gene and alpha synuclein in neurons leads to hallmark pathologies seen in Parkinson's disease, findings that may lead to new mechanisms and targets for neuroprotection.

Using a robust model for Parkinson's disease, University of Alabama at Birmingham researchers and colleagues have discovered an interaction in neurons that contributes to Parkinson's disease, and they have shown that drugs now under development may block the process.

The research team has shown that the most common genetic cause of Parkinson's disease contributes to the formation of inclusions in neurons, resembling one of the hallmark pathologies seen in Parkinson's disease. These inclusions are made up of aggregated alpha synuclein protein, which — the research also shows — can be prevented from forming by using two drugs now being developed for clinical use.

The potential clinical applications for novel neuroprotection strategies need to be tested in other preclinical models of Parkinson's disease, say the researchers, led by corresponding author Laura A. Volpicelli-Daley, Ph.D., and senior author Andrew B. West, Ph.D., Center for Neurodegeneration and Experimental Therapeutics, UAB Department of Neurology.

For the complete story by Jeff Hansen go to: <https://www.uab.edu/medicine/circ/news/135-discovery-may-lead-to-a-treatment-to-slow-parkinson-s-disease>

Upcoming Events

RESEARCH CIVITAN CLUB PRESENTS

2016

The ART Of Giving

CHARITY ART AUCTION

THURS - OCTOBER 20TH, 2016

6th Annual Event

- HORS D'OEUVRES
- LIVE MUSIC
- SOCIAL HOUR
6PM - 7PM
- SILENT AUCTION
7PM - 9PM

- Admission -
\$15.00

Online Ticket Purchase
www.eventbrite.com/e/research-civitan-club-annual-art-auction-tickets

Free Parking
with Stamped Ticket in
Spain Rehabilitation Center

- Location -
UAB Civitan International Research Center

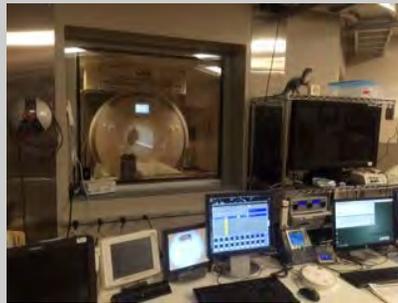
Web: rccartshow.com

1719 6th Avenue South
Birmingham, Alabama 35294

Visit our website:

<http://researchcivitan.org>

Tours





JOHN'S CITY DINER



What is SciCafe?

McWane Science Center and the Research Civitan Club of UAB are joining forces to bring you the new and improved BIRMINGHAM SCI CAFE. Join other science geeks (and science novices) for an exciting presentation, lively discussion and a little science trivia at John's City Diner every third Tuesday of the month. For more details visit www.mcwane.org.

SCIENCE TOPICS

AUG 16

Dazzling Diamonds

Diamonds are forever but they can also save your life, having several medical applications due to its unique properties

Aaron Catledge PhD
University of Alabama
at Birmingham,
Physics Department

SEPT 20

Should We Engineer the Mosquito?

Join this community forum on the development and use of genetically-enhanced mosquitoes.

OCT 18

Zombie Neuroscience

Using scientific portrayals from Hollywood, can we determine what causes a zombie to act like a zombie? Take a look at how neuroscience can be applied to the walking dead.

Matt Defenderfer,
University of Alabama
at Birmingham,
Department of Neurobiology

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE MCWANE SCIENCE CENTER AND THE RESEARCH CIVITAN CLUB