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# Civitan International Research Center

Spring 2018

New Civitan International Research Center Director  
Craig Powell, M.D., Ph.D.



Craig Powell, M.D., Ph.D., has been named chair of the Department of Neurobiology at the UAB School of Medicine as well as director of the Civitan International Research Center. Powell is a national leader in research pertaining to molecular mechanisms of learning and memory, synaptic plasticity, and neuropsychiatric disorders such as autism, intellectual disability, and Alzheimer's.

Powell comes to UAB from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center's Department of Neurology and Neurotherapeutics, where he is the Ed and Sue Rose Distinguished Professor in Neurology as well as director of Preclinical Research in Neurology and chief of Developmental Brain Disorders Section in Neurology.

"Dr. Powell is the ideal person for this significant leadership role," said Selwyn M. Vickers, M.D., FACS, senior vice president for medicine and dean of the School of Medicine. "His extensive research and laboratory experience will be vital in helping guide the pursuit of new discoveries and future treatments for individuals who are suffering from neuropsychiatric disorders. He is an outstanding addition to the UAB team as well as the Birmingham community."

Dr. Powell will be moving to UAB during the next few months and officially begin this fall.

# 2018 Simpson-Ramsey Symposium Autism and Related Disorders

Hill Center Alumni Theater

April 19, 2018

8:30 am – 3:30 pm

## Featured Speakers

### **Assessment in Rett Syndrome and Related Disorders**

Sarika Peters, PhD

Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics, Vanderbilt  
University Medical Center and  
Vanderbilt Kennedy Center for Research on Human  
Development

### **The Role of Language in ASD Diagnosis and Intervention**

Angela Barber, PhD, CCC-SLP

Associate Professor and Chair,  
Department of Communicative Disorders  
University of Alabama

### **The College Transition for Students with an Autism Spectrum Disorder**

Sarah Ryan, PhD

Clinical Psychologist, Civitan/Sparks Clinics  
University of Alabama at Birmingham  
Former Director, UA-ACTS  
University of Alabama

### **Viewing ASD Through a Public Health Lens**

Anne Brisendine, DrPH

Postdoctoral Fellow, Civitan/Sparks Clinics  
Assistant Director, UAB Regional Autism Network  
University of Alabama at Birmingham

Register via email to [rburkett@uab.edu](mailto:rburkett@uab.edu)

Lunch provided for first 100 registrants

CE/CEU credit may be available for some disciplines

Alabama  
Maternal and  
Child Health  
LEADERSHIP NETWORK

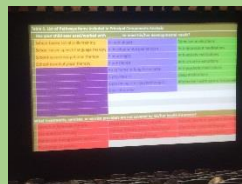
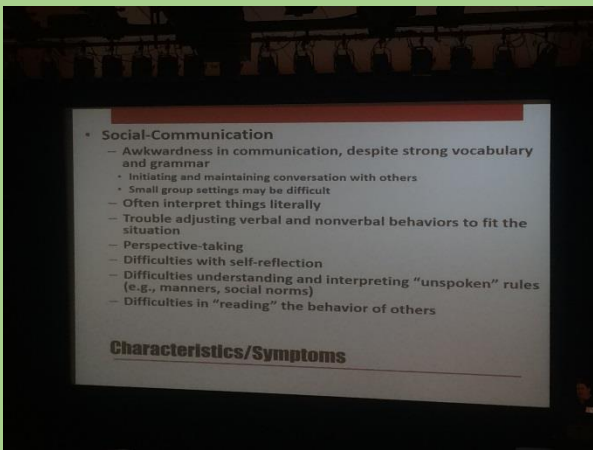


UAB  
THE UNIVERSITY OF  
ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM  
ASU  
ALABAMA STATE  
UNIVERSITY

# 2018 Symposium Highlights



Special thanks to  
Robin Burkett and Daphne Arnold  
for organizing the event!!!!



# RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

Videos:

<https://www.uab.edu/medicine/circ/news/299-simpson-ramsey-symposium-18>

<https://www.uab.edu/medicine/circ/news/294-rett-syndrome-2>

## Day's Work Featured in the State of the School Address

The State of the School address given on January 24, 2018 by Dr. Selwyn M. Vickers, Senior Vice President for Medicine and Dean, highlighted Dr. Jeremy Day's work. Dr. Day is working to understand addiction cause at both the cellular and molecular levels by examining how dopamine surge influences each part of the brain and leads to long-term rewiring of neurons.

Dr. Day is an assistant professor in the Department of Neurobiology, director of the Civitan International Research Center Neurodevelopmental Bioinformatics Initiative and a faculty member of the McKnight Brain Institute.

## *Molecular Vision* 2018

### **Autosomal dominant retinitis pigmentosa rhodopsin mutant Q344X drives specific alternations in chromatin complex gene transcription**

Dr. Lara Ianov's work was published in the February 2018 edition of *Molecular Vision*. The study indicated that epigenetic and transcriptional mechanisms have been shown to contribute to long-lasting functional changes in adult neurons. The purpose was to identify any such modifications in diseased retinal tissues from a mouse model of rhodopsin mutation-associated autosomal dominant retinitis pigmentosa (ADRP), Q344X, relative to age-matched wild-type (WT) controls.

For the complete article visit: [http://www.uab.edu/medicine/circ/images/Molecular\\_Vision\\_02222018.pdf](http://www.uab.edu/medicine/circ/images/Molecular_Vision_02222018.pdf)

Dr. Ianov is a Scientist 1 in the Civitan International Research Center Neurodevelopmental Bioinformatics Initiative.

<http://www.uab.edu/medicine/circ/nbi>

<https://sites.google.com/view/circ-nbi/home>

For updates on the Civitan International Research Center  
visit the website at:  
[www.uab.edu/medicine/circ](http://www.uab.edu/medicine/circ)

2017 VIDEO AVAILABLE!!! Orders for the 2017 Civitan International Research Center video which premiered at the Centennial Convention can be placed by contacting Vicki Hixon at [vhixon@uab.edu](mailto:vhixon@uab.edu). In an effort to offset production costs, an invoice for \$10 will be included in the shipment.

To schedule a private tour of the  
Civitan International Research Center  
Contact Vicki Hixon – [vhixon@uab.edu](mailto:vhixon@uab.edu)

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