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
Lunch provided for first 100 registrants
CE/CEU credit may be available for some disciplines
2018 Symposium Highlights

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

Social-Communication
- Awkwardness in communication, despite strong vocabulary and grammar
- Initiating and maintaining conversation with others
- Social grooming may be difficult
- Often interpret things literally
- Trouble adjusting verbal and nonverbal behaviors to fit the situation
- Perspective-taking
- Difficulties with self-reflection
- Difficulties understanding and interpreting “unspoken” rules (e.g., manners, social norms)
- Difficulties in “reading” the behavior of others

Characteristics/Symptoms
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](http://www.uab.edu/medicine/circ/nbi)

[https://sites.google.com/view/circ-nbi/home](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

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. 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

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