
Comprehensive Neuroscience Center July Newsletter

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

Date Tue 2025-07-01 08:59

To CNC <cnc@uab.edu>

Web Version

UAB MEDICINE

Comprehensive Neuroscience Center

Top Stories

Mission Brain Hackathon Champions!





Project NeuroBridge:
Bridging the Stroke Care Gap in Rural
Communities with a Novel Blood Biomarker Kit

Abdulraheem Kaimari (USA), Riyaz Razi (USA), Hazel Cho (USA)
Team 64

 **mission:brain**
FOUNDATION

The UAB Mission Brain team is excited to share that out of 80 teams across 42 countries, the UAB team won first place at the 2025 Mission: Brain Hackathon and were named Hackathon Champions!

Congratulations to the outstanding work of Abdul, Riyaz, and Hazel, (pictured below) who led the development of the winning project, NeuroBridge — a low-cost, point-of-care blood biomarker kit designed to improve stroke diagnosis and triage in underserved communities. NeuroBridge helps frontline healthcare providers — even in remote areas without access to advanced imaging — to diagnose strokes quickly and safely.

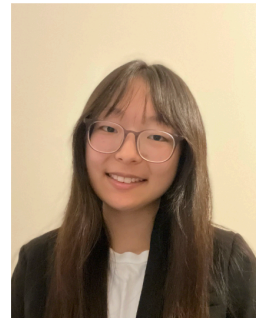
Meet the Team



Abdulraheem Kaimari
MD-PhD Student
University of Alabama at
Birmingham MSTP



Riyaz Razi
MD Student
University of Alabama at
Birmingham



Hazel Cho
MD Student
University of Alabama at
Birmingham

CNC 2025 Retreat - Register Today!

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!
UAB CNC ANNUAL RETREAT
September 17-18, 2025
**Marnix E. Heersink Institute for
Biomedical Innovation Conference Center**

Keynote Speaker:
Ishmall Abdus-Saboor, PhD
Associate Professor of Biological Sciences
Columbia University
Zuckerman Mind, Brain, Behavior Institute

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The poster features a light green background with abstract shapes. It includes a circular inset image of a modern building (UAB CNC) and another circular inset image of a man (Ishmall Abdus-Saboor) sitting at a desk. The text is in various shades of green and brown.

The overall mission of the [UAB Comprehensive Neuroscience Center \(CNC\)](#) is to promote and support interdisciplinary neuroscience research, clinical care and education at UAB. The annual CNC retreat is a two day opportunity for UAB faculty and trainees to learn more areas of neuroscience research, team build and explore new avenues of collaboration.

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.

The deadline to submit your abstract is August 1st! You must submit your abstract by the deadline in order to be eligible for awards. Trainee platform presentations will be selected from abstract submissions.

Platform and Poster Presentation Awards:

1st Place- \$500, 2nd Place- \$250, 3rd Place-\$100

Register Now: <https://www.uab.edu/medicine/cnc/news-events/retreat/2025/2025-retreat-registration>

Additional Save the Dates

Annual AAIC Retreat



Alabama Advanced Imaging Consortium

SAVE THE DATE

14th Annual

**NEUROIMAGING
RETREAT**

IN PERSON

FRIDAY, JULY 18 - SATURDAY, JULY 19, 2025

CREEKSIDE LODGE, LAKE MARTIN, AL

Details to follow!














The 2025 Annual AAIC Retreat (14th Annual) will be **Friday and Saturday, July 18-19, 2025**.

The Alabama Advanced Imaging Consortium (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. [Read More](#)

2025 Civitan International Convention



Civitan International is an organization of volunteer service clubs around the world, dedicated to helping people in their own communities. Civitans help wherever the need arises – from collecting food for a homeless shelter, to volunteering at their local retirement home, to building a playground for children with disabilities.

The 2025 Convention will be **August 6-9, 2025** at the Crowne Plaza Atlanta Perimeter at Ravinia (4355 Ashford Dunwoody Road Atlanta, GA 30346). For more on Convention registration and schedule, visit civitan.org/convention

UAB Volunteers are needed to support neuroscience demonstrations at the 2025 Civitan International Convention. Participants will help present engaging, hands-on neuroscience activities to Civitan members. Individuals interested in participating should contact [Craig Powell, M.D., Ph.D.](#), or [Tawanna Brown](#).

AL Summit on Addiction and Pain



Save the Date for the Alabama Summit on Addiction and Pain on **September 2-3, 2025** hosted by the UAB Center for Addiction and Pain Prevention and Intervention (CAPPI).

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.

Funding Opportunities

MBRF CAMI Core Inter-institutional Pilot Program

The McKnight Research Foundation (MBRF) Cognitive Aging and Memory Intervention (CAMI) Core invites Inter-Institutional MBI applications for pilot studies related to interventions that aim to reduce age-related memory loss and cognitive decline. The specific goal of these projects will be to facilitate and nurture new Inter-Institute collaborations that will establish nationally renowned and impactful research programs for improving memory and cognition in older adults.

[Full RFA Announcement](#)

LOI Deadline: July 1, 2025

Full Application Deadline: November 5, 2025 (if invited to submit by the CAMI Core)

Macular Degeneration Research Program

Brightfocus provides research funds for U.S. domestic as well as international researchers to cover a wide range of investigator-initiated topics to better understand, treat, and prevent age-related macular degeneration, a leading cause of blindness. Three types of grants are available to fund a wide range of innovative scientific ideas from early-stage and established investigators.

- Postdoctoral Fellowship (maximum award value \$200,000, 2 years)
- New Investigator Grant (maximum award value \$450,000, up to 3 years)
- Innovative Research Grant (maximum award value \$200,000, up to 3 years)

Visit <https://www.brightfocus.org/MDR-RFP> for more information about the BrightFocus macular degeneration grants, including how to apply. For grants beginning in 2026, the **letter of intent is due July 17, 2025.**

Happening This Month

July 5 at 11:30am

Brain Chats (More Information below under "Get Involved")

Homewood Public Library

July 9 at 8-10am

[Summer Graduate School Resource Fair](#)

Hill Student Center, Ballrooms

July 14 at 2pm

[Faculty and Staff town hall](#)

Hill Student Center, Ballrooms

July 24

[Summer 2025 Expo](#)

UAB National Alumni Society House

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

UAB News



Tarrant named JHS Administrative Director II for Department of Neurobiology

The Department of Neurobiology is pleased to announce the appointment of Ashley Tarrant, MPH, as JHS Administrative Director II.



Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurobiology members honored at 2025 Education Awards

Members of the UAB Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurobiology were honored Thursday, June 12, at the 2025 Education Awards. The annual event, which was held at The Fennec, served to recognize exemplary residents, faculty, and fellows in the department for the 2024-2025 academic year.



Optometry professor secures \$1.9 million grant from the National Eye Institute to combat myopia epidemic

Timothy Gawne, Ph.D., University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Optometry professor, has been awarded an R01 grant to investigate the growing epidemic of myopia. Also known as nearsightedness, myopia affects over 40 percent of the adult population in the United States and approximately one billion people worldwide.

SfN News



Neuroscience 2025 Updates

Regular Abstract Submission is Closed

Presenting authors of abstracts will be emailed in August regarding their abstract's acceptance status.

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.

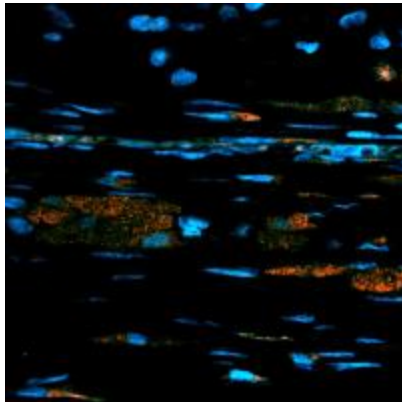
Registration will Open in July

Registration for Neuroscience 2025 will open July 16 for members and July 22 for nonmembers.

Preliminary Program

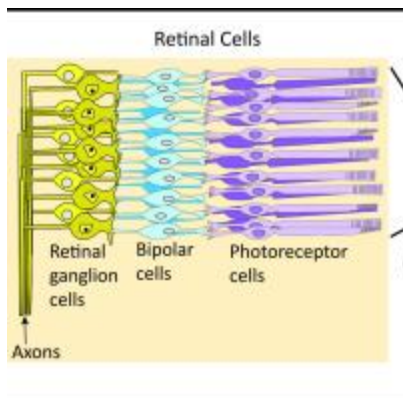
Click the thumbnail to view the Preliminary Program for Neuroscience 2025.

NIH News



NIH scientists test in an animal model a surgical technique to improve cell therapy for dry AMD

The technique may enable higher doses and combinations of cell therapies.



NIH researchers identify brain circuits responsible for visual acuity

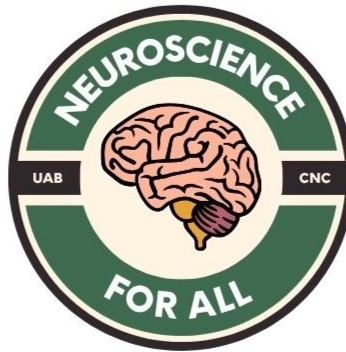
Studies demonstrate the effect of retinal injury on visual processing pathways, providing insights for the development of vision restoration therapies.



NIH researchers conclude that taurine is unlikely to be a good aging biomarker

Findings show this amino acid did not longitudinally decline with age.

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 July Brain Chats!

BRAIN CHATS

 ENGAGE IN
CONVERSATIONS
WITH
NEUROSCIENTISTS
FROM UAB!

INFORMATION



LOCATION

Homewood Public Library
1721 Oxmoor Rd
Homewood, AL 35209



UPCOMING EVENTS

July 5, 2025 at 11:30 a.m.



Speaker: Coreen Schwartzlow, MD
Assistant Professor,
UAB Department of Neurology

Topic: The Power of Vitamin B1

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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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