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FROM THE UNDERGRADUATE ADVISOR OF RECORD (UGAR) - DR. WILLIAM RAMOS

Let’s Talk about Scholarships

Pro Tip: Even if you don’t think you will qualify for financial aid, you should still submit the FAFSA! Information from the FAFSA could impact certain scholarships that are even merit-based.

UTSA Scholarship Hub

Through one general scholarship application, you can automatically be considered for dozens of scholarships at UTSA, including scholarships that are available for this major. In order to access all available scholarship applications on the UTSA Scholarship Hub, you must be an admitted student. If you are a student applying for admission, but have not yet been admitted, you may sign in and complete the Scholarship Hub’s General Application as long as you have authenticated your myUTSA ID and Passphrase. Once you are admitted to UTSA, please sign back in to the Scholarship Hub to see if there are any additional scholarship opportunities available for you to pursue. Try it! It’s worth a shot.

Distinguished Scholarship

UTSA offers an automatic merit-based scholarship to incoming new freshman and transfer students who display exceptional scholastic achievement in high school by the priority deadline. Non-resident and international students awarded a Distinguished Scholarship for a minimum of $1,000 for the academic year will be granted a waiver for non-resident tuition if scholarship eligibility is maintained. This means out-of-state and international students could pay in-state tuition! For fall admitted freshmen, this scholarship is valued up to $20,000 for up to four years. For fall or spring admitted transfer students, this scholarship is valued up to $6,000 for up to two years. Renewal eligibility must be maintained and funding must be available.

NDRB DISSERTATION DEFENSES

Doctoral Dissertation Defense

Erin Hurley
Mentor: Jenny Hoeh, Ph.D.
Program: PhD in Neuroscience

‘Not(ch) Just Development: Role of Notch Signaling in Neurodegeneration’

Date: Friday, October 28, 2022
Time: 1:00 pm
Location: BSE 2.102

Doctoral Dissertation Defense

Courtney McMahon
Mentor: Jenny Hoeh, Ph.D.
Program: PhD in Cell & Molecular Biology

‘Modeling the Neurodevelopmental Effects and Implications of Prenatal COVID-19 Exposure’

Date: Wednesday, October 19, 2022
Time: 3:00 pm
Location: HUS 1.102 Hexar Room

Congratulations to our two PhD candidates, Erin Hurley and Courtney McMahon, for successfully defending their dissertation.
**FACULTY SPOTLIGHT**

**DR. FRANCESCO SAVELLI**

**Q: WHAT IS YOUR AREA OF EXPERTISE AND HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN WORKING IN YOUR RESEARCH AREA?**

Neuroscience and Computer Science. I have done research in these two fields since the early 2000s.

**Q: WHERE DID YOU GET YOUR DEGREE AND WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO BECOMING A PROFESSOR?**

The Sapienza University of Rome. I was always very intellectually curious and enjoyed sharing knowledge. So I decided to make a living out of that.

**Q: WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO WORK IN YOUR CURRENT FIELD?**

My undergraduate and graduate education were in computer engineering. I was drawn to the most theoretical aspects of computer science and AI, and I began my research career in these fields. Ironically, I started using much of what I learned in my engineering classes – electronics, signal processing, etc. – only after switching to neurophysiology. I switched to neuroscience because I became interested in how the brain solves the same problem I was studying in AI: how you can make a mental map of your surroundings from noisy sensory information.

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**Q: WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT UTSA?**

I am a first-generation college graduate, and so are many of our students.

**Q: WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO OUR FIRST-YEAR NEUROSCIENCE STUDENTS?**

Neuroscience is still in its infancy, and it is highly interdisciplinary. It will serve you well if you educate yourself in various subjects such as computer science, math, physics, chemistry, and biology.

Brain-Machine interfaces will become ever more sophisticated and capable of monitoring brain activity in real-time. There will also be greater involvement of data science and AI in interpreting brain signals. These two trends will revolutionize our understanding of how the brain works and how we can use this knowledge for medical applications such as neuroprosthesis.

**Q: WHAT DO YOU THINK WILL CHANGE ABOUT YOUR RESEARCH OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS?**

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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

HOPE MSENGI

Hope is an undergraduate junior majoring in Neuroscience. She is the secretary for Women in STEM, a member of the Neuro-Mind Association, and Black in Neuro. Hope is a hard-working individual who strives to achieve academic excellence. She enjoys reading, has a passion for music, and loves filming and video editing.

Q: WHY DID YOU CHOOSE NEUROSCIENCE AS YOUR MAJOR?

I chose Neuroscience as my major because I am fascinated by the complexity of the human brain and its various functions. I have an interest in understanding the relationship between the brain and behavior.

Q: WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE CLASS AT UTSA AND WHY?

I’ve taken several great classes at UTSA, but since I have just transitioned into the new Neuroscience degree program, I am looking forward to taking Brain and Behavior and Brain Diseases because they captivate my interests.

Q: WHAT IS YOUR DREAM JOB?

My dream job is to become a neuroscientist and to work in the biomedical research industry researching therapies for neurological and neuropsychiatric disorders.

Q: WHAT CAMPUS RESOURCE DO YOU FIND HELPFUL AND WHY?

The tutoring services at the Tomas Rivera Center on campus have been the most helpful to me since I became a student at UTSA. They have drop-in hours, and provide 1:1 tutoring sessions and group supplemental instruction that are easily accessible to students outside of class. I can always rely on them when I have quick questions or need tutoring on a challenging topic.

NDRB LAB SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Lacy Barton had stepped out of her lab, and upon her return snapped a picture of her students, unknowingly, engaged in their work.

The Barton labs’ research mission is to understand how egg and sperm precursors fulfill their unique potential to generate fertile and healthy offspring using Drosophila, mouse, and cell culture models.

For more information on the Barton, lab visit their website! Barton Lab.

Check out the QR code to see if you Qualify! wichalabgroup@gmail.com
Our PhD Students Are Traveling Again


Shannon was awarded a $1200 travel scholarship to attend the conference where her abstract "GRASP in the Gustatory System: Observing Synaptic Connectivity and Dynamics in Peripheral Taste Circuits" was invited for poster presentation and symposium talk. While presenting her research findings about her dissertation work on peripheral taste connectivity, she had the opportunity to expose others to an area that is not particularly common and also had the honor of talking with many scientists like Dr. Diego Bohorquez and Dr. Charles Zuker who are well-known leaders in the field of chemosensation.

James Jones: Gordon Research Conference - Basal Ganglia in Ventura, California March, 2022

James presented a talk entitled "Ongoing local synaptic inhibition controls the firing rate and pattern of neurons in the mouse external globus pallidus" and later in the conference presented a corresponding poster.

Tara Flaugher: Society of the Neurobiology of Language Conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania October 6th, 2022 and San Antonio Brain Injury Think Tank at UT Health San Antonio
- Discussed newly funded UTSA Seed Grant project aimed at understanding prediction and contextual expectation after mild traumatic brain injury with a diverse audience of basic research scientists, clinicians, medical professionals and clinical research scientists to promote translational science

Dr. McCarrey and Faculty
Homecoming Tailgate

The McCarrey Lab and Faculty representing the department during UTSA's Homecoming Tailgate! Go Runners!
The Neuro-Mind Association is excited to announce its Fall 2022 General Meeting schedule. General meetings will be held:

11/15/2022 @6pm-7pm

Meetings will be located at the Mesquite Room in the Student Union (2.01.24)

To get involved for the Fall semester, visit Rowdy Link or email at neuromindautsa@gmail.com.

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**Native American Heritage month**

Did you know that November is Native American Heritage Month, or as it is commonly referred to, American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month? The month is a time to celebrate rich and diverse cultures, traditions, and histories and to acknowledge the important contributions of Native people.

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**Epilepsy awareness month**

Did you know this month is Epilepsy awareness month? Epilepsy is a central nervous system (neurological) disorder in which brain activity becomes abnormal, causing seizures or periods of unusual behavior, sensations, and sometimes loss of awareness.
## FALL 2022 NEURO SEMINARS

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>11/3</td>
<td>Harold Zakon PhD</td>
<td>UT Austin</td>
<td>Diversity of communication signals in electric fish: neurobiology meets molecular evolution.</td>
<td>Dr. Troyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/10</td>
<td>Lynette McCluskeyPhD</td>
<td>Augusta Univ. Med. College of Georgia</td>
<td>Immune regulation of taste function</td>
<td>Dr. Macpherson</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/1</td>
<td>Shannon Macauley PhD</td>
<td>Wake Forest Sch. Med.</td>
<td>Sleep, Metabolism, and Alzheimer's Disease</td>
<td>Uchit Bhaskar</td>
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## FALL 2022 CMB/DRS SEMINARS

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<th>Speaker</th>
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<tr>
<td>11/7</td>
<td>Idse Heemskerk</td>
<td>University of Michigan</td>
<td>Decoding the signaling dynamics that control human gastrulation, with pluripotent stem cells</td>
<td>Lacy Barton</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/14</td>
<td>Todd MacFarlan</td>
<td>NICHD</td>
<td>Zinc finger genes vs. Retroviruses: a story of combat and cooperation in mammals</td>
<td>Jake Lehle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/21</td>
<td>James Lechleiter</td>
<td>UTHSA</td>
<td>Targeting Astrocytes as a Strategy to Treat Brain Injurie</td>
<td>Gopakumar Changarathil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/28</td>
<td>Qi Chen</td>
<td>UC Riverside</td>
<td>Sperm RNA Code: How many bits of information for epigenetic inheritance?</td>
<td>Brian Hermann</td>
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UPCOMING EVENTS

NDRB Holiday Luncheon
Thur. Dec. 15, 2022 11:30am - 3pm
@ BSE Atrium

Chew on this: Chat with Dr. George Perry
Wed. Nov. 16, 2022 1pm - 2pm
@ BSE 3.03.02 - Loeffler Room
Refreshments and department swag will be provided.

UPCOMING DEADLINES

November 15 (Tue) Deadline for Spring 2023 undergraduate degree candidates to apply for graduation. Visit the Graduation webpage for more information.

November 17 (Thu) Student Course Evaluations OPEN in ASAP at 8 a.m.

November 24-25 Thanksgiving Holiday. University closed.

November 29 (Tue) Withdrawal/Automatic “W” Deadline** Deadline for all students to withdraw (drop all classes) ONLY and receive a grade of "W" for each class. Students must see an advisor to drop developmental classes. Students receiving financial aid must submit withdrawal forms in person to the One Stop Enrollment Center. Withdrawal forms are available at https://onestop.utsa.edu/forms/registrar/

FALL 2022 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

To view full NDRB events calendar: https://bit.ly/3Qvql6Z
To view COS SSC events: https://rowdylink.utsa.edu/organization/cosssc

NDRB Student Success Series
Contact student SUCCESS for questions