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Winter 2019

# Happy Holidays from the CIVITAN INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CENTER



### Dr. Farah Lubin is helping save science careers, one at a time.

By Matt Windsor

*I was tired of being the only:* words and deeds that can save science careers

When she was in high school, Farah Lubin, Ph.D., worked as a nursing assistant and planned to go into medicine. But “my parents did not take me seriously when I told them I was going to college,” said Lubin, an associate professor in the Department of Neurobiology. “They thought their sons would go to college, but they expected the girl to stay home until she got married.” Lubin was mad —so upset, in fact, that her father arranged for her to join a group of other New York City students on a tour of Historically Black Colleges and Universities. “That’s when I learned I was black,” Lubin said. “New York is a very diverse city. But I learned about African American history on that trip and that somehow my ethnicity or race was supposed to be a limitation. That I was not supposed to be a success story.



Farah Lubin, Ph.D.

Lubin has been a success story since she arrived at UAB in 2005 as a postdoc in the lab of David Sweatt, Ph.D. Lubin and many others made the move with him from Baylor College of Medicine, when Sweatt was recruited to be chair of neurobiology. Lubin was one of the first UAB scientists to land one of the NIH’s elite K99/R00 Pathway to Independence grants in 2009. A few years later, she was the first K99 funded by the National Institute of Mental Health to transition to the R00 (independent faculty) portion of the grant. Her research has helped prove that epigenetic mechanisms operate in the brain, a once-heretical idea that has since opened new advances in the study of memory. That work is funded by a R01 Research Project Grant Award, the flagship grant of the NIH, along with an R21 Developmental Research Grant Award. Lubin also is the co-director of UAB’s Neuroscience Roadmap Scholars Program, funded by a \$1.25 million R25 grant. “One of the reasons I was motivated to do Roadmap is I was tired of being ‘the only’ —the only woman, the only minority, the only minority woman —everywhere I went,” Lubin said. She once was invited to give the keynote address at a scientific meeting. “Usually when you’re giving one of those talks you send your abstract and the title and that’s it,” Lubin said. “I never think about filling out my demographic information. But a little while later I got an angry email from the organizers, accusing me of not telling them I was a black female.

For the complete story visit: [https://www.uab.edu/medicine/circ/images/Lubin\\_12102019.pdf](https://www.uab.edu/medicine/circ/images/Lubin_12102019.pdf)

## Civitan McNulty Scientist and Emerging Scholars Announced



Pictured: Jo Ann O'Toole, executive director of the Foundation for Children with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities; Nicholas Boyle, Emerging Scholar, Qiangqiang Xia, Ph.D., Emerging Scholar; Dr. Craig Powell, director CIRC; Patsy Perkal, President Civitan International; Helen Root, Whit Mallory Research Fellow; and Kristina Visscher, Ph.D., Civitan McNulty Scientist.

Each year the UAB Civitan International Research Center helps fund the research of Emerging Scholars, the Whit Mallory Research Fellow and the Civitan McNulty Scientist. The Emerging Scholars and Whit Mallory Research Fellow awards are chosen by a distinguished panel of faculty from proposals submitted for review. The McNulty Civitan Scientist award is bestowed on a faculty member who has exhibited exemplary leadership in the field of Developmental Disabilities research. Each awardee receives funding to pursue their research projects. Civitan International and the Foundation for Children with Intellectual Disabilities are instrumental in funding these annual research awards.

For more information visit: <https://www.uab.edu/medicine/circ/images/Awards2019.pdf>

## *McNulty Award and Emerging Scholar's Reception October 2019*



## VIDEOS

The 2019 Civitan International Research Center video which premiered at the Civitan Convention can be viewed on-line at <https://civitan.org/research/>

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

<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  
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