



# CAROLINA AUTISM & NEURODEVELOPMENT CENTER

## September 2022 Newsletter

### A note from the CAN Steering Director

Welcome back to campus!  
I am excited to join everyone as new faculty in Psychology and the new Steering director of CAN Research Center! Many thanks to Dr. Jessica Bradshaw for chairing the committee last year. I hope to use the newsletter each month to celebrate our progress and keep everyone up-to-speed on events, ideas, and opportunities for engagement!



**Dr. Caitlin Hudac**  
Psychology  
Office: IMB 114  
chudac@mailbox.sc.edu

### September Events

**Science meeting:** September 1, 3:30 pm @ IMB colloquium room 125

**1<sup>st</sup> Thursday Social:** September 1, ~4:30 pm @ the Graduate hotel

**Ad hoc meeting:** September 15, 3:30 pm @ IMB colloquium room 125

**Dr. Diana Robins seminar:** September 19, 3:30 @ Hamilton 322

### In this newsletter...

Dr. Diana Robins, 9/19 @ 3:30  
(talk + social)

Fall retreat highlights

Join a CAN Working Group!

Upcoming opportunities for trainees

## VISITING RESEARCH SCIENTIST SEMINAR SERIES



### *Early Detection of Autism*

#### **Dr. Diana Robins**

Director and Professor  
AJ Drexel Autism Institute, Drexel University

Date: **Monday September 19**

Time: 3:30 – 5:00 pm

Location: Hamilton 322

Register to attend or to schedule a meeting with  
Dr. Robins

[http://redcap.link/canseminar\\_drobins](http://redcap.link/canseminar_drobins)

Free parking available

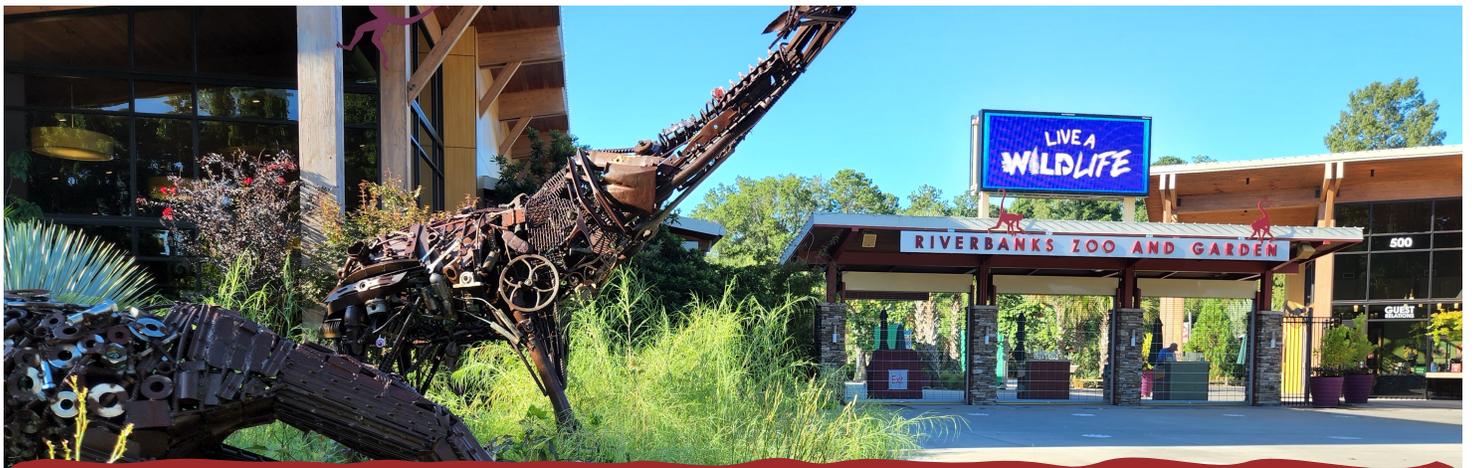


Dr. Robins' CV



Register to attend

*Dr. Robins is a globally-renown clinical psychologist whose work continues to innovate and advance screening tools for autism spectrum disorder (ASD).*



## FALL 2022 RETREAT: Highlights

Strategic planning was a focus of the Fall 2022 retreat. A common theme involved confusion over CAN membership – we will be soliciting continued feedback about what works best for you to make sure CAN members are able to be active and engaged!

1-2 word phrase of what excites you most about ASD/NDD research at University of South Carolina

Collaboration  
 Translational work  
 broad infrastructure translational New ideas  
 Interdisciplinary Potential  
 Genetics Community



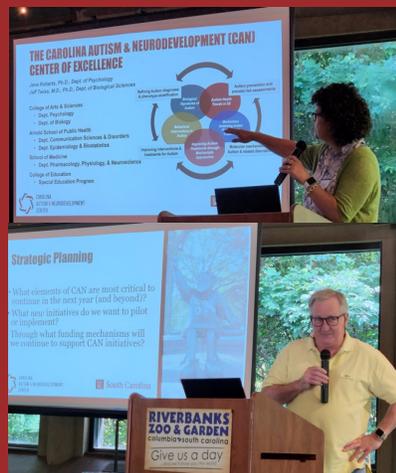
New faculty talks from Dr. Dan Foster and Dr. Caitlin Hudac



Community outreach update from Elizabeth Dixon



Student talks from Rachel Hantman and Nikita Kirkise



Updates from Dr. Jane Roberts and Dr. Jeff Twiss



Family story from Robin Blackwood, SC DDSN



Visits from A&S Dean Dr. Joel Samuels and VP for Research Dr. Julius Fridriksson



Many thanks to all our attendees: including faculty, staff, and trainees, as well as Whitney Evans within the UofSC Corporate & Foundation Philanthropy office

# WORKING GROUPS

Working groups have been suggested to engage more CAN members and delegate responsibilities to increase our progress on research, events, and community engagement. Here are a few groups we are considering. **Let us know if you would like to be involved or have ideas!** (email [chudac@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:chudac@mailbox.sc.edu))

## Community outreach and engagement

This group would provide a link between CAN researchers and the community. In the past, CAN members have organized events like Autism Family Fair and Autism's Got Talent. This group would serve to streamline efforts and ensure reciprocity between research and the community we serve.



## External seminar series

This group would connect with prominent scientists across the nation and across disciplines. These leaders would help our CAN Admin coordinate and plan visiting scholar events.

## Peer grant review

This was a popular initiative over the years! This group would communicate and coordinate peer review efforts by CAN members – including setting the structure/expectations & schedule.

## Preclinical resources

The idea of this working group was proposed at the Fall 2022 Retreat as a mechanism to improve communication and resource sharing between individuals working on preclinical models.

## Monthly meetings

These leaders would work with the Steering Director (Caitlin) to ensure our monthly meetings offer diverse perspectives.

*Working groups would be open to ALL members – faculty, trainees, community partners. Please share your ideas!*

# UPCOMING TRAINEE OPPORTUNITIES



The CAN Trainee Committee is putting together a research speed dating event!

**What:** This will be a semi-structured event for trainees and faculty to get to know more about each other's research interests, backgrounds, and areas of expertise. The Trainee Committee will provide questions and you will get to chat with multiple members of CAN throughout the event. Think of this as chance to practice your research "elevator pitch", as well as an opportunity to meet new people and collaborators!

**Who:** (1) CAN Faculty members; (2) CAN Trainees, including research staff, undergraduate students, graduate students, and postdoctoral scholars.

**Where:** Likely at the IMB Colloquium Room 125 (1800 Gervais St).

**When:** Mid-semester; date to be determined based upon interest.

**How:** If you are interested, please fill out this form by **September 8<sup>th</sup>** so that the Trainee Committee can gauge interest and find a date/time that works best for everyone's schedules:

<https://forms.gle/7gk9E3D34JQw88J96>

**TRAINEES:** Even if you aren't interested in the research speed dating event, please fill out the form! We have two trainee specific questions so that we can continue to make CAN the best training opportunity possible.

## Upcoming professional development events

GRAD SCHOOL APPLICATIONS:  
VIRTUAL

9/12/22  
3 - 5 pm

CV WORKSHOP:  
IN-PERSON



10/03/22  
3 - 5 pm

GRAD SCHOOL APPLICATIONS:  
IN-PERSON



10/24/22  
3 - 5 pm

All trainees welcome. May be most beneficial for undergraduate students.

Contact B-RAD Lab for details:  
[b.rad.laboratory@gmail.com](mailto:b.rad.laboratory@gmail.com)

## FACULTY:

Please fill out [this Google form](#) to make sure we are accounting for your trainees!