

Fall 2021



CIVITAN INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CENTER

UAB and Civitan International celebrate longstanding partnership while making plans for the future.

By Bob Shepard

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DIRECTORS

Craig Powell, MD, PhD
Director

Alan Percy, MD
Medical Director

Vicki Hixon, BS
Managing Director



The University of Alabama at Birmingham and Civitan International have enjoyed a long and beneficial partnership, beginning in 1989 with a \$20 million commitment from CI to fund research in the neurosciences at UAB. That commitment has been fulfilled, and leaders of both organizations will celebrate reaching that milestone this October while planning on ways to continue the partnership in the years to come.

Read more: [UAB and Civitan International celebrate longstanding partnership while making plans for the future - News | UAB](#)

To celebrate the milestone of Civitan International reaching their initial pledge of 20 million, the Civitan International Research Center hosted the Civitan International Board of Directors on October 16, 2021.

[Civitan Board Reception 10/14/2021 - School of Medicine - Civitan International Research Center](#)
[UAB](#)



Dr. Alan Percy was honored for his many years of service as the Medical Director of the Civitan International Research Center. He is retiring but will continue to see some patients on a limited basis. Not many people today have the work ethic that Dr. Percy does. An avid traveler, many trips are in his future!

He has been a vital part of the CIRC for many years and **HE WILL BE MISSED!**

THANK YOU DR. PERCY you are an inspiration to us all!!!





Brandon G. Rocque, MD, MS, FAANS

“I am deeply honored to receive the Civitan McNulty Award. This award will provide substantial support to our efforts to improve the care of children with neurosurgical conditions and their families.”

Brandon G. Rocque, MD, MS, FAANS
Associate Professor
Department of Neurosurgery | Division of Pediatric Neurosurgery
UAB | The University of Alabama at Birmingham
Children's of Alabama
Website: www.childrensal.org/neurosurgery

Dr. Brandon Rocque selected as the 2021-2022 McNulty Award winner! .

Dr. Brandon Rocque, an Associate Professor in the Department of Neurosurgery at UAB, is this year's recipient of the McNulty Award.

Nominated by Dr. James M. Markert, Professor and Chair of the Department of Neurosurgery. Dr. Rocque joined the faculty of UAB in 2014 and has grown into a very active researcher and clinician.

He is a pediatric neurosurgeon whose clinical focus is the care of children with hydrocephalus, spina bifida, cerebral palsy, and many other neurological disorders. Dr. Rocque's research focuses on the psychological and social consequences of neurosurgical diseases and neurosurgical care for children and their families.

He is working on improving the experience of pediatric neurosurgery for patients and families, including understanding the distress of a new diagnosis, understanding the psychosocial risks that may affect response to treatment, the effects of medical traumatic stress on patients and families, and optimizing the support that patients and families receive.

Current projects include a study of the effects of traumatic stress on children with hydrocephalus and their families, an effort to improve hospital support for children with newly diagnosed brain tumors, and a systematic approach to improving transition to adult care for adolescents with spina bifida.

UAB's Civitan International Research Center names Emerging Scholar Award winners!

By Bob Shepard

Two researchers at the University of Alabama at Birmingham have been named Civitan Emerging Scholars for 2021-2022. The Emerging Scholar Award, presented by the Civitan International Research Center, provides research funding for clinical or basic science research aimed at enhancing the current understanding of brain development, including fields such as autism spectrum disorders, Down and Rett syndromes, developmental disabilities, impaired cognitive development, and the effects of environmental toxins on the development of the brain.

Rudhab Bahabry was selected for her research on the ketogenic diet. Ketogenic diet therapy reduces chronic seizures. Bahabry's study will seek to determine why the ketogenic diet has positive therapeutic effects on epilepsy. She will also try to identify key molecular targets to better understand the effectiveness of the diet. She will initiate a preclinical study to determine the effects of ketogenic diet therapy on a key epigenetic mechanism and candidate biomarkers that may be linked to the therapy.

Bahabry received her Bachelor of Medicine degree from King Abdulaziz University in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. at UAB in the lab of Farah Lubin, Ph.D.

Andrea L. Reid, Ph.D., was selected for her postdoctoral studies of the dysregulation of the circadian rhythms of Duchenne muscular dystrophy patients. The hypothesis is that loss of dystrophin in the brain leads to significant chronodisruption that negatively affects DMD pathological outcomes, thus representing a novel pathological factor in this disease. Her work could provide new understanding of the etiology of DMD and shift the perspective from muscle-centric dystrophin therapies to include brain targeting approaches to address all pathologies.

Reid received her Ph.D. from the University of Toronto in Ontario, Canada, and is a postdoctoral researcher in the lab of Matthew Alexander, Ph.D. She is an active member of the Research Civitan Club and serves as president.



Andrea L. Reid, Ph.D.



Rudhab Bahabry, Ph.D.



VIDEOS

Check out the newest CIRC overview presentation!

<https://vimeo.com/410726907>

The Civitan International Research Center video which premiered at the Civitan Convention can be viewed on-line.

2021 CIRC Annual Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hHsyhdzrhKc>

2019 Video: <https://civitan.org/research/>

New focus is being made to spotlight the Civitan International Research Center with brief video clips.

<https://vimeo.com/410726907>

<http://www.uab.edu/medicine/circ/test/328-civitan-convention>

<http://www.uab.edu/medicine/circ/test/324-what-is-the-circ>

<http://www.uab.edu/medicine/circ/test/316-athens-ladies-civitan-club>

<http://www.uab.edu/medicine/circ/test/303-priceville-junior-civitans-2>

<http://www.uab.edu/medicine/neurobiology/news-events/news-archive/203-neurobiology-labs>

For updates on the Civitan International Research Center visit the website at:

www.uab.edu/medicine/circ

Due to COVID restrictions, private tours are temporarily suspended.

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