
UAB MEDICINE.

Comprehensive Diabetes Center

Fall Newsletter



Catching up with Nicole Johnson, First Miss America with Type 1 Diabetes

In honor of Diabetes Awareness Month, we caught up with Nicole Johnson, DrPH, the first Miss America with Type 1 diabetes (T1D), who now calls Birmingham home. Johnson shared her story of living with T1D since age 19 and how it has shaped her lifelong career of advocacy and education.

[Read more →](#)

News

Habegger to present at NIDDK glucagon physiology workshop



UCDC Scientist Kirk Habegger, Ph.D., will speak at the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases glucagon physiology workshop, Feb. 9-10, 2026, in Bethesda, Maryland.

[Read more →](#)

Get to know the UCDC researcher Adam Wende, Ph.D.



This month, meet Adam Wende, Ph.D., a tenured professor in the Division of Molecular and Cellular Pathology in the Department of Pathology, who has been at UAB since 2013 and is an endurance athlete who has completed 22 marathons.

[Read more →](#)

Huynh named finalist for Outstanding Young Scientist Award



Thi Yen Ly Huynh, Ph.D., a postdoctoral fellow in the Ramanadham Lab, was selected as a finalist for the Outstanding Young Scientist Awards to be presented at the International Meeting on Lipid Mediators in Health and Disease.

[Read more →](#)

Nair granted undergraduate fellowship award for Type 1 diabetes research



Rithvikha Nair, a senior studying in the Ramanadham Lab, has received a 2025 undergraduate fellowship program funding award from Cayman Biomedical Research Institute (CABRI) to support her research in Type 1 diabetes.

[Read more →](#)

Trainee Spotlight: Alsharif reflects on her diabetes research journey



Now a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard Medical School, Haifa Alsharif, Ph.D., reflects on her time in the Bhatnagar Lab, where she learned how to think deeply about biology, design meaningful experiments, and connect molecular findings to whole-body physiology.

[Read more →](#)

Events

- Nov 20 [DRC Plenary Series | Zoltan Arany, M.D., Ph.D.](#)
“Targeted Modulation of mTOR to suppress MASLD/MASH”
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | WEBB 511
- Dec 4 [Endocrinology Grand Rounds | Lana Makahleh, M.D.](#)
“Novel and Emerging Therapies in Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia”
12 - 1 p.m. | FOT 1202
- Jan 8 [Endocrinology Grand Rounds | Ky Huynh, M.D.](#)
“Lipoprotein(a) and Its Role in Cardiovascular Diseases and Management”
12 - 1 p.m. | FOT 1101
- Jan 27 [UAB Core & Shared Resources Day](#)
1:30-3:00 p.m. | Altec/Styslinger Genomic Medicine and Data Sciences Building, Lobby

Did you know? November 14 is World Diabetes Day

According to the International Diabetes Federation, World Diabetes Day on November 14 is a global occasion for people with diabetes,

health care professionals, advocates, policymakers and the public to unite to raise awareness of and take action on diabetes. The campaign focus for this year is “Diabetes and the workplace” with a call to “Know more and do more for diabetes at work.”

[Learn more about World Diabetes Day →](#)



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