

Dear Attendee:

Welcome to the 10th Annual National Enhancement of Underrepresented Academic Leaders (NEURAL) Conference! The NEURAL Conference is an extension of the UAB Neuroscience Roadmap Scholars (RMS) Program. Our goal is to enhance engagement and retention of historically underrepresented graduate trainees (as defined in the Notice of NIH's Interest in Diversity) in the neuroscience workforce.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the UAB Neuroscience Roadmap Scholars Program and the NEURAL Conference. Resolved to address the lack of diversity in the neurosciences, in 2014 we launched the Neuroscience Roadmap Scholars (RMS) Program at UAB, the first program of its kind in the country, along with the NEURAL Conference. NEURAL is an annual regional conference - the only one of its kind - specifically designed to capture and engage the broader community of underrepresented neuroscience graduate trainees.

For the past 10 years, the NEURAL Conference has annually hosted neuroscience trainees from underrepresented groups from across the country to participate in professional development workshops, poster and oral presentations, and has featured numerous world-renowned keynote speakers sharing their science and speaking on the challenges they've endured in their professional growth.

This year, we are seeing our efforts come full circle. Alumni from our earliest RMS and NEURAL cohorts are now faculty and are mentoring the next generation of diverse neuroscientists. For NEURAL 2024, we intend to spotlight our outstanding RMS and NEURAL alumni, giving them a platform to share their science, highlight their journeys as neuroscientists, and address how they overcome challenges faced on their journeys.

We have put together an exciting scientific and professional program. We hope you will take every opportunity to network with other trainees and neuroscience faculty and discuss your work and individual challenges. We are here to help the next generation of diverse neuroscientists reach their full potential. Never forget - YOU BELONG.

Best regards,

Farah D. Lubin, PhD, FAES

Professor & Vice Chair of Trainee Engagement and Development
Director, R25 NINDS Neuroscience Roadmap Scholars Program
Director, T32 NINDS Cognition & Cognitive Disorders Training Program
Triton Endowed Professorship in Neurobiology
Department of Neurobiology, Heersink School of Medicine
University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB)

SCAN TO DOWNLOAD THE FULL PROGRAM AND ABSTRACT BOOK:



Use hashtag #NEURAL2024 on your social media posts!



@UAB_NeuroRMS



UAB_NeuroRMS



UAB.Neuroscience.Roadmap.Scholars



National Enrichment of Underrepresented Academic Leaders

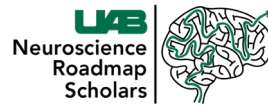


The first NEURAL Conference! (2015)



June 12-14, 2024

Hosted by the University of Alabama
at Birmingham's Neuroscience
Roadmap Scholars Program



UAB HEERSINK
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
The University of Alabama at Birmingham

SUPPORTED BY THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH
(NINDS R25 NS089463)

10th Annual
NEURAL
Conference
2014-2024

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12

12:00-5:00 PM **Arrivals & Check In at McMahon Hall**
(1600 10th Ave S, Birmingham, AL 35206)

5:45 PM **Shuttle from Hilton and McMahon Hall to Welcome Reception**

6:00-7:30 PM **NEURAL Conference Welcome Reception**
Birmingham Civil Rights Institute (BCRI)
520 16th St N, Birmingham, AL 35203

7:30 PM Shuttle from BCRI to McMahon Hall and UAB Hilton

THURSDAY, JUNE 13

CUDWORTH BUILDING AUDITORIUM (1919 UNIVERSITY BLVD.)

7:30 AM Breakfast

8:00 AM **Opening Remarks & Ice Breaker:**
Farah D. Lubin, Ph.D.
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Director, NEURAL Conference & UAB Neuroscience Roadmap Scholars Program

8:30 AM **Special Guest Speaker I:**
Laura Vicente Rodríguez, Ph.D.
University of Puerto Rico at Cayey
"Effect of a concussion in pain-like behaviors in rats"

9:00 AM **Oral Session I:**
Derian Pugh - University of Alabama at Birmingham
"Regional brain co-expression network analysis identifies NRN1 as a mediator of cognitive resilience to Alzheimer's disease"

Manessa Riser - Wayne State University
"Sex-Specific Associations Between Brain Activity and Future PTSD Symptoms in Trauma-Exposed Youth"

Elam Cutts - University of Alabama at Birmingham
"Toward comparing scotomas: Using microperimetry paired with cortical magnification factor to quantify retinal functional health in patients with central vision loss"

Lindsay Ejoh - University of Pennsylvania
"Opioidergic control of a thalamic pain circuit during placebo analgesia"

10:00 AM Break

10:15 AM **Special Guest Speaker II:**
Lillian Brady, Ph.D.
University of Alabama at Birmingham
"Sex-specific regulation of dopamine release mechanisms through nicotinic receptors underlying substance use disorder"

THURSDAY, JUNE 13

CUDWORTH BUILDING AUDITORIUM (1919 UNIVERSITY BLVD.)

10:45 AM **Oral Session II:**
Brianna Fitzgerald - University of Alabama at Birmingham
"Development of an ethologically relevant rodent model of social stress"

Jenelle Collier - University of Pittsburgh
"Reactive Astrocyte Na⁺/H⁺ exchanger upregulation in Alzheimer's Disease"

Matheus Teles - University of Alabama at Birmingham
"Clinical and neurobiological heterogeneity in first-episode psychosis patients: A normative modeling approach"

Khalil Threadgill - Harvard Medical School/McLean Hospital
"Amygdala Crh cell activity required for territorial aggression"

11:45 AM Lunch and Networking

1:15 PM **Special Guest Speaker III:**
Nathaniel Harnett, Ph.D.
Harvard Medical School/McLean Hospital
"Moving towards (hopefully) generalizable neural signatures of trauma and stress-related disorders"

1:45 PM Break

2:00 PM **Panel Discussion: The Future of Neuroscience Training**
Panelists: Rita Cowell, Ph.D.; David Knight, Ph.D.; Michelle Gray, Ph.D.; Rajesh Kana, Ph.D.; Adrienne Lahti, MD

3:00 PM Break

3:15 PM **Keynote Speaker I:**
Ukpong Eyo, Ph.D.
University of Virginia
"Assessing roles for microglia in seizure disorders"

THURSDAY, JUNE 13

UAB HILTON BALLROOMS (808 20TH ST. S.)

4:30 PM Adjourn & Walk to UAB Hilton

4:45 PM **Poster Hanging Begins**

5:00 PM **Dinner Reception for NEURAL Guests and Speakers**

6:00 PM **Poster Session**
Hors d'oeuvres served

8:15 PM Shuttle to McMahon Hall
(1600 10th Ave S, Birmingham, AL 35205)

FRIDAY, JUNE 14

UAB HILL STUDENT CENTER 3RD FLOOR BALLROOMS (1400 UNIVERSITY BLVD.)

7:15 AM Adjourn & Walk to UAB Hilton
Poster Hanging Begins

7:30 AM Breakfast

8:00 AM **Special Guest Speaker IV:**
Shahzad Khan, Ph.D.
"Primary cilia dysfunction in neurodegenerative diseases"

8:30 AM **Oral Session III:**
McKenna Somerville - Univ. of Alabama at Birmingham
"Early Inflammaging and Senescence Transcriptional Response to Ocular Hypertension in Living Human Retina"

Kaejaren Caldwell - University of Cincinnati
"The Characterization and validation of an ex vivo ischemia model for neurochemical analysis"

Jhodi Webster - University of Alabama at Birmingham
"Co-pathologies and immune cell activation in a model of Parkinson's Disease"

Deanna Ross - University of Texas at Austin
"Differential DNA methylation related to trauma type in the PTSD brain"

9:30 AM Break

9:45 AM **Special Guest Speaker V:**
Kirsten Schoonover, Ph.D.
University of Alabama at Birmingham
"Identifying the neural substrate of working memory impairments in schizophrenia: multi-faceted approaches in human postmortem tissue"

10:15 AM **Shark Tank**

11:30 AM Lunch

12:30 PM **Keynote Speaker II:**
Michael Burton, Ph.D.
University of Texas at Dallas
"Cell and Sex-specific Neuroimmune mechanisms in pain sensitization"

1:45 PM **Awards & Closing Remarks**
- Presenting Awards for Best Oral Presentation, Best Poster Presentation, and Shark Tank
- Presenting RMS Outstanding Faculty Awards

2:00 PM Adjourn

UAB
Neuroscience
Roadmap
Scholars



You belong.