

## Latest Stories

### Brain Awareness Week 2024



This year's Brain Awareness Week activities were held at McWane Science Center on March 27-30.

The four-day event provided hundreds of kids and parents with the opportunity to participate in fun and engaging activities that share wonders of the brain!



Miracle Fruit Tasting Activity!



EMG Muscle Activity!

Olfaction Activity!



Sheep Brain/Cow Eye Dissections!



Sheep Brain/Cow Eye Dissections!



Brain Awareness Info Table!

Thank you to the Dana Foundation, IBRO, CNBCI and CNC for sponsoring this year's activities and THANK YOU to the Brain Awareness Week Team Captains, Volunteers and McWane Science Center who helped make this event a success!

## Call for Nominations

This is a call for nominations for the NINDS T32 Pre-doctoral Training Program in Cognition and Cognitive Disorders (C&CD).

This is a training program for pre-doctoral students involved in basic and translational research in cognition and cognitive disorders. The overall goal of the C&CD Program is to create the next generation of talented, diverse, and independent scholars and leaders in cognitive neurobiology.

[View Program Details](#)

[Application forms](#) and all required documents should be emailed to [flubin@uab.edu](mailto:flubin@uab.edu) by **May 1, 2024 at 5:00 pm**. Applicants will be notified no later than May 23, 2024. If you have any questions,

please email [flubin@uab.edu](mailto:flubin@uab.edu) and [kspeed@uab.edu](mailto:kspeed@uab.edu).

## Emerging Scholars Applications

The Civitan International Research Center (CIRC) requests proposals for clinical or fundamental science research aimed at enhancing our current understanding of typical and atypical brain development, autism spectrum disorders, developmental disabilities, impaired cognitive development, or the effects of environmental toxins on brain development.

Applicants should be PhD graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, research associates, or instructors in the non-tenure track with less than 10 years from receiving their terminal degree (e.g. Ph.D.). Previous awardees are ineligible.

Proposals should consist of a single PDF document containing a two-page description of the planned research; a proposed budget; a letter of endorsement from the mentor; and CV from the applicant. The mentor should submit the application on behalf of the applicant along with a statement from the mentor indicating their approval of the application and budget proposal (this can be a one-sentence statement/letter).

Although not a requirement, we particularly welcome applications designed to create a patentable/marketable product.

Awardees will be expected to be present at the Junior Civitan All In Summit in ~Feb. of 2025 and to speak to Civitan International members about their research once or twice during the year of award or the following year.

### **Proposal Deadline: April 30, 2024**

Grant Start Date: August 1, 2024

Eligible Applicants: Graduate students and postdoctoral trainees

Award Level: \$25,000 for one year

Guidelines: Subject Line – Emerging Scholar Application “Last Name”

Submit to: [brownt@uab.edu](mailto:brownt@uab.edu) (Tawanna Brown)

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## 2024 Pilot Awards

CNBCI Pilot Award Program- Deadline  
Extended

The Consortium for Neuroengineering and Brain-Computer Interfaces is still soliciting applications for the Pilot Award Program.

The goal of the Neuroengineering Pilot Award Program is to provide seed funding to early-stage UAB faculty using innovative neural engineering approaches. Examples of responsive applications include those directed at neurophysiology, neuromodulation, in vivo optogenetics, fiber photometry, miniscopes, and others. The funding will support high-risk early-stage ideas that have not yet received substantial federal funding (R01 or similar), stimulating new research opportunities at UAB.

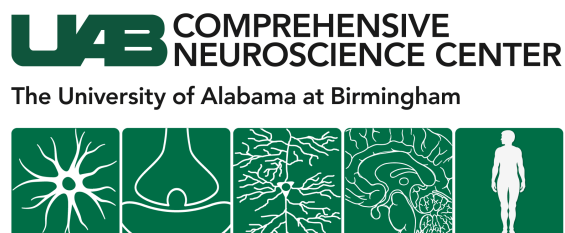
Through this [RFA](#), the CNBCI aims to fund up to up to two Pilot Awards of \$10,000 each for one year.

Applications are welcome from early-stage UAB faculty members who are actively involved in research related to in vivo neural circuit analysis or related neuroengineering topics.

Applications and should include the following:

- A one page research proposal in the format of an NIH Specific Aims page
- The PI's NIH style biosketch

Applications should be submitted by email to [CNBCI@uab.edu](mailto:CNBCI@uab.edu) and are due by **Friday, April 5th, 2024 at 5 pm CDT**.



## CNC 2024 Pilot Award Program

The mission of the Comprehensive Neuroscience Center (CNC) is to accelerate discovery by promoting excellence in fundamental, translational, and clinical neuroscience research, as well as education and clinical care, through integration of the UAB-wide neuroscience community. Toward that goal, the CNC is pleased to announce that it will fund two multi-PI pilot grants for up to \$40,000 for a 24-month period. **Only individuals who receive an Invitation to Submit may submit a full proposal for consideration.**

[View Full RFA](#)



**LOI due date: April 15, 2024 - [Submit LOI](#)**

Full application invitations sent by: May 1, 2024

Full application due date (invitation only): June 25, 2024

Award Level: Up to \$40,000 (\$20,000/year) for a 2-year support period (upon satisfactory progress of meeting Year 1 milestones).

**Questions? Email: [cnc@uab.edu](mailto:cnc@uab.edu)**

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## Save The Dates

### Simpson-Ramsey Neurodevelopment Symposium

The overall goal of the [Simpson-Ramsey Neurodevelopment Symposium](#) is to highlight translational research in developmental disabilities across the lifespan and from a multidisciplinary perspective. This event attracts a broad audience of academics, professionals, trainees, families, and self-advocates and is hosted by the Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities with support from the LEND, UCEDD, Civitan International Research Center (CIRC), and UAB Department of Pediatrics, Division of Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics.

The Symposium will take place on **April 25, 2024** from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at the Bradley Lecture Center. Lunch is available for the first 100 people who register by April 15. [Register Now](#)

Questions regarding the Symposium can be directed to [Linda Russo](#).

### CNC 2024 Retreat

This year's Annual CNC Retreat will be on **September 5-6, 2024** at Lake Guntersville State Park and Lodge. More information coming soon!

### Southeastern Vision Research Conference

The Southeastern Vision Research Conference will on **November 11-12, 2024** at Marriott at Vanderbilt, Nashville, TN.

Keynote Speaker: David J. Calkins, PhD Vice President for VUMC

Research Vice Chair and Director for Research, Vanderbilt Eye  
Institute Director, Vanderbilt Vision Research Center Denis M. O'Day  
Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences

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## Happening This Month

April 2 at 8 a.m.- 2:30 p.m.

[2024 UAB Health Equity Research Symposium: Achieving Health  
Equity Through Community Engaged Research](#)

Hilton Birmingham at UAB

April 2 at 8 a.m.

[Neurology Grand Rounds - Adam Goodman, PhD](#)

West Pavilion, Conference Center E

April 2 at Noon

[Microbiology Department Seminar : Dr. Daniel Tyrrell](#)

Bevill Biomedical Sciences, 170

April 3 at 12:15 p.m.

[UAB Nathan Shock Center Seminar with Charles Mobbs](#)

Learning Resource Center, 215/219

April 4 at 1:30 p.m.

[Neurobiology Seminar Series: Zachary Knight, PhD, University of  
California San Francisco](#)

Bevill Biomedical Sciences, 170

April 5 at 9 a.m.

Neuroscience WIPs- Jose Fancis De Oliveira, PhD

SHEL 1015

April 4-5 at 3- 5:30 p.m.

[Psychology Graduate Education Diversity Enhancement Workshop](#)

Virtual Event

April 9 at 8:00 a.m.

[Neurology Grand Rounds - Annual Baldwin Lecture](#)

West Pavilion, Conference Center E

April 10 at 12:15 p.m.

[UAB Nathan Shock Center Seminar with Scott Pletcher](#)

Learning Resource Center, 215/219

April 10-12  
[NeuroGateways Symposium](#)  
Regions Field, Ballroom

April 12 at 9 a.m.  
Neuroscience WIPs- Briana Machen, Grad Student  
SHEL 1015

April 17 at 3 p.m.  
AAWSM presents: Women in Academia- Speaker: Chistin Gavin  
SHEL 105

April 18 at 8:00 a.m.- 2:30 p.m.  
[CNET Retreat](#)  
Hill Student Center Ballrooms

April 18 at 1:30 p.m.  
[Neurobiology Seminar Series: Timothy Ryan, PhD, Weill Cornell Medicine](#)  
Bevill Biomedical Sciences, 170

April 19 at 9 a.m.  
Neuroscience WIPs- Linda Wadiche, PhD  
SHEL 1015

April 23 at 8 a.m.  
[Neurology Grand Rounds - Senior Neurology Resident Presentation](#)  
West Pavilion, Conference Center E

April 25 at 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.  
[Simpson-Ramsey Neurodevelopment Symposium Symposium](#)  
Bradley Lecture Center

April 25 at 1:30 p.m.  
[Neurobiology Seminar Series: Jacqueline Barker, PhD, Drexel University](#)  
Bevill Biomedical Sciences, 170

**April 26 at 9 a.m.**  
Neuroscience WIPs- **Dr. John Fox, Editor in Chief of European Journal of Neuroscience**  
SHEL 1015

April 30 at 8 a.m.  
[Neurology Grand Rounds - Ben Jones, MD](#)  
West Pavilion, Conference Center E

**Official titles of Seminars will be included in Weekly Updates!**

Have an event to share?  
Tag the CNC on the UAB Calendar Event or email [cnc@uab.edu](mailto:cnc@uab.edu)

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## UAB News



### **Celebrating neurodiversity at Heersink**

For Neurodiversity Celebration Week, the Office for Diversity and Inclusion sat down with a faculty member whose expertise is in neurodivergence, a staff member who shared her story, and an office dedicated to resources.



### **How the brain translates motivation into goal-oriented behavior, according to new study**

In the mouse brain, two neural pathways were discovered: The first is active during motivation; the second is active only at the termination of motivation. In humans, these pathways could underlie motivational dysfunctions present in various psychiatric conditions.



### **ALG6 acts as a modifier gene in the inherited genetic eye disease retinitis pigmentosa 59**

A modifier gene is one that changes the observable characteristics, called the phenotype, or molecular expression of other genes.

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## SfN News



**Congratulations to our  
2024 Class of Early Career  
Policy Ambassadors!**

### **SfN Announces Early Career Policy Ambassadors Class of 2024**

Congratulations, Anastasiia Gryshyna, University of Alabama at Birmingham!



### **Young Investigator Award**

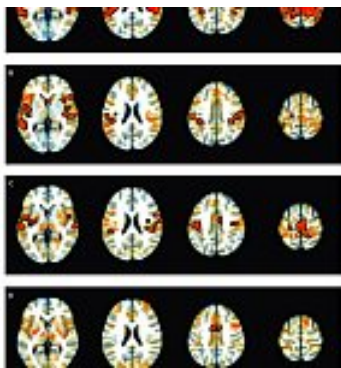
Submit nominations by April 4, 2024, 5 p.m. ET



### **How to Submit an Impactful Abstract for Neuroscience 2024**

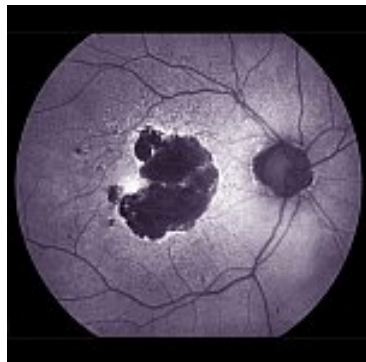
April 29, 2024  
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM EDT

## **NIH News**



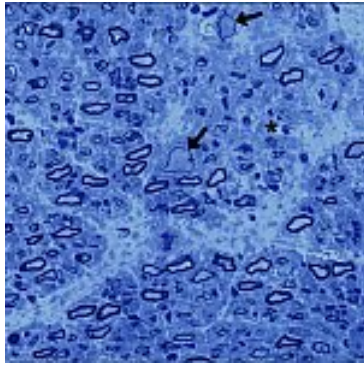
### **NIH researchers identify brain connections associated with ADHD in youth**

Large study finds atypical interactions between the frontal cortex and information processing centers deep in the brain.



### **Inflammation-reducing drug shows no benefit for dry age- related macular degeneration in NIH trial**

Dry AMD affects part of the eye's retina that allows for clear central vision.

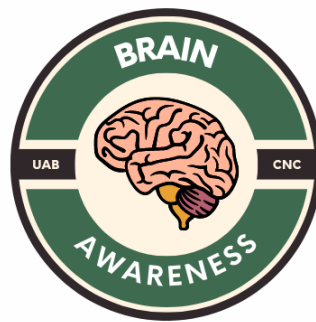


### Experimental gene therapy for giant axonal neuropathy shows promise in NIH clinical trial

Treatment for rare childhood disease was well tolerated and slowed loss of motor function.

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## Get Involved



Are you a student or CNC member looking to excite your community about Neuroscience research?

We have several outreach opportunities for you to get involved!

To join the CNC Brain Awareness (Outreach) Listserv, Click [Here](#). Complete the registration form and select CNC Brain Awareness (Outreach) Listserv at the bottom.

You can also check <https://www.brainawarenessuab.com/brain-awareness/upcoming-events-volunteer-opportunities> for upcoming events and volunteer opportunities!



### **2024 Alabama Brain Bee Winner!**

The Alabama Brain Bee is a neuroscience competition for high school students held at the University of Alabama at Birmingham that seeks to promote awareness and enthusiasm for neuroscience. The Alabama Brain Bee is only a small component of the global Brain Bee community that culminates in the National and International Brain Bee competitions.

The Alabama Brain Bee was held on March 16, 2024.

**Congratulations to this year's winner, Manasa Vadapalli from James Clemens High School!** Manasa earns the opportunity to represent this region at the national level – and, perhaps, the international level. Good Luck, Manasa!

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## Additional Links

[CNC Website](#)

[CNC Neuroscience Research Pillars](#)

[Join CNC Listserv](#)

[Previous CNC Newsletters](#)

[UAB CNC Brain Awareness](#)

[UAB Research News](#)

[Society for Neuroscience \(SfN\)](#)

[National Institutes of Health \(NIH\)](#)



Comprehensive Neuroscience Center  
1825 University Blvd , 907A  
Birmingham, AL 35294

<https://www.uab.edu/medicine/cnc/>  
205.975.1066 | [cnc@uab.edu](mailto:cnc@uab.edu)

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