

## Latest Stories

### 2023 CNC Retreat Recap



The 2023 Comprehensive Neuroscience Center (CNC) retreat was held on September 13-14, 2023 at The Valley Hotel in Homewood, AL.

Thank you to the nearly 200 registered guests for making this event a success!

Our two-day retreat agenda included:

- Keynote presentations from Dr. Marina Picciotto, Yale University and Dr. James Surmeier, Northwestern University
- Research presentations from 9 UAB faculty and 6 trainees
- Poster session featuring 40 poster presentations

- Trainee Platform and Poster presentation Awards (See winners below)
- Updates on CNC FY23 Programs and Activities
- Nearly 200 registrations affiliated with 28 different departments at UAB, 160+ attendees

### 2023 Poster Presentation Awards



First Place (\$500)- Nina Baumgarter, Psychiatry & Behavioral Neurobiology (R)

Second Place (\$250)- Rodrigo Campos-Cardoso, Neurobiology (Not Pictured)

Third Place (\$100)- Jhodi Webster, Neurology (L)

### 2023 Platform Presentation Awards



First Place (\$500)- Kasey Brida, Neurobiology (R)

Second Place (\$250)- Ashley Adamson, Neurology (C)

Third Place (\$100)- Henrique de Oliveira Amaral, Neurology (L)

To view more photos and the full program, visit:

<https://www.uab.edu/medicine/cnc/news-events/retreat>

If you were able to join us during the Retreat, we would appreciate you taking the time to complete a brief survey. If you were unable to join us, please let us know what factors contributed to this in the survey. This feedback will help to ensure our future events are even more valuable to CNC members. Thank you!

**2023 CNC Retreat- Post Event Survey**

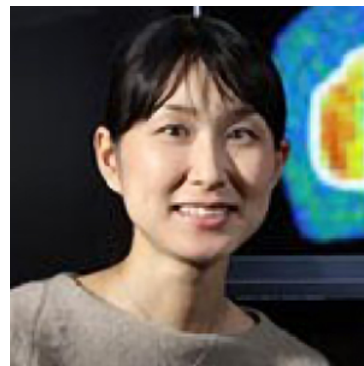
(The survey will close Friday, October 6th.)

## Congratulations 2023 CNC Pilot Award Winners!

### Multi PI Recipients (\$50,000)

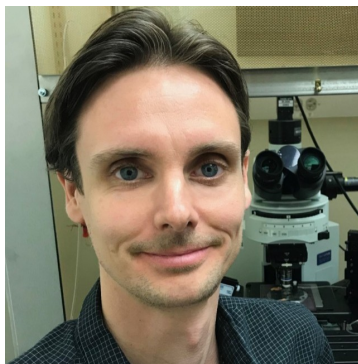


Dr. Shinichi Kano M.D., Ph.D  
Department of Psychiatry &  
Behavioral Neurobiology



Dr. Minae Niwa, Ph.D.  
Department of Psychiatry &  
Behavioral Neurobiology

### Single PI Recipient (\$25,000)



Dr. Jasper Heinsbroek, Ph.D.  
Department of Neurobiology

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## Funding Opportunities

[ALKERMES PATHWAYS RESEARCH AWARDS](#)- Sixth Annual Application Cycle Now Open

Open to early-career investigators committed to advancing research in schizophrenia or bipolar disorder. The annual Alkermes Pathways Research Awards program provides an individual grant amount of up to \$100,000 per project.

Application period is September 15th- November 30th.

[Read More](#)



## SfN Updates

[Neuroscience 2023](#)

Saturday, November 11 – Wednesday, November 15  
Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C.

Advance Nonmember Registration and Housing- Open Now  
Regular Registration- Open October 3

[Access Neuroscience Meeting Planner and Preliminary Program](#)



Visit UAB CNC at Booth #63!

12 p.m. – 2 p.m. EST

Want to help recruit future graduate students to UAB?

Look for the volunteer sign up sheet, coming soon!



### McKnight Brain Research Foundation- Poster Reception

In conjunction with the annual Society for Neuroscience (SfN) conference, the poster reception will be held Sunday, November 12, 2023 from 5:00 - 7:00 pm at the Embassy Suites by Hilton located at 900 10th Street NW, Washington, DC 20001.

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## Happening This Month

October 3 at 8 a.m.

[Neurology Grand Rounds - Christian LoBue, PhD](#)

West Pavilion, Conference Center E

October 4 at Noon

[Cell, Developmental, and Integrative Biology Seminar Series, Dr. Piali Sengupta](#)

Tinsley Harrison Tower, 740

October 4 at 5:30 p.m.

[UAB Neuroengineering Info Session](#)

Education and Engineering Complex, 158

October 5 at 1:30 p.m.

[Neurobiology Seminar Series: Jose Moron-Concepcion, PhD, Washington University SOM](#)

Bevill Biomedical Sciences, 170

October 6 at 9 a.m.

Neuroscience WIPs- TBA  
SHEL 1015

October 7 at 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

[Bump Bike-A-Thon For The Alzheimer's Association](#)  
[Neuroscience For ALL: Brain SNACKS](#) table

Oak Mountain State Park

October 10 at 8 a.m.

[Neurology Grand Rounds - Clinical Pathology Case Conference](#)

West Pavilion, Conference Center E

October 12 at 1:30 p.m.

[Neurobiology Seminar Series: Court Hull, PhD, Duke University](#)

Bevill Biomedical Sciences,170

October 12 at 5:30-7 p.m.

[Discovery Night-Parkinson's](#)

Lakeshore 4000 Ridgeway Drive Birmingham, AL 35209

October 13 at 9 a.m.  
Neuroscience WIPs- TBA  
SHEL 1015

October 13 at Noon  
[ICAR Seminar Series with Dr. Joseph McQuail](#)  
Location: TBA

October 16 at 11:15 a.m.  
[CNC Neuroscience For ALL: Neuroscience Café- Move Your Body and Change Your Brain: Your Exercise Journey with Dr. Keith McGregor](#)  
Powderly Branch Library (3301 Jefferson Ave)

October 17 at 8 a.m.  
[Neurology Grand Rounds - Annual Harrell Lecture](#)  
West Pavilion, Conference Center E

October 18 at Noon  
[UAB Nathan Shock Center Seminar with Monica Driscoll](#)  
Learning Resource Center, 235

October 19 at 1:30 p.m.  
[Neurobiology Seminar Series: Anastasios Tzingounis, PhD, University of Connecticut](#)  
Bevill Biomedical Sciences,170

October 20 at 9 a.m.  
Neuroscience WIPs- Shinichi Kano, MD, PhD,  
Associate Professor  
SHEL 1015

October 24 at 8 a.m.  
[Neurology Grand Rounds - Haydeh Payami, PhD](#)  
West Pavilion, Conference Center E

October 27 at 9 a.m.  
Neuroscience WIPs- Cassandra Newsom, PsyD, Associate Professor  
SHEL 1015

October 28 Time: TBA  
[CNC Neuroscience For ALL: Halloween Brain SNACKS](#)  
McWane Science Center

October 31 at 8 a.m.  
[Neurology Grand Rounds - Laura Volpicelli-Daley, PhD](#)  
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)

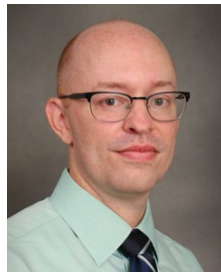
[View more department events](#) →

## UAB News



### **UAB Biomedical Sciences Ph.D. student selected as inaugural Howard Garrison Advocacy Fellow under FASEB**

Biomedical Sciences Ph.D. student Jazmine Benjamin was selected as an inaugural fellow for the Howard Garrison Advocacy Fellowship program.



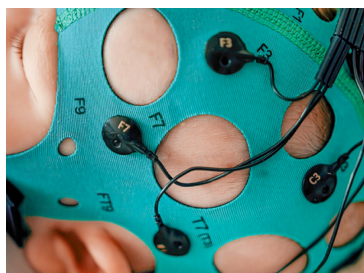
### **Thomas named president-elect of the Society of Behavioral Sleep Medicine**

S. Justin Thomas, Ph.D., DBSM, FSBSM, assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry, has been elected as the 2024 president of the Society of Behavioral Sleep Medicine (SBSM). The SBSM is an international organization that engages in advocacy, education, and research in behavioral sleep medicine.



### **Alzheimer's: An M.D./Ph.D. graduate student's request for Yuhua Song as mentor leads to two NIH R01 awards totaling \$5 million**

The M.D./Ph.D. student has since moved on to clinical studies, but the research into possible drugs to treat Alzheimer's disease continues.



### **Preventive epilepsy treatment with vigabatrin does not improve neurocognitive development in TSC infants**

While preventive treatment with vigabatrin delayed the onset and prevalence of infantile spasms in TSC infants, it had no impact on focal seizures, drug-resistant epilepsy, or improvement of

cognitive and behavioral scores at 24 months.



**UAB professor awarded multiple grants to fund research that aims to localize seizures in patients diagnosed with epilepsy**

Rachel Smith, Ph.D., professor in the UAB School of Engineering and principal investigator in the Neural Signal Processing and Modeling Lab, was recently awarded multiple grants to fund research in seizure onset localization.

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## NIH News

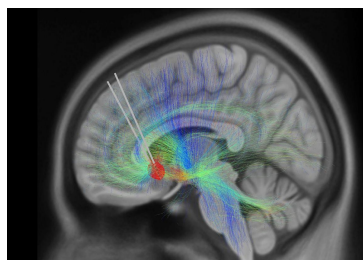
### [NIH Requesting Information on Updating Mission Statement](#)

The NIH has issued a new request for information (RFI) inviting stakeholders to provide comments and suggestions on updating NIH's mission statement. This RFI will inform NIH's efforts to update its mission statement to ensure that it reflects the NIH mission as accurately as possible. Input sought about the proposed revised mission statement includes feedback on whether the proposed new mission statement reflects the goals and objectives as outlined in the [NIH-Wide Strategic Plan for FYs 2021–2025](#), suggestions for specific language that could be added to the proposed mission statement, and why, and feedback on any specific language that could be removed from the proposed mission statement and why. The deadline to submit comments is Friday, November 24.



### [Higher buprenorphine doses associated with improved retention in treatment for opioid use disorder](#)

NIH-funded study suggests need to reevaluate opioid addiction treatment recommendations in the era of fentanyl.

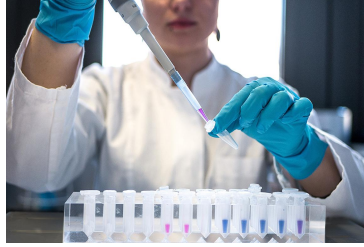


### [Researchers discover biomarker for tracking depression recovery](#)

New deep brain stimulation device coupled with powerful AI



may improve therapy for treatment-resistant depression.

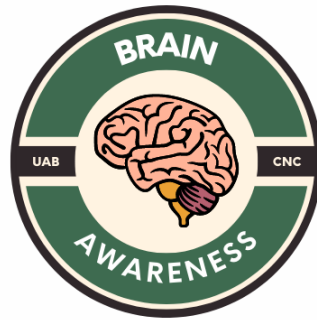


[Researchers develop new method to identify potential stroke therapies](#)

First-of-its-kind study points to uric acid as a promising treatment for further investigation.

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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/current-volunteer-opportunities> for regular opportunities!

### Join Us for the Fall Neuroscience Café!



**Monday, October 16**  
**11:15 a.m.- 12:15 p.m.**  
[Powderly Branch Library](#)

Topic: **"Move Your Body and Change Your Brain: Your Exercise Journey"**

The presentation will be a summary of his lab's data over

**Dr. Keith McGregor,** the past 10 years from their  
Associate Professor, Director of studies of aging-related changes  
Research in the Department of in cognition and motor control.  
Clinical and Diagnostic Sciences,  
School of Health Professions, UAB

### **Brain Bee 2024**

**LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITY.** Brain Bee is an international neuroscience competition held for high school students, and UAB hosts the Alabama chapter of the Brain Bee competition. **The Alabama Brain Bee team is currently looking for undergraduate students who would be interested in becoming Auxiliary Co-Directors for the 2024 Brain Bee.** Auxiliary Co-Directors will work with and assist Directors with preparing for this event and gain experience with fundraising, community outreach, and social media outreach. No prior leadership experience is necessary. If you are interested in getting some leadership experience and have an interest in neuroscience, [please fill out this application.](#)

Please keep all responses under 300 words. **The application is due no later than October 11th, 2023 at 11:59pm.** If you have any questions, please contact the Alabama Brain Bee co-directors ([brainbeeuab@gmail.com](mailto:brainbeeuab@gmail.com)).

If you have an upcoming brain awareness opportunity, please let the CNC the following:

What's the opportunity

When is it (date, time)?

Where is it?

How long do you need volunteers for?

What expertise should volunteers have?

Who should volunteers contact? (email? Phone?)?

Email [cnc@uab.edu](mailto:cnc@uab.edu) with event details.

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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](#)



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