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## Comprehensive Neuroscience Center September 2025 Newsletter

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From UAB Comprehensive Neuroscience Center <cnc@reach.uab.edu>

Date Tue 2025-09-02 08:30

To CNC <cnc@uab.edu>

Web Version



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Comprehensive Neuroscience Center

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## Top Stories

### Dauphin Island Sea Lab course



The CNC is a proud sponsor of The UAB Introduction to Neurobiology course (PY792), held at the Dauphin Island, AL annually. The course serves incoming students admitted to a variety of UAB graduate programs, including GBS, Psychology, and Vision Sciences and since its inception in 1997, the course has supported the successful transition to graduate school for around 300 students.

The course is lead by Dr. Christianne Strang, Associate Professor, Behavioral Neuroscience, Department of Psychology. During the course students learned the fundamental basis of neuronal communication; how to maintain a lab notebook that includes hypothesis, methods, and results; and to collect, analyze and draw conclusions from experimental data.

## Alabama Advanced Imaging Consortium (AAIC)



AAIC promotes collaboration, project management, and support between the major research centers in the field of imaging in the State of Alabama and promotes innovative research and the submission of research and training grant proposals to Federal or other funding agencies.

The CNC was a proud sponsor for The 2025 Annual AAIC Retreat (15th Annual), held Friday and Saturday, July 18-19. [Read More](#)

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## Annual Meetings & Workshops

### AL Summit on Addiction and Pain



The Alabama Summit on Addiction and Pain on **September 2-3, 2025** is Sponsored by the UAB Center for Addiction and Pain Prevention and Intervention (CAPPI) and UAB Institute Human Rights (IHR).

The Keynote Speaker will be [Nora D. Volkow, M.D.](#), Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) at the National Institutes of Health. NIDA is the world's largest funder of scientific research on the health aspects of drug use and addiction.

[View Tentative Agenda](#)

CNC 2025 Retreat



The 2025 CNC Retreat will be held **September 17-18, 2025** at the Marnix E Heersink Institute for Biomedical Innovation Conference Center (located in the Altec/Styslinger Genomic Medicine and Data Sciences Building).

The program will feature faculty and trainee oral presentations, poster presentations, presentation awards, updates on CNC activities and a Keynote Speaker presentation from [Ishmail Abdus- Saboor, PhD](#), Associate Professor of Biological Sciences; Principal Investigator at Columbia's Zuckerman Institute.

[View Retreat Agenda](#)

## Workshop: Bioinformatics with nf-core



# UAB BIOLOGICAL DATA SCIENCE WORKSHOP

Join us for our demonstration-based workshop teaching **bioinformatics with nf-core**. Register using the QR code below.

This workshop introduces participants to nf-core, a community-driven platform for the development and use of standardized and reproducible bioinformatics pipelines built with Nextflow.

The session will introduce attendees to the foundations of using nf-core, equipping them with the skills to apply nf-core pipelines across a range of applications, including RNA-Seq, ATAC-Seq and single cell.

*NOTE: Registration is not complete without PI approval and payment.\**



**TUESDAY  
SEPTEMBER 23RD**

9:00am-1:00pm

- In-person
- Cost: \$100



\* For More Information:  
[kdaughtry@uabmc.edu](mailto:kdaughtry@uabmc.edu)

## TOPICS

- Intro to Nextflow and nf-core
- How to use nf-core to execute secondary analysis
- How to modify nf-core pipelines to suit your analysis
- Management of pipeline outputs
- Seqera AI: introduction and best-practices



**O'NEAL** COMPREHENSIVE  
CANCER CENTER  
UAB THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM



The UAB Biological Data Science Core (U-BDS) is excited to host a demonstration-based workshop introducing participants to nf-core, a community-driven platform with standardized and reproducible bioinformatics pipelines with Nextflow.

Date: **Tuesday, September 23rd**

Time: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Cost: \$100 (PI approval & payment required)

Workshop Highlights:

- Introduction to Nextflow and nf-core
- Running nf-core pipelines for secondary analysis
- Modifying pipelines to fit your research needs
- Managing pipeline outputs
- Best practices with Seqera AI

This session will provide participants with foundational skills for applying nf-core pipelines across diverse applications, including secondary analysis of RNA-Seq, ATAC-Seq, and single-cell.

Registration: [Click here](#)

## CNBCI Neurotechnology Entrepreneurship Workshop and Pitch Competition

On **November 7, 2025** the CNBCI is sponsoring a Neurotechnology Entrepreneurship Workshop and Pitch Competition. The CNBCI will host several guest and keynote speakers, before having a business pitch contest. We invite startups and concept business teams of students and faculty to pitch translational neurotechnology or clinical neuroscience solutions on November 7 for a chance to earn prizes and awards. More information and pitch contest guidelines will be distributed later this semester.

To help you begin preparing for the pitch competition, Miller Girvin, who is the president of Economic Development Partnership of Alabama (<https://edpa.org>) will join us **Wednesday, September 3 at 4pm** in CIRC 120. She will outline best business and innovation pitch practices for our neuroscience and neuroengineering faculty and students. The session will also be available by Zoom using the details below. Pitch deck guides will also be made available for offline use for those who cannot attend.

Miller Girvin, President, EDPA

"Best Practices for Startup and Innovation Pitches"

Wednesday, **September 3, 2025, 4-5pm CT**, in CIRC 120 or Zoom:

[https://uab.zoom.us/j/87972716343?](https://uab.zoom.us/j/87972716343?pwd=eDIxeTYvc09mSnY0YVZ1eHlCbDZoQT09)

[pwd=eDIxeTYvc09mSnY0YVZ1eHlCbDZoQT09](https://uab.zoom.us/j/87972716343?pwd=eDIxeTYvc09mSnY0YVZ1eHlCbDZoQT09)

Meeting ID: 879 7271 6343

Passcode: 045647

Dial by your location: +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

## McKnight Brain Institute- Poster Session

# SAVE-THE-DATE!!!

## MCKNIGHT BRAIN RESEARCH FOUNDATION

### POSTER RECEPTION

"Outstanding research in the area of cognitive aging and memory loss will be recognized and awarded monetary awards"

**SUNDAY, November 16, 2025  
5:00 - 7:00 P.M.**

Westin San Diego Gaslamp Quarter  
910 Broadway Circle  
San Diego, CA 92101



Questions: [poster\\_session@mcknightbrain.org](mailto:poster_session@mcknightbrain.org)

All researchers are encouraged to participate and outstanding research in the area of cognitive aging and memory loss will be recognized and awarded monetary awards.

Use this [Template](#) to submit your abstract.

Send your documents to: [poster\\_session@mcknightbrain.org](mailto:poster_session@mcknightbrain.org)

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# Funding Opportunities

## RFA: CIRC Trainee Travel Awards

Supporting Research Presentations In Neurodevelopmental Disabilities  
Civitan International Research Center is announcing the availability of Trainee Travel Awards for graduate students and postdoctoral trainees to facilitate presentations at meetings, conferences or symposia related to research and/or clinical activities addressing neurodevelopmental disabilities. Virtual attendance is also allowed with a decreased level of award. Individual awards of up to \$1200 will apply toward conference fees. The exact amount will be subject to UAB policy (receipts, rules, etc.).

Application deadlines for submission is **September 5, 2025**.

[Read More & Submit your application](#)

## 2025 UAB CAPPI Pilot Grant Program

Purpose: The program provides pilot funds for new pain and/or addiction research. The expectation is generation of pilot data resulting in a NIH or other grant submission after one year of funding.

Award amount: \$25,000

Eligibility: Full-time faculty at UAB only.

Deadline: Apply by **September 15, 2025 at 5pm**

How to submit: Via the [InfoReady portal](#).

## 2025-2026 ICAR Pilot Funding Announcement



The Integrative Center for Aging Research (ICAR) solicits proposals for its pilot project research program. Applications may range from basic biology of aging to translational, clinical, and community-based research. Themes of particular interest are: 1) the relationships between aging and disease, 2) interventions to promote function and independence for older adults, 3) serious and chronic illness among vulnerable and under-resourced older adults, and 4) intervention delivery and implementation science in older adults. Integrated, multidisciplinary, and translational approaches are encouraged.

ICAR will prioritize meritorious applications from early-stage investigators; however, established investigators seeking funding to start a new innovative research line that is significantly different from their current research work will also be considered.

The program will provide up to \$25,000 per award.

Submission deadline — Thursday, **September 25, 2025** @ 11:59pm CT

[Read More and Apply Today](#)

## ASF - “Save Our Scientists” Postdoctoral Grants

Federal funding cuts are forcing early-career autism scientists out of research. ASF’s new “Save Our Scientists” (SOS) Grants are designed to sustain and empower postdoctoral investigators and keep critically-needed autism research moving forward. Grant funds may be used for a wide variety of research-related expenses. Applications are now open and are due by **October 17, 2025**. [Read More](#)

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## Happening This Month

September 2-3

[2025 Alabama Summit on Addiction and Pain](#)

Marnix E. Heersink Institute for Biomedical Innovation Conference Center

September 2 at 8am  
Neurology Grand Rounds  
WPCC Conference Room E and via [Zoom](#)

September 3 at 4pm  
Miller Girvin, President, EDPA -"Best Practices for Startup and Innovation Pitches"  
CIRC 120 or [Zoom](#)

September 4 at 1:30pm  
[Neuroscience Seminar Series: Dr. Anel Jaramillo](#)  
Bevill Biomedical Sciences, 170

September 5 at 2pm  
Glial Biology Works in Progress  
SHEL, 105

September 6 at 11am  
[Neuroscience For All: Brain Chats](#)  
Avondale Public Library

September 9 at 8am  
Neurology Grand Rounds  
WPCC Conference Room E and via [Zoom](#)

September 9 at noon  
[Neurology Meets Theology: Charles Sherrington's Gifford Lectures Then and Now](#)  
Lister Hill Library of the Health Sciences, Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL), 4th floor

September 9 at 5:30pm  
[The Science of Color Vision](#)  
Abroms-Engel Institute for the Visual Arts, Hess Lecture Hall

September 11 at 1:30pm  
[Neuroscience Seminar Series: UAB Title IX Training](#)  
Bevill Biomedical Sciences, 170

September 12 at 9am

[Works-in-Progress - Rohit Dhakal, PhD](#)

SHEL, 1015

September 16 at 10am- 1pm

[Engineering Career Fair](#)

Bartow Arena, Concourse

September 17-18

**[UAB Comprehensive Neuroscience Center 2025 Retreat](#)**

Marnix E Heersink Institute for Biomedical Innovation Conference Center

September 19 at 9am

[Works-in-Progress - RCR Discussion](#)

SHEL, 1015

September 23 at 8am

Neurology Grand Rounds

WPCC Conference Room E and via [Zoom](#)

September 23 at 9am-1pm

[U-BDS Workshop: Bioinformatics with nf-core](#)

Marnix E. Heersink Conference Center, suite 102

September 25 at 1:30pm

[Neuroscience Seminar Series: Dr. Chung Sub Kim](#)

Bevill Biomedical Sciences, 170

September 26

[2025 Three Minute Thesis Competition](#)

Note: The deadline to register for this year's competition is September 12.

September 26 at 9am

[Works-in-Progress - Nina Baumgartner](#)

SHEL, 1015

September 26 at Noon

[Taxes and T32 Grants: What Postdocs Need to Know](#)

[Virtual Event](#)

September 30 at 8am  
Neurology Grand Rounds  
WPCC Conference Room E and via [Zoom](#)

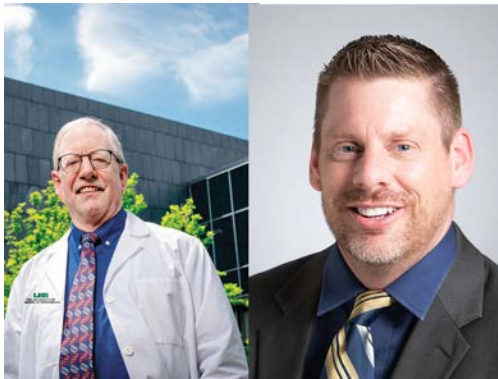
**Official titles of Seminars will be included in Weekly Updates!**

Have an event to share?

Tag the CNC on the [UAB Calendar Event](#) or email [cnc@uab.edu](mailto:cnc@uab.edu)

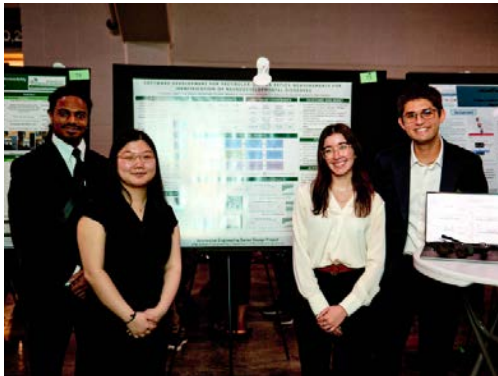
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## UAB News



### **NIH renews \$5.75 million aging research funding for UAB**

The National Institutes of Health has renewed a five-year grant for \$5.75 million for the Nathan Shock Center of Excellence in the Basic Biology of Aging at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, one of only eight such centers in the nation.



### **UAB Biomedical Engineering students win expo with VR-based autism diagnostic tool**

What if a virtual reality headset could help detect rare forms of autism? That question led six biomedical engineering seniors at UAB to design a groundbreaking diagnostic tool and win first place among more than 60 teams at the university's Senior Design Expo.



### **Adavikottu and Kaplelach named Emerging Scholar Award winners**

Anusha Adavikottu, Ph.D., a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering, and Azariah K. Kaplelach, a graduate student in the Graduate Biomedical Sciences Neuroscience Track, have been honored with the 2025–2026 Emerging Scholar Award from

## SfN News



### Neuroscience 2025 Updates

Meet the UAB Comprehensive Neuroscience Center at the Neuroscience 2025 Graduate School Fair! The CNC will be exhibiting **November 15-18, Booth #9**.

A volunteer sign up form will be included in future announcements.

#### [Late-Breaking Abstract Submission Opens September 3](#)

Late-breaking abstract submission will open Wednesday, September 3. Late-breaking abstracts will be accepted until Wednesday, September 10 or until the 2,500 submission cap has been reached.

#### [Registration Now Open](#)

Registration and Housing for Neuroscience 2025 is now open.

#### [Preliminary Program](#)

Click the thumbnail to view the Preliminary Program for Neuroscience 2025.

#### [Satellite symposium- Movement Disorders Journal \(MDJ\) Symposium: Neurobiology of Parkinson's Disease](#)

This symposium is organized by the editorial team of Movement Disorders,



the official journal of the International Parkinson and Movement Disorder Society. The symposium will explore the biological underpinnings of Parkinson's disease (PD), the neurobiological basis for current and emerging treatments, and the mechanisms responsible for disease complications and adverse responses to therapy.

Registration Deadline: October 31, 2025

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## NIH News



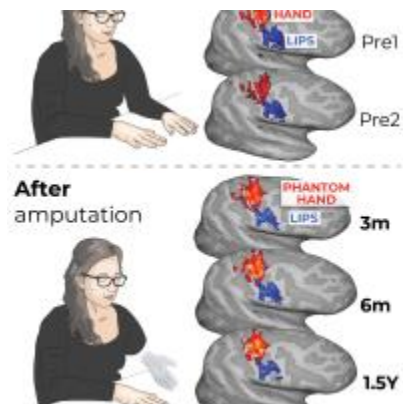
### Quitting smoking is associated with recovery from other addictions

NIH-funded finding supports addressing smoking cessation during substance use treatment



### NIH scientists lay foundation for potential gene-editing therapy for late-onset Tay-Sachs

Study of human cells and mice may have implications for other lysosomal storage disorders

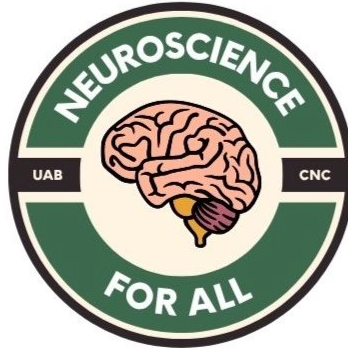


### Phantom limb study rewires our understanding of the brain

NIH scientists and collaborators reveal the brain preserves its representation of lost limb in clinical study.

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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.

**Join us for September Brain Chats!**

# BRAIN CHATS

 **ENGAGE IN  
CONVERSATIONS  
WITH  
NEUROSCIENTISTS  
FROM UAB!**

## INFORMATION



### LOCATION

Avondale Library  
509 40th Street South  
Birmingham, AL 35222



### UPCOMING EVENTS

September 6, 2025 at 11 a.m.



**Speaker: Kristina Visscher, Ph.D.**  
**Professor, UAB Department of Neurobiology**

**Topic: You CAN teach an old dog new tricks!**  
**Plasticity and the aging brain**

**UAB MEDICINE.**

Comprehensive Neuroscience Center

**Volunteer Opportunity with UAB SPAN!**

**SCIENCE POLICY ADVOCACY NETWORK  
(SPAN) at UAB**

# **PEPPER PLACE**

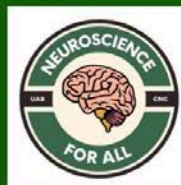
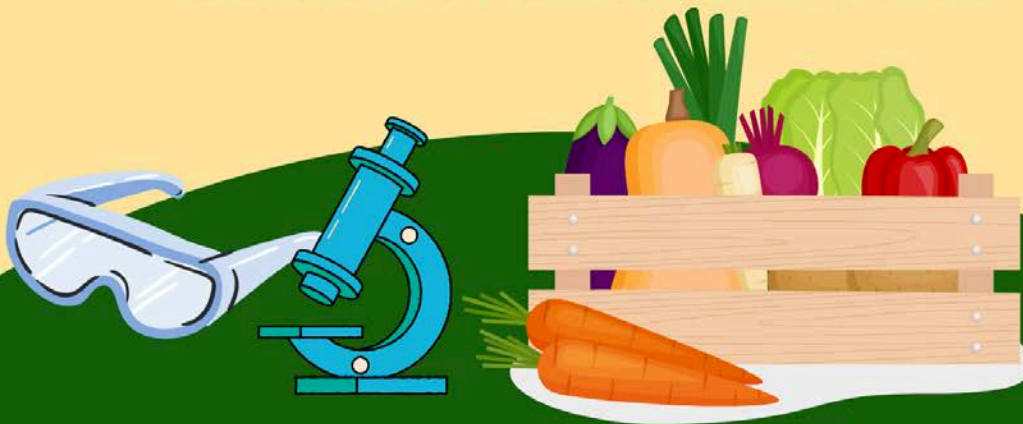
## **SCIENCE OUTREACH**

**Curious about what Scientists do? Talk to us and  
participate in demos!**

**Connecting Scientists and Society.**

**SEPTEMBER 13TH | 7AM-12 PM**

**THE FARMERS MARKET AT PEPPER PLACE,  
2829 2ND AVE S, BIRMINGHAM, AL 35233**



Event funded by a civic  
engagement microgrant  
from Research!America

The Science Policy Advocacy Network (SPAN) at UAB is a student-led organization that seeks to enhance science policy literacy among graduate students, to foster connections our with communities, local policymakers and academics.

The goal of this Pepper Place Science outreach is to build connections between UAB Researchers and the Birmingham community. The event is

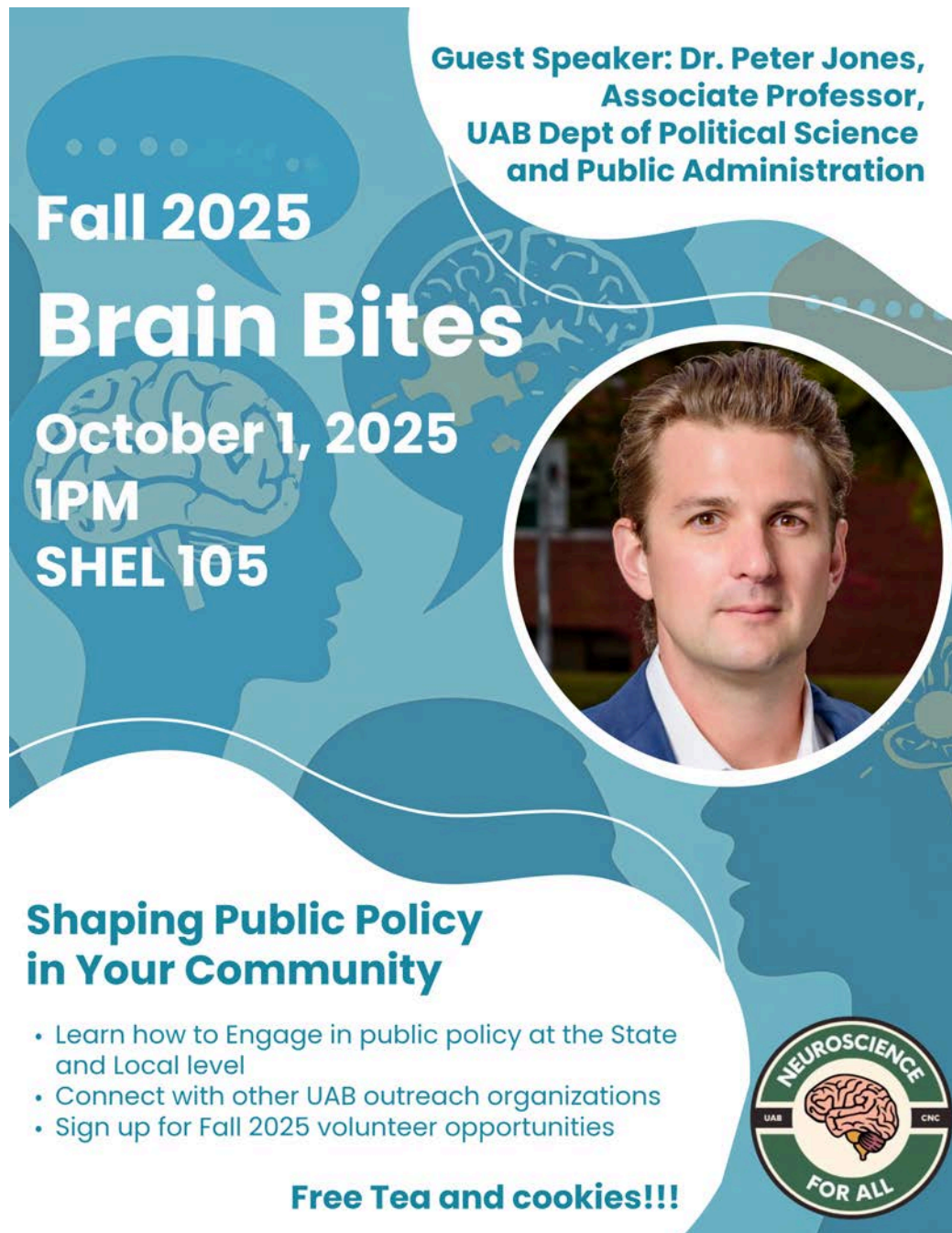


entirely apolitical.

If you are interested in volunteering during this event, please sign up here, <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090845A9A62CA4FA7-57555815-span>

In addition to helping set up and participate in science demos, volunteers are welcome to share their research with community members.

## Fall 2025 Brain Bites!



The poster has a blue background with white and teal text and graphics. It features a circular portrait of Dr. Peter Jones, a brain silhouette, and a circular logo for Neuroscience for All. The text is arranged in a clear, hierarchical manner, with the event title and date prominently displayed.

**Guest Speaker: Dr. Peter Jones,**  
Associate Professor,  
UAB Dept of Political Science  
and Public Administration

**Fall 2025**  
**Brain Bites**  
**October 1, 2025**  
**1PM**  
**SHEL 105**

**Shaping Public Policy  
in Your Community**

- Learn how to Engage in public policy at the State and Local level
- Connect with other UAB outreach organizations
- Sign up for Fall 2025 volunteer opportunities

**Free Tea and cookies!!!**

**NEUROSCIENCE FOR ALL**  
UAB CNC



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# Additional Links

[CNC Website](#)

[Join CNC Listserv](#)

[UAB CNC Neuroscience For All](#)

[UAB Research News](#)

[UAB Heersink School of Medicine News](#)

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

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



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