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## Comprehensive Neuroscience Center October 2025 Newsletter

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

Date Wed 2025-10-01 08:57

To CNC <cnc@uab.edu>

Web Version

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Comprehensive Neuroscience Center

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## Top Stories

### 2025 CNC Retreat



The 2025 UAB CNC Retreat was held September 17-18, 2025 at the Marnix E Heersink Institute for Biomedical Innovation Conference Center at UAB. We

would like to extend a Special Thank You to our Keynote Speaker, Ishmail Abdus-Saboor, PhD, Associate Professor of Biological Sciences; Principal Investigator at Columbia's Zuckerman Institute for joining us for this year's retreat. We would also like to thank GE Healthcare, Hunt Opics & Imaging, Inc., Inscopix (A Bruker Company) and Bruker Spatial Biology, Inc. for sponsoring and joining this year's event.

In total, this year's retreat featured 15 speakers, 88 poster presenters, and 220+ attendees, making this one of the most successful CNC Retreats to date!



Keynote Session



Trainee Platform Presentation  
Winners

## **Congratulations to the 2025 Trainee Platform and Poster Winners!**

### **Platform Presentation Category (Pictured Above):**

1st Place (\$500): Jose de Oliveira, Postdoc- Psychiatry  
Presentation: Maternal Early Life Adversity Impairs Offspring Sociability via Dysfunction of the Midcingulate-Prelimbic Pathway  
PI: Minae Niwa

2nd Place (\$250): Briana Machen, Graduate Student- Neurobiology  
Presentation: The encoding of interoceptive-based predictions by the paraventricular nucleus of the thalamus D2+ neurons  
PI: Sofia Beas

3rd Place (\$100): Aidan Miller, Graduate Student- CNET/Neurology  
Presentation: Monocyte derived border associated macrophages coordinate autoreactive T cell responses and drive neuroinflammation in an alpha-

synuclein model of Parkinsons disease

PI: Ashley Harms

**Poster Presentation Category:**

1st Place (\$500): Keaton Ramsey, Graduate Student- Neuroengineering

Presentation: Resolving Single Cone Receptive Field Centers in Macaque LGN Neurons

PI: Lawrence Sincich

2nd Place (\$250): Jana Badrani, Graduate Student, Neuroengineering/ Psychiatry

Presentation: Changes in Brain-Associated Granulocyte Populations Regulate Maternal Immune Activation-Induced Male-Specific Behavioral Deficits

PI: Shin-ichi Kano

3rd Place (\$100): Azariah Kaplelach, Graduate Student- Neurology

Presentation: Progranulin acts in astrocytic lysosomes to promote neuronal outgrowth

PI: Andrew Arrant

To view more photos from the 2025 Retreat, [Click Here](#).

(Photo credits goes to, Ashley Tarrant!)

Regardless of attendance, if you would like to provide feedback on the timing and organization of this year's event, please complete the brief (3 minute) survey below. This feedback will help to ensure our future events are even more valuable to CNC members. **The survey closes Friday, October 3rd at 4PM.**

Post Event Survey:

[https://uab.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_73awNzxisueQvY2](https://uab.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_73awNzxisueQvY2)

**New NSF Training Requirement effective Oct 2025**



U.S. National  
Science  
Foundation

The U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) issued [Important Notice No. 149](#) outlining its major updates to research security policies in alignment with the CHIPS and Science Act of 2022 and NSPM-33. These changes impact all NSF-funded proposals and awards. Effective **October 10, 2025**, all principal investigators and senior/key personnel must complete research security training within the twelve (12) months prior to proposal submission.

All NSF principal investigators and senior/key personnel must complete the research security training module in UAB's Learning Management System (LMS) to obtain credit. Training must be renewed annually. [Read More](#)

## Save the Dates

### 2026 Marchase Lecture & Award



The Friends of Richard B. "Dick" Marchase, Ph.D., [UWIRC](#) Endowed Award was established in 2018 to recognize a UAB investigator who leads and promotes interdisciplinary research across campus in the spirit of camaraderie that Dr. Marchase personifies.

The Marchase Award winner will receive \$1000 and be honored at the annual Marchase Lecture & Award event to be held in January of 2026.

Faculty members engaged in interdisciplinary research from all units of UAB are eligible for nomination. Nominations must be made by email to Frannie



Horn, Director of [Research Development](mailto:fhorn@uab.edu) ([fhorn@uab.edu](mailto:fhorn@uab.edu)) by **October 10, 2025**. Self-nominations are welcomed.

## UAB 2025 AI and Technology in Global Health Symposium



On **October 29-30**, this symposium will offer a unique opportunity for attendees to explore how artificial intelligence is shaping the future of global health. Through a range of engaging sessions, including keynote presentations, expert panels, and interactive workshops, participants will gain insights into innovative applications of AI across diagnostics, health systems, disease surveillance, and more. The event will highlight both the potential of AI to improve health outcomes and the challenges that must be addressed to ensure meaningful impact across diverse settings.

[Read More](#)

## 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.

# 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

## 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](#)

## UAB CCTS Clinical & Translational Science Pilot Program

The CCTS Partner Network invites applications for its pilot program, designed to address a roadblock in science and/or operations that limits translation into improved health and healthcare delivery. Pre-applications are due **October 25, 2025**.

### Program Goals

- Accelerate the translation and impact of discovery
- Elevate engagement of CTS through the pilot program
- Promote collaboration and team science

[Read More](#)

## RFA: 2025 Dr. Latesha E. Elope HEAL Pilot Program

The Heersink School of Medicine HEAL Focus Area proudly announces the 2025 Dr. Latesha E. Elope HEAL Pilot Program. In partnership with Heersink-led centers and institutes, this initiative supports innovative, interdisciplinary research aligned with lifecourse and precision population health approaches. The program will support 12-month pilot projects, led by principal

investigators with a primary appointment in Heersink. A two-step submission process begins with **letters of intent due Nov. 3**. Selected applicants will be invited to submit full proposals. Learn more about this opportunity to advance impactful, collaborative research across UAB.

[Read More](#)

## UAB-McMaster Pilot grant

The Mary Heersink Institute for Global Health (MHIGH) is pleased to announce the 2025 UAB-McMaster Joint Pilot Grant Program. This initiative is part of the ongoing partnership between The University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) and McMaster University, aimed at fostering collaborative research programs, academic and cultural exchange, and other cooperative efforts between our institutions.

[Read More](#)

Application Deadline: **November 17**, 2025 (by midnight CT)

Awards Announced: December 15, 2025

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## Happening This Month

October 1 at 1pm

[Brain Bites: Shaping Public Policy in Your Community](#)

SHEL 105

October 2

[Learning from Leaders: Rachel June Smith](#)

Virtual Event

October 2 at 1:30pm

[Neuroscience Seminar Series: Dr. Daniel Gray](#)

Bevill Biomedical Sciences, 170

October 3 at 9am

[Neurobiology Works in Progress](#)



SHEL, 1015

October 3 at 2pm  
Glial Biology Works in Progress  
SHEL, 105

October 4 at 11AM  
[Brain Chats: Early Interventions in Mental Health](#)  
Avondale Library

October 7 at 8am  
Neurology Grand Rounds  
WPCC Conference Room E and via [Zoom](#)

October 9 at 1:30pm  
[Neuroscience Seminar Series - Robin Lester Memorial lecture: Dr. Joshua May](#)  
Bevill Biomedical Sciences, 170

October 10 at 9am  
[Works-in-Progress - Olivia R. Drake](#)  
SHEL, 1015

October 10 at 1:30pm  
['Mike' Wilson Lecture Series: Precision Medicine's Blind Spot](#)  
UAB National Alumni Society House

October 14 at 8am  
Neurology Grand Rounds  
WPCC Conference Room E and via [Zoom](#)

October 15 at 4pm  
[Better Health Outcomes for All: Community Conversations & Reception](#)  
Altec/Styslinger Genomic Medicine and Data Sciences Building, Conference Room 102

October 16 at 1:30pm  
[Neuroscience Seminar Series: Dr. Serena Dudek](#)  
Bevill Biomedical Sciences, 170

October 17 at 9am

[Works-in-Progress - Nicole Desmet](#)

SHEL, 1015

October 17 at 10:15am

[Genetics 2025-2026 Seminar Series: Craig Powell](#)

Hugh Kaul Human Genetics Building, 270 (Finley Conference Room)

October 21 at 8am

Neurology Grand Rounds

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

October 23 at 1:30pm

[Neuroscience Seminar Series: Dr. Zach Pennington](#)

Bevill Biomedical Sciences, 170

October 29- 30

[Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) and Technology in Global Health: Bridging Divides](#)

October 30 at 1:30pm

[Neuroscience Seminar Series: Dr. Bitá Moghaddam](#)

Bevill Biomedical Sciences, 170

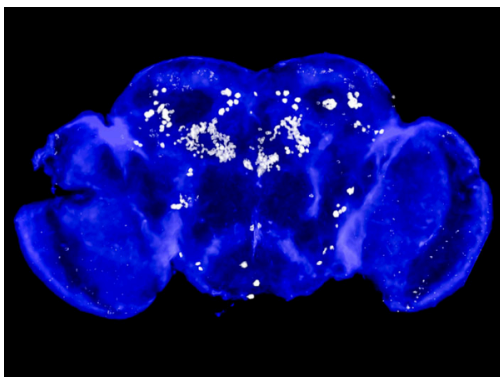
**Official titles of Seminars will be included in Weekly Updates!**

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



**[Galli, Carter, and coauthors  
featured on the cover of Science  
Signaling](#)**

UAB Department of Surgery  
Professor and Vice Chair of Basic  
Research Aurelio Galli, Ph.D., D.Sc.,  
and UAB Division of Surgical  
Oncology Assistant Professor Angela  
Carter, Ph.D., along with their  
research team, were featured on the

cover of Science Signaling and in ScienceAdvisor.



### **Smith, Cruikshank receive FCIDD McNulty Civitan Scientist Award for SLC6A1 NDDs research**

Scott Cruikshank, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Department of Neurobiology, and Rachel June Smith, Ph.D., assistant professor in the UAB School of Engineering Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, have been awarded the 2025 FCIDD McNulty Civitan Scientist Award.



### **Harnessing the power of AI for Alzheimer's disease drug discovery**

Jake Chen, Ph.D., and Sixue Zhang, Ph.D., are accelerating Alzheimer's drug discovery by using AI to rapidly turn new scientific findings into potential treatments. Their innovative approach demonstrates how academic labs can leverage generative AI to streamline early-stage drug development and invite broader collaboration.

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## SfN News



# WE'RE EXHIBITING

Graduate School Fair

**November 15–18**

**Neuroscience 2025 Updates**

Stop by the UAB Comprehensive Neuroscience Center booth 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.

[Register Now](#)

Advance registration rates end October 6.

[Registration Now Open](#)

Registration and Housing for Neuroscience 2025 is open.

[Neuroscience Meeting Planner](#)

The Neuroscience Meeting Planner is Now Available.

[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



### **NIH launches landmark project on whole-person health and function**

Approaches involves looking at the whole person - not just separate organs or body systems - and considering multiple factors that promote health.





### **Repeated head impacts cause early neuron loss and inflammation in young athletes**

NIH-funded study reveals brain changes long before chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE) develops.

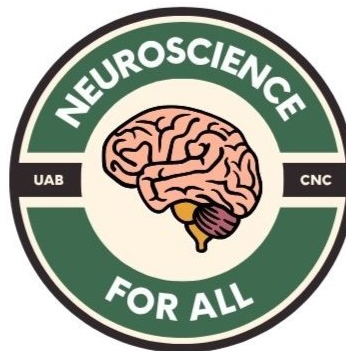


### **NIH launches \$50M Autism Data Science Initiative to unlock causes and improve outcomes**

Funded projects will drive discoveries across biology, environment, and autism services.

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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 Brain Bites - Today at 1PM in SHEL 105!**

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

Fall 2025

# Brain Bites

October 1, 2025

1PM

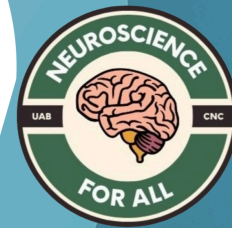
SHEL 105



## 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!!!**

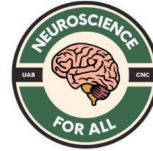


Are you a UAB Student looking for more ways to get involved in neuroscience outreach?! Join the UAB Neuroscience For All team **TODAY at 1 PM in Shelby 105** for Fall Brain Bites!

Come learn how to engage in public policy, connect with other UAB outreach groups, and sign up for the volunteer opportunities that interest you!

**Join us for October Brain Chats!**

# BRAIN CHATS



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

## INFORMATION



### LOCATION

Avondale Library  
509 40th Street South  
Birmingham, AL 35222



### UPCOMING EVENTS

October 4, 2025 at 11 a.m.



**Speaker: Adrienne Lahti, MD**  
**Professor & Chair, UAB Department of**  
**Psychiatry – Behavioral Neurobiology**

**Topic: Early Interventions in Mental Health**

**UAB MEDICINE.**

Comprehensive Neuroscience Center

**Volunteer Opportunity at Dia De Los Murtos!**

## Volunteers needed

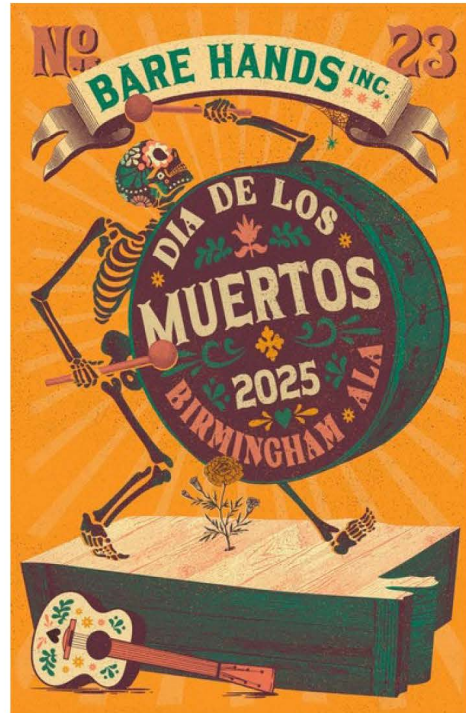
### Science *In Vivo* Booth at *Dia de Los Muertos*

The CNC Brain Awareness team is looking for volunteers to educate people attending the 2025 *Dia de los Muertos* Festival about the brain and senses

**A Feast for the Senses**

**Un Festín para los Sentidos**

**Sloss Furnaces**  
**1-9 pm Nov 2nd, 2025**



Volunteers get free admission to the Festival.

Friends/significant others/partners are welcome to sign up together, even if the other person is not a part of UAB.

Please use this QR code to sign up to receive further information.

More information the festival is available here:  
<https://www.barehandsinc.org/ddlm>

The CNC Brain Awareness team is looking for volunteers to educate people attending the 2025 *Dia de los Muertos* Festival about the brain and senses!

The event will be on **November 2 from 1-9PM at Sloss Furnaces.**

[Sign up as a Volunteer](#)

More information about the Festival: <https://www.barehandsinc.org/ddlm>



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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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