



The University of Alabama at Birmingham

Comprehensive Neuroscience Center

## Latest Stories



### 2024 CNC Retreat

We are excited to announce our 2024 CNC Retreat Keynote Speakers, Drs. Ishmail Abdus-Saboor and Paul Kenny!

[Ishmail Abdus-Saboor, PhD](#) is an Associate Professor and HHMI Freeman Hrabowski Scholar of Biological Sciences and Principal Investigator at Columbia's Zuckerman Institute at Columbia University.

[Paul Kenny, PhD](#) is the Ward-Coleman Professor and Chair of the Nash Family Department of Neuroscience at the Icahn Schools of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York. Dr. Kenny also serves as Director of the Drug Discovery Institute at Mount Sinai.

Mark your calendar to join us on September 5-6, 2024 at Lake Guntersville State Park Lodge and Convention Center in

Guntersville, AL! More detail coming soon.

## NEURAL Conference 2024

# NEURAL Conference 2024



National Enhancement of Underrepresented Academic Leaders

**June 12-14, 2024**  
at the University of Alabama at Birmingham

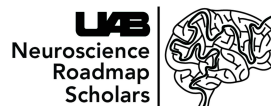
This scientific conference is designed to enhance engagement and retention of graduate trainees historically underrepresented in neuroscience.

### Reasons why NEURAL is an amazing opportunity:

- FREE REGISTRATION
- PRIZES for best presentations
- Renowned keynote speakers
- Networking & professional development

**Abstract submission deadline is May 7.**

**Scan the QR code to learn more and register!**  
**Questions? Please contact [roadmap@uab.edu](mailto:roadmap@uab.edu).**



Supported by the National Institutes of Health (NINDS R25 NS089463)

## Student Spotlights

[Two UAB students selected as Goldwater Scholars 2024](#)



Karim Mikhail



Molly Reynolds

Two University of Alabama at Birmingham College of Arts and Sciences students, Karim Mikhail and Molly Reynolds, have been selected for the national Goldwater Scholarship, the most prestigious math and science award for undergraduate students.

Mikhail, from Hoover, Alabama, is double majoring in neuroscience and philosophy and is a member of the Early Medical School Acceptance Program. Mikhail works in the lab of Erik Roberson, M.D., Ph.D., professor of neurology in the Marnix E. Heersink School of Medicine, which develops therapeutics including protein-replacement gene therapy that is being translated for use in frontotemporal dementia.

Reynolds, from Indian Springs, Alabama, is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in neuroscience and an accelerated Master of Science degree in multidisciplinary biomedical sciences with a concentration in neuroscience. Reynolds has worked in the lab of HaoSheng Sun, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Department of Cell, Developmental and Integrative Biology, since her freshman year, researching electrical synapses and how they are regulated and dysregulated in neurodevelopment.

## SfN- Advocating for Neuroscience

[Meet the Early Career Policy Ambassador:  
Anastasiia Gryshyna](#)



Anastasiia Gryshyna (she/her/hers) is a doctoral student at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB).

She received her master's degree in nanotechnology at the University of Central Florida and became fascinated with neuroscience and techniques that can be used to study our brain. Her current interests are in basic science and pelvic pain.

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## Happening This Month

### [Honoring Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month 2024](#)

May 1 at 11 a.m.- 2 p.m.

#### [Employee and Provider Appreciation Picnic 2024](#)

West Pavilion atrium, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

May 3 at 9 a.m.

Neuroscience WIPs- Anna Schreiber, PhD

SHEL 1015

May 7 at 8 a.m.

#### [Neurology Grand Rounds - Matt Goldberg, PhD](#)

West Pavilion, Conference Center E

May 8 at 4 p.m.- 6 p.m.

#### [Heersink School of Medicine: AAPI Heritage Month Celebration](#)

Wallace Tumor Institute, Lobby

May 9 at 11 a.m.

#### [Microbiology Department Faculty Candidate Seminar: Dr. Alexandra Deaconescu](#)

Virtual Event

May 9 at 1:30 p.m.

Department of Neurobiology Title IX Seminar

Bevill Biomedical Sciences, 170

May 10 at 9 a.m.

Neuroscience WIPs- Camerron Crowder, PhD

SHEL 1015

May 14 at 8 a.m.

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

West Pavilion, Conference Center E

May 17 at 9 a.m.

Neuroscience WIPs- Swetha Ravichandran, Grad Student  
SHEL 1015

May 18 at 8 a.m.- 11 a.m.

[Blazer Bolt for Brain Cancer 5k and Fun Run](#)

Railroad Park

May 20 at 7:30- 9:30 a.m.

[2024 Clinical Trials Day](#)

Wallace Tumor Institute, Lobby

May 21 at 8:00 a.m.

[Neurology Grand Rounds - Senior Neurology Resident Presentation](#)

West Pavilion, Conference Center E

May 23 at 3:30 p.m.

[John Volanakis Immunology Lecture featuring Dr. Marion Pepper](#)

Bevill Biomedical Sciences, 170

May 24 at 9 a.m.

Neuroscience WIPs- RCR Ethics Case Discussion

SHEL 1015

May 28 at 8 a.m.

[Neurology Grand Rounds - Victor Del Bene, PhD](#)

West Pavilion, Conference Center E

May 28 at Noon

[Loris and David Rich Lecture Series in Visual Science](#)

Callahan Eye Hospital, Smith Education Center, Suite 300

May 31 at 9 a.m.

Neuroscience WIPs- Carine Lampert, PhD

SHEL 1015

**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)

# UAB News



## **UAB opens Brain Aging and Memory Hub to address cognitive brain health and memory disorders in Alabama**

The new Brain Aging and Memory Hub will house the UAB Divisions of Neuropsychology and Cognitive and Behavioral Neurology, as well as the Alzheimer's Disease Center and the Evelyn F. McKnight Brain Institute.



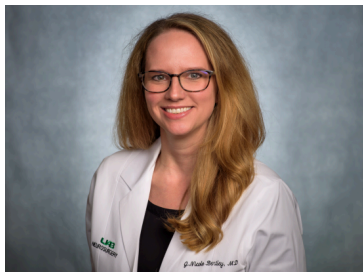
## **Galli, Carter awarded \$2.7 million to study microbiome's impact on amphetamine misuse**

UAB Division of Gastrointestinal Surgery Distinguished Professor in the Heersink School of Medicine Aurelio Galli, Ph.D., D. Sc., and UAB Division of Surgical Oncology Assistant Professor Angela Carter, Ph.D., have been awarded \$2.7 million through the National Institutes of Health (NIH).



## **Abdollah Mirbozorgi wins NSF CAREER Award**

Abdollah Mirbozorgi, Ph.D., an assistant professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, recently received a National Science Foundation (NSF) CAREER grant for his research into a device that could more precisely attack cancerous tumors through precision ablation.



## **Bentley honored at Women in Medicine and Science Promotion Reception**

University of Alabama at Birmingham Department of Neurosurgery Associate Professor Nicole Bentley, M.D., was recently honored at the annual Women in Medicine and Science Promotion Reception.

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## SfN News



### **Legislators Recognize Brain Awareness Week 2024**

During Brain Awareness Week (BAW) 2024 Washington, D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser and Maryland Governor Wes Moore officially declared BAW in their jurisdictions.



### **Can ChatGPT Revolutionize Neuroscience Education?**

Neuroscience education is transforming by integrating cutting-edge technologies such as ChatGPT into classrooms.



### **Abstract Submission is Now Open!**

Abstracts will be accepted for presentation at Neuroscience 2024 until Tuesday, May 7, 5 p.m. EDT. Abstracts must be finalized before the submission deadline.

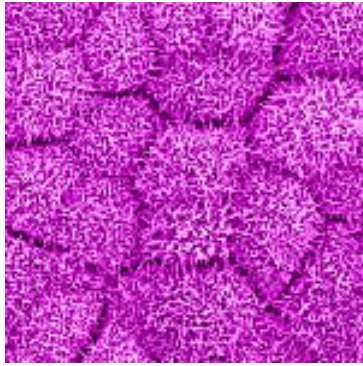
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## NIH News



### **Irregular sleep and late bedtimes associated with worse grades for high school students**

NIH-funded study also links later bed and wake times with school conduct problems.



### **AI makes retinal imaging 100 times faster, compared to manual method**

NIH scientists use artificial intelligence called 'P-GAN' to improve next-generation imaging of cells in the back of the eye.

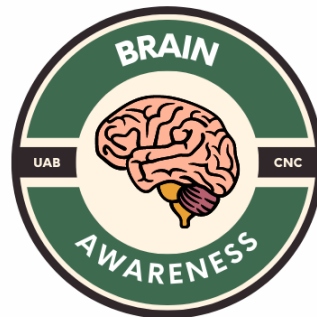


### **Study reveals no causal link between neurodevelopmental disorders and acetaminophen exposure before birth**

NIH-funded research in siblings finds previously reported connection is likely due to other underlying factors.

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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!



SUMMER 2024  
**BRAIN BITES**

featuring  
**BACKYARD  
BRAINS**



**NEUROSCIENCE FOR EVERYONE!**

**MAY 13 AT 1 P.M.- SHEL 105**

Hybrid - Zoom Link Coming Soon

**Speaker: Tim Marzullo, Ph.D.**

Co-Founder and Engineer of Backyard Brains

*Topics:*

- *Bringing High School Students Directly into the Scientific Process: Electrophysiology in Plants and Academic Publication*
- *Best examples of science outreach*



COMPREHENSIVE NEUROSCIENCE CENTER

The University of Alabama at Birmingham

## Additional Links

[CNC Website](#)

[CNC Neuroscience Research Pillars](#)

[Join CNC Listserv](#)

[Previous CNC Newsletters](#)

[UAB CNC Brain Awareness](#)

[UAB Research News](#)

[UAB Heersink School of Medicine News](#)

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

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



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