

# Annual Civitan International Research Center Awards

On October 25th 2018 faculty, students and members of the Board of Directors of Civitan International met to announce the winners of this year's Civitan Emerging Scholar, Whit Mallory Research Fellow, and McNulty Civitan Scientists awards.

## Civitan McNulty Scientist 2018-19

The prestigious Civitan McNulty Scientist Award, which honors the research efforts of a senior faculty member each year, was awarded to Dr. Sarah O'Kelley for her ongoing research on multiple aspects of Autism Spectrum disorder. O'Kelley, a faculty member in the Departments of Psychology and Pediatrics, is the Director of the Autism Spectrum Disorders Clinic at the UAB Civitan-Sparks Clinics. O'Kelley has been involved in research and clinical activities with individuals with autism and their families for 20 years. Her research interests include cognitive and behavioral phenotypes of individuals with autism and related neurodevelopmental disabilities and all issues across the lifespan for individuals with ASD.



Dr. Sarah O'Kelley receives the Civitan McNulty Scientist Award from CIRC Director Dr. Craig Powell.

## Civitan Emerging Scholars 2018-19

Heather Dark, a medical/clinical psychology doctoral candidate in the lab of Dr. David Knight (Psychology), received an Emerging Scholar Award for her research addressing the neurodevelopment of children exposed to violence and the effects it has on children. Silviene Sint Jago, a graduate research assistant in the lab of Dr. Farah Lubin (Neurobiology), was honored with a Civitan Emerging Scholar Award on her work investigating seizure disorders which was inspired by watching a family member suffering with chronic seizures. She is in the Pathobiology & Molecular Medicine Graduate Program at UAB.



Heather Dark (left) and Silviene Sint Jago were honored with Emerging Scholar Awards.

## Whit Mallory Research Fellow 2018-19

The Whit Mallory Research Fellow award went to Abbey Herringshaw, in the UAB Medical Clinical Psychology Program and the lab of Dr. Rajesh Kana (Psychology). Drs. Rajesh Kana and Sarah O'Kelley accepted the award on behalf of Herringshaw who was unable to attend the ceremony. Kana and O'Kelley enthusiastically endorsed Herringshaw and her proposal "Changing the Social Brain in Autism Spectrum Disorder with Intervention," noting her work with autism spectrum disorders makes Abbey the perfect recipient for this year's award.

Each of the Center's annual awards is designed to promote research related to neurodevelopmental disorders and to encourage new research related to developmental disabilities.



Civitan members from across the United States and Europe were on-hand for the event.



Abbey Herringshaw is the 2018-19 Whit Mallory Research Fellow award recipient.