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Spring 2019

# CIVITAN INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CENTER



1719 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
Birmingham, Alabama 35294

## Tours



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Civitan Region One

Tupelo

## Researchers Spotlight

### Kristina Visscher, Ph.D.

#### Woman of Distinction

Dr. Kristina Visscher was honored by the Girl Scouts for being a Woman of Distinction 2019 for making special contributions to the community through civic, academic, or professional efforts and for being an exemplary role model for today's girls. A reception was held at One Smart Cookie Celebration, which will be at the Harbert Center in April. It will be a time to celebrate the accomplishments of all the awardees and Girl Scouts.

Congratulations to Dr. Visscher on this award and recognition!



#### The UAB Department of Neurobiology

and the UAB School of Medicine congratulate Dr. Kristina Visscher, associate professor in neurobiology and co-director of the Civitan International Neuroimaging Laboratory, on being recognized as a Woman of Distinction 2019.

Dr. Visscher, thank you for being an exemplary role model for young women and girls in our community. We admire all your civic, academic, and professional efforts.

For more information about Dr. Visscher's award, visit the Civitan International Research Center website at [www.uab.edu/medicine/circ](http://www.uab.edu/medicine/circ)



### Dean's Awards 2019

Dr. Craig Powell is proud to announce the Civitan International Research Center has two faculty members who are recipients of the 2019 Dean's Awards. Dr. Cristin Gavin received an Excellence in Teaching Award and Dr. Jeremy Day received an Excellence in Research Award. Only eighteen faculty members were selected so for Civitan to have two of the eighteen is quite an accomplishment.

The Dean's Excellence Awards are annual honors to recognize outstanding contributions made by faculty across the School of Medicine – both junior and senior faculty members are honored in the areas of service, teaching, research, mentorship, and diversity enhancement.

Awardees are selected through a peer-review process facilitated by a member of the dean's leadership team.



Cristin Gavin, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor



Jeremy Day, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor

## Student Updates

### Phillips and Robinson published in eLife

Mary Phillips and Holly Robinson, in the Pozzo-Miller Lab, have been working to determine where in the brain social memories are stored. Their work was recently published in eLife.

[Ventral Hippocampal](#)

### Barry Goldwater Scholarships

Drs. Ashley Kuntz and Cristsin Gavin have announced that three UAB students have been selected for the Barry Goldwater Scholarship, the most prestigious math and science award for undergraduates.

**Baraa Hijaz** is a neuroscience and philosophy major working in the lab of Dr. Laura Volpicelli-Daley. He aims to pursue an MD/PhD and develop new drug and genetic therapies for Parkinson's Disease. Baraa has already co-authored two peer-reviewed publications and has a third under review. Additionally, he participated in the Amgen Scholars Program at Stanford University, and completed the UAB Surgery Undergraduate Research Experience. Baraa is a member of the UAB Honors College's Science and Technology Honors Program.

**Garrett Sager** is a neuroscience and physics major working in the labs of Dr. Elizabeth Sztul and Dr. Ryoichi Kawai. He plans to obtain a PhD in biophysics and study the neurophysics of learning and memory. He is first author of a publication in *Viruses* and contributing author to a publication in the *American Journal of Physiology-Cell Physiology*. Garrett is a member of the Science and Technology Honors Program.

**Holly Robinson** is a neuroscience major with a minor in music. She works in the lab of Dr. Lucas Pozzo-Miller and has already earned authorship on a publication and presented her work at national conferences. Holly plans to pursue a PhD in neuroscience and conduct research on the circuitry underlying social communication behaviors. She is pursuing a Personalized Path in the UAB Honors College.

Baraa, Garrett, and Holly's successes are evidence of the exceptional mentoring they have received as undergraduate researchers.

Congratulations to these students and to their mentors on this much-deserved recognition!

### Robust and specific gene regulation tool developed for primary brain neurons

**Dr. Svitlana Bach** and **Katherine Savell** in the lab of Jeremy Day are doing ground breaking research. A powerful new tool is available for neuroscience investigation into brain development, the mechanisms of memory and learning, and the role of brain dysregulation in neuropsychiatric diseases like addiction, depression, schizophrenia and Alzheimer's disease. For the complete article visit:

<https://www.uab.edu/medicine/neurobiology/images/CRISPR.pdf>

## **Video Highlights**

<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](http://www.uab.edu/medicine/circ)

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

### **CONTACT US**

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