

**Civitan International / Simpson-Ramsey
Neurodevelopment Symposium
April 21-22, 2016**

**UAB Alumni House
1301 10th Avenue South
Birmingham, AL 35294**

Thursday, April 21

8:30 am **Sign-in and Continental Breakfast**
9:00 am **Opening Remarks**
David Sweatt, Ph.D., Chair and Professor, Department of Neurobiology
Civitan International Research Center Director
Rita Cowell, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Dept. Psychiatry & Behavioral
Neurobiology, Associate Director of Education and Outreach, CIRC

Session I

Moderator: Jeremy Day, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Dept. Neurobiology, UAB

9:10 am **Ian Maze, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
“Histone monoaminylation in the developing and adult brain: novel mechanisms
of ‘epigenetic’ plasticity”
9:40 am **Farah Lubin, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, Dept. Neurobiology, UAB
“Neuro-Epigenetic basis of Memory, Behavior, and its disorders”
10:10 am **AJ Robison, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor, Michigan State University
“Transcriptional mechanisms of normal and pathological hippocampal function”
10:40 am **Break**
10:55 am **Rhiana Simon**, Neuroscience Undergraduate Student, UAB
“Activity-dependent enhancer RNAs regulate target gene expression”
11:10 pm **Christopher Cowan, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, Harvard Medical School
“Regulation of cortical synapse balance in intellectual disabilities and autism”
12:00 pm **Lunch (boxed lunches provided for first 100 registered guests)**

Session II

Moderator: Sarah O’Kelley, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Dept. Psychology, UAB

12:50 pm **History of the Simpson-Ramsey Lectureship**
Fred Biasini, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychology, Director of Civitan-
Sparks Clinics
1:00 pm **Brian G. Dias, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor, Emory University School of Medicine
“Ancestral imprints on descendant neurobiology”
1:30 pm **Stephan Sanders, B.M.B.S., Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor, UCSF
“From genes to etiology in autism”
2:00 pm **Despina Stavrinos, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor, Dept. Psychology, UAB
“Developmental Disabilities and Driving”
2:30 pm **Break**
2:45 pm **Jamie Holloway, P.T., D.P.T., P.C.S.**, Graduate Student, Dept. Physical and
Occupational Therapy, UAB
“The Impact of a Movement-Based Intervention Program on Peer Relationships
in Preschoolers with Autism Spectrum Disorder: A Case Series”

3:00 pm **Elisabeth Dykens, Ph.D.**, Professor, Vanderbilt University
“Reducing stress in parents of children with developmental disabilities”
4:00-6:00 pm **Poster Session and Reception**

Friday, April 22

8:30 am **Sign-in and Continental Breakfast**
9:00 am **Announcements and Introductions**

Session III

Moderator: Rajesh Kana, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Dept. Psychology, UAB

9:10 am **Marcel Just, Ph.D.**, Professor, Carnegie Mellon University
“Autism as a neural systems disorder: A theory of frontal-posterior underconnectivity”
10:00 am **Nina Kraguljac, M.D.**, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Neurobiology, UAB
“Mechanisms of Hippocampal Pathology in Schizophrenia”
10:30 am **Mary Phillips, B.S.**, Graduate Student, Neuroscience Graduate Theme, UAB
“Consequences of hippocampal hyperactivity in the medial prefrontal cortex of Mecp2 knockout mice, a model of the autism Rett syndrome”
10:45 am **Abbey Herringshaw, B.A.**, Graduate Student, Dept. Psychology, UAB
“Differential Engagement of Prefrontal Cortex Underlies Local Bias in Children with Autism”
11:00 am **W. Carl Cooley, M.D.**, Professor, Dartmouth
“Improving Health Care Transitions from Pediatric to Adult Care – Implementing the 6 Core Elements of Health Care Transition”
11:50 am **Announcement of Poster Awards**
12:00 pm **Meeting Adjourns**