

THE CAROLINA AUTISM AND NEURODEVELOPMENT RESEARCH CENTER

APRIL NEWSLETTER

APRIL EVENTS



SCIENCE/WORKSHOPS

APRIL 12 1 PM - 3 PM

Career Panel for Trainees

The CAN Trainee Committee is hosting a career panel for students interested in neurodevelopment-related fields. Coffee & cookies provided. Sign up pg. 5!

APRIL 24 9 AM - 12 PM

CAN Research Roundup

Share your research! All CAN labs are invited to give a flash talk about their work. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. Sign up pg. 7!

COMMUNITY EVENTS

APRIL 20 4 PM - 7 PM

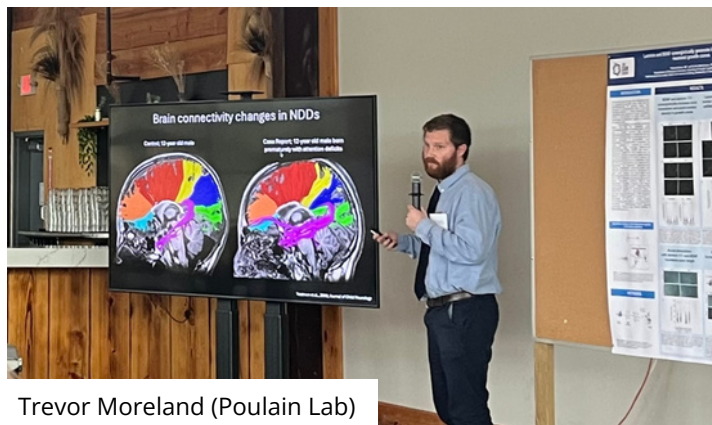
Autism's Got Talent!

Join us for our third annual Autism's Got Talent, a virtual talent show for autistic kids and teens. Learn more pg. 4!

APRIL 23 9 AM - 3 PM

Autism Connect 2024

CAN is partnering with the SC DDSN to host an event featuring community resources, speakers, and opportunities to connect with families. All community members welcome! Learn more pg. 4.



Trevor Moreland (Poulain Lab)

SCAND Highlights

On March 22nd, the CAN Research Center participated in the annual South Carolina Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders (SCAND) Research Symposium. Our members gave talks, presented posters, and won awards. Learn more pg. 6!



Get Involved

April is Autism Awareness Month! The CAN Research Center is hosting and participating in many community events this month. Sign up pg. 8!

A NOTE FROM OUR STEERING DIRECTOR



Caitlin Hudac
CAN Steering Director
chudac@mailbox.sc.edu

Cheers,

Caitlin

Happy April!

Welcome to the last push of the semester! We are really proud of all that we have accomplished this year! Next month we will feature all of the successes from the past year. **If you have highlights to include, please email Audrey!** We are working on some BIG ideas for summer and spring - we will reserve some time at the Research Roundup on April 24 (pg. 7) to discuss.

April is also Autism Awareness month! CAN will be at many events this year (see Page 8), and we will be tweeting out facts & findings throughout the month. Join our activities and consider sharing your latest finding with our social media!

Lastly, I want to thank everyone who was able to join us at our **state-wide neurodevelopment conference** in Charleston last month. We had over 70 USC attendees! Some highlights:



CAN tables at SPARK in the Park

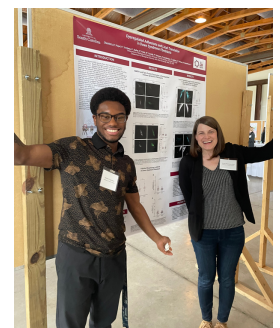
- The keynote from **Dr. Susan Daniels** encouraged us to think proactively about community involvement and continue to push to develop the link between community--research.
- The keynote from **Dr. Hirofumi Morishita** encouraged us to think about translational models by thinking about how our basic science and preclinical models can inform the emergence and phenotype of NDDs.
- **MANY of our own USC CAN faculty and students presented** - and two of our trainees won awards for their poster presentations!



Postdoctoral Researcher Poster Winner Dr. Cailee Nelson, postdoctoral researcher (B-RAD Lab) & Dr. Caitlin Hudac



SCAND Research Symposium



Poster Winner Kareem Chambers, post-baccalaureate student (Welshhans Lab) & Dr. Kristy Welshhans

MARCH EXECUTIVE MEETING

RECAP

The CAN Executive Committee meets monthly. This March, the leadership team:

- Reviewed recent events
 - **Ask: SCAND Attendees, please fill out the [feedback survey](#).**
- T32 (postdoc) application to be submitted in May
- More info coming soon for 4 upcoming CAN hires (Biology, Psychology, Education, PPN)
- Many April events - see page 4
- Considering summer programming - writing clubs, ANS group meetings, etc. Trainee specific events?

BUDGET PROPOSALS

CAN EC agreed to contribute to:

- Theater camp: Rooster Tales with Dr. Peter Duffy
- Autism's Got Talent
- "Elevator Pitch" workshop for Fall 2024

STRATEGIC PLANNING

CAN Strategic Planning opportunities:

- Portion of April 24 Research Roundup
 - Needs/ideas for summer programming?
 - Structure of CAN
- June 2024 - 2 day retreat. Email Caitlin if you are interested in attending

CALLING ALL CAN MEMBERS



Jane Roberts
Psychology
Co-Director



Kristy Welshans
Biological Sciences



Jeff Twiss
Biological Sciences
Co-Director



Abigail Hogan
Communication
Sciences & Disorders



Caitlin Hudac
Psychology
Steering Director



Dan Foster
Pharmacology, Physiology
& Neuroscience



Jessica Bradshaw
Psychology



Join us!

Serve on the CAN Executive Board! Reach out to [Caitlin](#) if you are interested. This includes students and postdocs!

APRIL EVENTS

**APRIL
06**

Neurodiversity Among Us

In partnership with Akoma Cares, the ESD lab is hosting a day of fun activities for families with a neurodivergent child.

🕒 2 - 5 PM

📍 Institute for Mind & Brain

**APRIL
12**

Career Panel Trainee Event

What career path is best for you? Learn from a panel of professionals hosted by the CAN Trainee Committee!

🕒 1 - 3 PM

📍 Institute for Mind & Brain, #101

**APRIL
20**

Autism's Got Talent!

Calling all talent on the spectrum! Autistic children are invited to share their talent during our third annual talent show.

🕒 4 - 7 PM

📍 Virtual

**APRIL
23**

AutismConnect 2024

In partnership with DDSN, CAN is hosting a conference for families and autism providers across the state.

🕒 9 AM - 3 PM

📍 USC Alumni Center

**APRIL
24**

CAN Research Roundup

Share your research and connect with our community! All CAN members are invited to give a flash talk about their work.

🕒 9 AM - 12 PM

📍 Institute for Mind & Brain

CAN Science Meetings

Wednesdays, 8:30 - 9:15AM

Virtual

April 3: Dr. Abigail Hogan (CANDi Lab): Anxiety in Autism

April 10: Open - Gatlinburg presentations

April 17: Dr. Jessie Fu (ASCENT Lab): Grant submission input (R21 with O'Reilly) / Planning on pilot data collection

CAREER PANEL

Are you studying psychology, biology, neuroscience, or another neurodevelopment-related field?

Learn about careers you can have with a PhD from the experts!



RSVP HERE



APRIL 12



1 - 3 PM



**Institute for
Mind & Brain, 101**



Katie Franke, PhD, BCBA

Psychologist

Director of Clinical Services

Dr. Katie Franke is a licensed psychologist and Board Certified Behavior Analyst at The Unumb Center for Neurodevelopment. She oversees the ABA, psychology, and pre-employment transition services, as well as provides psychological evaluations and interventions for children with developmental disabilities.

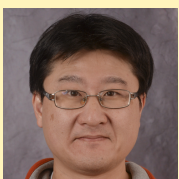


Daniel Foster, PhD

Assistant Professor

USC School of Medicine

Dr. Foster's researches how neuronal circuits regulate repetitive and habitual behaviors in rodents, with the goal of identifying new therapeutic strategies for treating symptoms in disorders such as autism spectrum disorder and obsessive-compulsive disorder.



Joon Lee, PhD

Associate Director,

Translational Sciences

Dr. Joon Lee joined Biogen in 2018 and is currently heading the Genomic Targets Biology (GTB) group. His work has been focused on modulating target RNAs with different modalities, including antisense oligonucleotides, splice modulating small molecules and gene therapy.



**Marjorie Cloninger, PhD,
NCSP**

Psychologist

Dr. Marjorie Cloninger is a psychologist in Prisma Health's Child Development division in the department of Pediatrics. She completes developmental and autism evaluations and provides consultative services for clinics. She is also clinical faculty with the USC School of Medicine, teaching medical students and supervising psychology doctoral students, pre-doctoral interns, and post-doctoral fellows.

SCAND Research Symposium

Highlights

Complete the [feedback survey!](#) 



Dr. Laura Friedman (Klusek Lab)

On March 22nd, the South Carolina Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders Consortium (SCAND) hosted the annual SCAND Research Symposium.

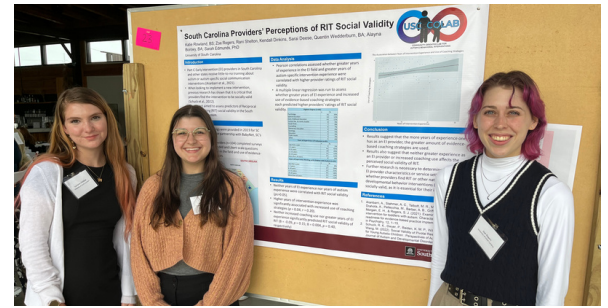
73 University of South Carolina Attendees

36 USC trainees

20 USC faculty

10 USC postdoctoral researchers

8 Total represented organizations



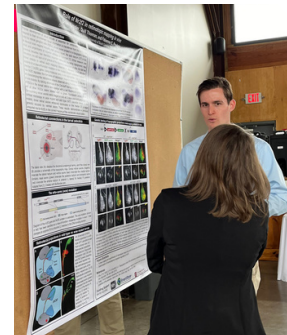
Rani Shelton, Katie Rowland, & Zoe Rogers (Edmunds/COLAB)

CAN Speakers

- Dr. Jessica Bradshaw
- Dr. Robert Hock
- Dr. Sara Edmunds
- Dr. Ana Pocivavsek
- Dr. Aaron Jasnow
- Dr. Laura Friedman (Klusek Lab)
- Trevor Moreland, BS (Poulain Lab)



Dr. Aaron Jasnow



Brian Kessler (Poulain Lab)



Dr. Robert Hock



SCAND Attendees



Dr. Jessica Bradshaw



Dr. Jane Roberts introduces Dr. Susan Daniels



Audrey Kananowicz (CAN Research Center)

SAVE THE DATE! MARCH 7, 2025

The next SCAND Research Symposium will be held on March 7th at Furman University.

Poster winners from CAN

- Kareem Chambers (Welshhans Lab)
- Cailee Nelson (Hudac / B-RAD Lab)



THE CAROLINA AUTISM AND NEURODEVELOPMENT RESEARCH CENTER

RESEARCH ROUNDUP

APRIL 24
9 AM - 12 PM

Science

Collaboration

Community

**Institute for Mind
& Brain, #125**

SIGN UP HERE

**Breakfast & lunch
provided!**

Join us for our **annual research roundup!** All CAN labs are invited to give a flash talk about their research, learn about multidisciplinary science, and network over breakfast and lunch.



CAN in the Community

This March, the CAN Research Center tabled at:

- Disability Advocacy Day (SC State House)
- Disability Celebration Day (South Carolina State Museum)
- SPARK in the Park (Goose Creek, SC)



SPARK in the Park



Disability Advocacy Day



SPARK in the Park



Disability Celebration Day



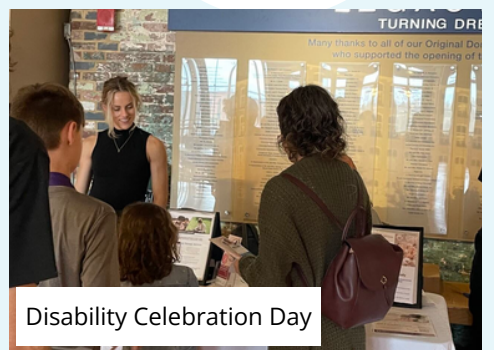
Disability Advocacy Day



SPARK in the Park



SPARK in the Park



Disability Celebration Day

Join us this April! [Sign up here](#)



- Sun, 4/14: Fireflies Sensory Safe Sunday
- Tue, 4/23: AutismConnect 2024
- Sun, 4/28: Sensory Friendly Family Concert at the SC Philharmonic

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The Autism Research Program (ARP) released program announcements for the following funding opportunities:

- **Career Development Award**
- **Clinical Trial Award**
- **Idea Development Award**



To view the program announcements and submit a pre-application visit: <https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/ProgramFY.htm?programFYId=577102>

Autism Field-Initiated Research Studies (Autism FIRST)

DUE: APRIL 3, 2024

Supports empirical research that advances the evidence on early screening and interventions in developmental disabilities by testing the implementation of new and/or innovative strategies that addressing health issues, with a special focus on addressing the needs of underserved populations. Estimate \$600,000 will be available each year to fund 2 recipients, with a ceiling amount of up to \$300,000 annually. 3-yr period performance.