



The University of Alabama at Birmingham

Comprehensive Neuroscience Center

Latest Stories

2024 CNC Pilot Awards

2024 CNC PILOT AWARD RECIPIENTS



Microbial Biofilms as Regulators of Psychostimulant Abuse

Drs. Angela Carter and Aurelio Galli
Department of Surgery



Unraveling the Role of Dorsostriatal Astrocytes in Dopaminergic Signaling

Drs. Mariangela Scarduzio, Stefanie Robel & Michelle Gray
Departments of Neurology and CDIB



COMPREHENSIVE NEUROSCIENCE CENTER
The University of Alabama at Birmingham

Angela Carter, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery and Aurelio Galli, PhD, D.Sc., Professor, Department of Surgery's multi-PI project title of *Microbial Biofilms as Regulators of Psychostimulant Abuse* supports the focus area of Addiction.

Mariangela Scarduzio, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Neurology, Stefanie Robel, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Cell, Developmental and Integrative Biology & Michelle Gray, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Neurology's multi-PI project title of *Unraveling the Role of Dorsostriatal Astrocytes in Dopaminergic Signaling* supports the focus area of Movement Disorders, Addiction, Mental Health.

Congratulations to the 2024 awardees! The CNC will fund these two multi-PI pilot grants up to \$40,000 for a 24-month period.

2024 CNC Retreat registration closing soon

[Register Today!](#)



The poster features a scenic background of Lake Guntersville State Park. Text on the right side reads: "UAB Comprehensive Neuroscience Center", "Annual Retreat", "September 5-6, 2024", and "Lake Guntersville State Park Lodge and Convention Center". On the left, it says "Register Today!". Two inset photos show Ishmail Abdus-Saboor, PhD (a man with a beard and glasses in a white lab coat) and Paul Kenny, PhD (a man in a blue shirt). Below each photo is a white box with their names: "Ishmail Abdus-Saboor, PhD" and "Paul Kenny, PhD".

If you plan to stay overnight on September 5th or if you wish to submit an Abstract. The registration Deadline is **Friday, August 9th!** The Single day Attendance (no overnight stay) Registration Deadline is August 23rd.

[Register Now](#) -- [View Tentative Two Day Agenda](#)

Trainee platform presentations will be selected from the submitted abstracts. Awards will be given for both platform and poster presentations.

Platform (oral) and Poster presentation awards:

1st place - \$500

2nd place - \$250

3rd place - \$100

More Upcoming Conferences

10th Annual UCEM Symposium



The University of Alabama at Birmingham

Dates: September 16 & 17, 2024

Location: UAB Alumni House (1301 10th Ave S, Birmingham, AL)

Focus: Exercise and Neuroscience

[Symposium Registration](#)

[Call for Abstracts: Competitive](#)

[Call for Abstracts: Non- Competitive](#)

[Faculty Judges Registration](#)

Abstract Submission Deadline - **5 p.m. on August 9, 2024**

Symposium registration deadline - September 10, 2024

Alabama Summit on Addiction and Pain

SAVE THE DATE

ALABAMA SUMMIT ON ADDICTION AND PAIN

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

SUMMIT DETAILS

SEPTEMBER
19-20, 2024

UAB HILL
STUDENT
CENTER



JEANNE MARRAZZO, MD
DIRECTOR, NIAID



Southeastern Vision Research Conference

SOUTHEASTERN VISION RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Welcome

Welcome to the **Southeastern Vision Research Conference** organized by Vanderbilt University, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Emory University, and the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

2024 Information:

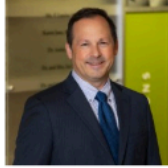
Date: November 11th & 12th

Location: Marriott at Vanderbilt – Nashville, TN

Registration & Abstract Submission Link: <https://redcap.link/SVRC2024>

Marriott Registration - <https://book.passkey.com/e/50784216>

Key Note Speaker:



David J. Calkins, PhD

Vice President for VUMC Research

Vice Chair and Director for Research, Vanderbilt Eye Institute

Director, Vanderbilt Vision Research Center

Denis M. O'Day Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences

Funding Opportunities

Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP)

The Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) invites applications that will foster groundbreaking approaches to biomedical research in response to the expressed needs of our communities.

UAB ADC Research Education Component (REC) Scholars

The UAB Alzheimer's Disease Center is pleased to announce the Request for Applications for the Research Education Component (REC) Scholars program. This initiative aims to foster the development of early-stage investigators in Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD) research. Scholars will receive mentorship, access to resources, and support to advance their independent research careers. Interested candidates should have a strong commitment to ADRD research and a desire to engage in interdisciplinary and collaborative studies. Applications are encouraged from individuals with diverse backgrounds and expertise.

Applications are to be submitted by **August 9, 2024**. For more information and to submit an application, visit [UAB Alzheimer's REC Scholars](#).

McKnight Brain Research Foundation Innovator Awards in Cognitive Aging and Memory Loss

Aiming to identify emerging scientific leaders to advance transformative research in the cognitive aging field, the MBRF and the American Federation for Aging Research are offering up to two 3-year awards of \$750,000 each to Advanced Assistant Professors and recently appointed Associate Professors (MDs and PhDs).

One award will be made to support a study focused on clinical translational research and another award will be made to support a study on better understanding the basic biological mechanisms underlying cognitive aging and age-related memory loss.

The Innovator Awards application window is open now through **August 12, 2024**. For questions regarding this award opportunity, please contact grants@afar.org.

McKnight Clinical Translational Research Scholarship in Cognitive Aging and Age-Related Memory Loss

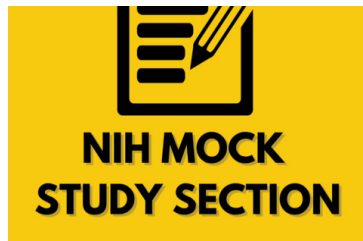
Funded by the McKnight Brain Research Foundation through the American Brain Foundation and the American Academy of Neurology, the McKnight Clinical Translational Research Scholarships recognize the importance of rigorous training in clinical research and encourage early-career investigators to establish future careers exploring human cognitive aging.

Up to two scholarships will be awarded, each consisting of \$65,000 per year for two years, plus a \$10,000 stipend per year, for a total award of \$150,000. The awards will support education and research-related costs for early career investigators pursuing clinical studies relevant to age-related cognitive decline and memory loss.

The application window is open now through **September 10, 2024**. For questions regarding this award opportunity, please contact grants@americanbrainfoundation.org.

Happening This Month

NIH Mock Study Section (K and R Series Grants)



Step into the role of an NIH study section member and experience what happens after a grant is submitted in these four sessions. Dates: August 13, 15, 20 & 22

August 3 at 11 a.m.
CNC Brain Awareness - Brain Chats
Avondale Public Library

August 29 at 1:30 p.m.
Neurobiology Seminar Series- Susan Ingram, University of Colorado
BBRB, 170

August 29 at 4- 6 p.m.
Heersink School of Medicine New Faculty Meet and Greet
WTI Lobby
Note: Please RSVP to kellymoore@uab.edu by Aug. 15

Official titles of Seminars will be included in Weekly Updates!

Have an event to share?

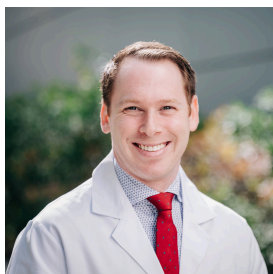
Tag the CNC on the UAB Calendar Event or email cnc@uab.edu

UAB News



New UAB startup offers life-changing treatment for functional neurological disorder

Fobian developed Retraining and Control Therapy, or ReACT, to help patients with functional neurological disorder, or FND, which affects an estimated 300,000 Americans.



Neurosurgery addresses spina bifida prevention in Alabama's Hispanic community

Michael Feldman, M.D., a pediatric neurosurgery fellow in the Department of Neurosurgery, is leading efforts to reduce spina bifida rates in Alabama's Hispanic community through folic acid

fortification of corn masa flour.



Landmark drug trial shows promising results for Pitt-Hopkins syndrome

Cassandra Newsom, Psy.D., director of the Translational Research Core of Civitan International Research Center at UAB, led the Phase 2 trials of the new drug NNZ-2591, produced by Neuren Pharmaceuticals, Camberwell, Australia.



Henrich looking forward to new home for the Department of Psychology

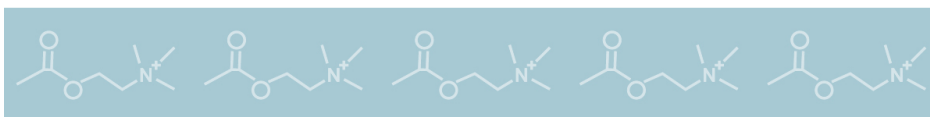
On June 28, 2024, the University of Alabama at Birmingham broke ground on the new UAB Biomedical Research and Psychology Building.

SfN News

Visit the UAB CNC at booth #37!

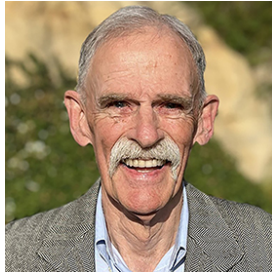


**WE'RE
EXHIBITING**
GRADUATE SCHOOL FAIR
October 5-8



More Neuroscience 2024 Updates:

- [Submit Your Late-Breaking Abstracts July 23-August 1](#)
- [Registration and Housing now open for members and nonmembers](#)
- [View Preliminary Program](#)
- [How to Make and Present a Poster for Neuroscience 2024-August 12 at 9 a.m. EDT](#)
- Information for volunteering at the UAB CNC Graduate School Fair table will be included in the September 2024 Newsletter!



SfN Announces 2024 Election Results

The Society for Neuroscience extends congratulations to its newly elected officers and councilors. The incoming leaders will begin their terms at Neuroscience 2024 in Chicago.

The membership elected Nick Spitzer as incoming president-elect.



NIH Aims to Expand Addiction Research Strategies Beyond Just Biology

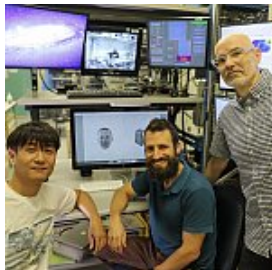
Drug addiction is a major mental health issue in the United States where drug overdose has claimed over 100,000 lives in 2022, said Nora Volkow, director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA).

NIH News



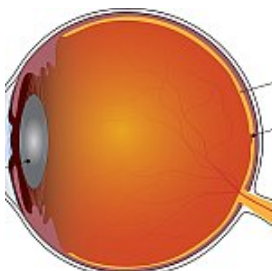
Umbilical cord milking does not appear to increase risk of neurodevelopmental delay in non-vigorous infants

NIH-funded study suggests blood-sparing treatment a safe alternative to current standard.



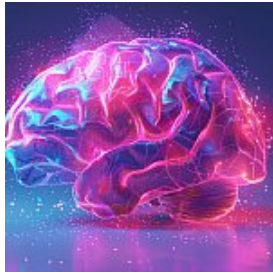
NIH researchers discover a new face-detecting brain circuit

The findings in non-human primates could shed light on how our brains develop facial recognition skills.



Supplements slow disease progression during late stage of "dry" age-related macular degeneration

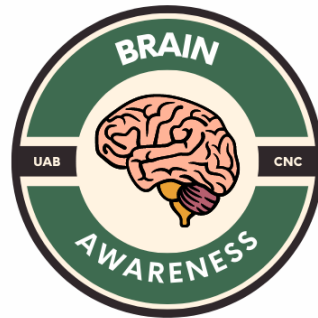
New analysis shows benefit of taking AREDS2 formula in late AMD.



Sexual and gender minorities are twice as likely to report active epilepsy.

NIH-funded study highlights importance of health disparities research.

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/brain-awareness/upcoming-events-volunteer-opportunities> for upcoming events and volunteer opportunities!

Join us this Saturday for August Brain Chats!

BRAIN CHATS



ENGAGE IN CONVERSATIONS WITH NEUROSCIENTISTS FROM UAB!

INFORMATION



LOCATION

Avondale Library
509 40th Street South
Birmingham, AL 35222



UPCOMING EVENTS

August 3, 2024 at 11 a.m.



Speaker: Farah D. Lubin, Ph.D.
UAB Department of Neurobiology
Director, Roadmap Scholars Program

Topic: How our brain cells read DNA to form memories



SCAN NOW

The UAB Comprehensive Neuroscience Center



Communicate. Educate. Collaborate. Accelerate.

Additional Links

[CNC Website](#)

[CNC Neuroscience Research Pillars](#)

[Join CNC Listserv](#)

[Previous CNC Newsletters](#)

[UAB CNC Brain Awareness](#)

[UAB Research News](#)

[UAB Heersink School of Medicine News](#)

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

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



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<https://www.uab.edu/medicine/cnc/>
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