APRIL EVENTS

April 4
Dr. Trudy Mackay & Dr. Robert Anholt: Visiting Scientists

April 21
Autism's Got Talent!
Virtual talent show
4-7pm

April 25
Research Roundup
8am-12pm
IMB Room 125

SAVE THE DATE!

May 10
CAN Trainee Publishing Panel
10-11:30AM | IMB 125

More SCAND pictures pg 8!
Happy April!

Last month was busy for CAN -- we hosted the state-wide symposium for SCAND with visiting scholars from MUSC, Clemson, Furman, Greenwood Genetics, and other institutions! Dr. Jory Fleming's talk on his experiences was a highlight, as well as hearing about new directions in precision medicine from Dr. Wendy Chung (Columbia University). Check out some pictures on Page 8. We are excited to end the academic calendar with some really great events (see next page).

It was also time for us to submit our final report of the CAN USC Provost Excellence Initiative to Dr. Arnett. Thank you to everyone that responded to our flurry of emails. It was truly awe-some to see the productivity of CAN members. Congratulations to all!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CAN Research Center Highlights from June 2019 to present:</th>
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<tr>
<td>179 manuscripts &amp; book chapters</td>
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<td>&gt;200 Neuroscience majors in first year</td>
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<tr>
<td>&gt;134 invited talks on work</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 tenure-line faculty hires</td>
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<tr>
<td>~$41.7 M in extramural grant funds</td>
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<td>~$16.8 M in anticipated funding</td>
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(1) At the Research Roundup 4/25 we will be soliciting feedback about a few important upcoming strategic planning meetings for CAN, including options for a smaller, intensive summer retreat and our larger Fall CAN Retreat.

(2) We continued discussing pursuing Center grants (e.g., NIH P50) and the need to write a consensus paper / white paper. Please reach out if you have specific ideas and/or to be involved!

Interested in serving on the Executive Committee for Fall 2023-Summer 2024? Let us know!
### April 4  
**Dr. Trudy Mackay and Dr. Robert Anholt visiting**

We will host a lunch for trainees, Dr. Mackay will give a talk in the afternoon on her groundbreaking work using Drosophila as a model for complex traits, and there are plenty of opportunities for small group meetings. Let us know if you would like to be added to the schedule!

### April 21  
**Autism's Got Talent!**

Join us in welcoming the talented all-stars within our local community for the second annual AGT, co-sponsored and spearheaded by Dr. Jessica Bradshaw's Early Social Development lab. Read more about it on Page ##.

### April 25  
**CAN Research Roundup | 8AM - 12PM**

This is an opportunity to hear about this year's accomplishments and where CAN will be headed next. More details and an "RSVP" will be sent soon to get a head count, but all are welcome. Breakfast and coffee/tea provided!

- **Updates from CAN leadership** "Final report", small group & open discussion about future goals
- **PI 2-slide flash talks:**
  1. Overall program
  2. 1 recent finding or grant
- **Updates from workgroups** (Trainees, Community, Registry)

### May 10  
**Trainee Publishing Panel | 10-11:30AM**

Come ask questions about publishing science! Open to all CAN members but geared to trainees. Our panel will include: Dr. Fabienne Poulain (Associate Professor, Biology), Dr. Laura Friedman (Postdoc COMD with Dr. Jessica Klusek), and graduate students Miranda Foster & Alexis Federico (Psychology with Dr. Jessica Bradshaw).

Download the [CAN Calendar here!](#)
The Carolina Autism & Neurodevelopment Research Center

VISITING RESEARCH SCIENTIST SEMINAR SERIES

Epistasis and the Genetics Architecture of Quantitative Traits: Lessons From Drosophila

APRIL 4  2-3 PM  RUSSELL HOUSE 305

DR. TRUDY MACKAY

Director of Clemson University Center for Human Genetics
Professor of Genetics and Biochemistry

Refreshments & coffee/tea provided!
CALLING ALL TALENT ON THE SPECTRUM

Join us for a virtual talent show for kids and teens with autism, where we showcase your unique gifts and talents!

Send your talent video by

April 7

Watch the talent show on Zoom

April 21

4-7PM

A call for new and returning performers

Last year, Autism’s Got Talent featured performances from more than 30 children and teenagers with autism throughout South Carolina.

Now, we’re looking for more people to showcase their talents in our 2023 virtual talent show. Send us your talent videos by April 7, and tune in on April 21 to see the complete talent show broadcast on Zoom.

Call or text 803-766-6309 for more information.
CAN Research Roundup
April 25
8 AM - 12 PM
IMB 125
1800 Gervais St.

Breakfast: 8 am
Lunch: 12 pm

This event will include
- Updates from CAN leadership
- Updates from CAN workgroups
- Flash talks from CAN research labs
- Small group/open conversation about CAN's future objectives/goals

Posters
Have you presented at a conference this year? Bring your posters!
If you cannot attend by 8 am 4/25, you can drop off your poster to be hung by CAN Research Staff
Support practitioners in using data to inform instructional decision making and optimize client outcomes

Improve the reliability and validity of analytic methods for single-case experimental designs

**PRIMARY RESEARCH GOALS:**

**DR. WOLFE'S CURRENT WORK**

Right now, Dr. Wolfe's work focuses on practitioner progress monitoring and data-based instructional decision making. She is currently...

Conducting survey of special educators’ data-based decision making practices to inform future research on how to best support educators in using data to make decisions.

Preparing to pilot a decision-making model that we developed with an ABA company to test whether it improves the timeliness and accuracy of BCBAs’ instructional decisions.

**FUN FACT**  Dr. Wolfe has a huge family! Each of her parents have nine siblings, and she has about 30 cousins on one side of the family and 50 on the other.
SCAND Research Symposium
Highlights

Dr. Wendy Chung gives her keynote address

Dr. Jane Roberts, Dr. Rob Hock, Dr. Sarah Edmunds

Dr. Jane Roberts addresses SCAND guests

Vandana Srivastava

Dr. Julia Yurkovic-Harding

Brady Floyd

Dr. Caitlin Hudac

Jory Fleming

Dr. Wendy Chung gives her keynote address
Interested in improving diversity, equity, and inclusion here in CAN studies? Consider joining our Community Workgroup. We will be developing community relationships through programming and listening sessions starting Summer 2023.

SPOTLIGHT ON DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

Dr. Caitlin Hudac
University of South Carolina | Psychology

Dr. Hudac gave an incredible international webinar that provided concrete ideas about how to improve inclusion in (cognitive) neuroscience. She highlighted work in her lab that uses mobile EEG testing to improve inclusion of non-speaking and non-ambulatory ultra-rare genetic populations linked to autism and NDDs. You can watch the recording here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vG3y0mwA3_g

AUTISM RESEARCH EQUITY TRAINING

Early March, Family Voices led an Autism Research Equity Training program funded through the Eugene Washington Patient-CenteredmOutcomes Research Institute (PCORI) Engagement Award (EASC-IDD_00251). Dr. Hudac was able to attend and can share the slides from the workshop. Here are some important takaways:

- 1 in 45 Black/African-American children as autism in United States (CDC, 2021)
- Large disparities in timing of diagnosis, access to care, referrals, and unmet needs (Constantino et al., 2020; Maenner et al., 2020)
- ~50% of autism studies do not specify race. Of the 15 studies that specified race, 8% were Black/African-America (Watkins et al., 2019)

Why does involvement matter?
- Developing culturally appropriate materials
- Increasing engagement in research
- Reducing long-standing health disparities among children with autism and their families

More than 60 percent of participants in autism intervention studies are white

Study identified participants as Black which includes African Americans.

How to Increase Participation

- Cultural matches
- Cultural liaisons in the community to recruit and engage families
- Literacy-friendly materials
- Train advocates in the community
- Warm, friendly, and supportive interactions
- Reduce time burden
- Form strong relationships with community-based organizations

Interested in improving diversity, equity, and inclusion here in CAN studies? Consider joining our Community Workgroup. We will be developing community relationships through programming and listening sessions starting Summer 2023.
CAN in the Community

CAN helped plan Disability Advocacy Day at the State Capitol! Thanks to Dr. Jane Roberts for speaking to our community about research at USC.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

South Carolina State Museum (SCSM) Accessibility Morning  
Sat, April 8  
9-11 AM

EdVenture Sensory Night  
Fri, April 21  
5-7 PM

Soda City coming soon!  
April  
Date TBD

When tabling, you will inform individuals about CAN, direct parents to relevant studies, and encourage registry sign-up. Contact Audrey for more info!

Audrey Weaver, CAN Program Coordinator, tabling at the State House
Grant Updates

### Relevant upcoming RFAs

**SFARI #1: Human Cognitive and Behavioral Science**

https://www.sfari.org/grant/human-cognitive-and-behavioral-science-request-for-applications/

**Due 5/4; Multiple tracks:**
- Explorer Track: $500,000 up to 2 yrs
- Expansion Track: $900,000 up to 3 yrs
- Collaboration Track: $750,000 per lab up to 3 years (up to 4 labs)

**SFARI #2: Undergraduate Research Fellowship in Neuroscience (SURFiN)**

https://www.simonsfoundation.org/grant/simons-foundation-undergraduate-research-fellowship-neuroscience-surf/in/

Webinar 4/5; Due 5/4; Mentor/Fellow interviews 6/23; Would start after 9/1 through May 2024

**SFARI #3: Cross-Species Studies of ASD**

https://www.sfari.org/grant/cross-species-studies-of-asd/

Due 6/15; $400,000 annually for 2-3 years

**DEPSCoR: Defense Established Programs to Stimulate Competitive Research**

Link: https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=346651

- **DoD grant** (3 years $600k). To be eligible, you should not have served as a PI in any DoD grants before and you must have a senior collaborator who has gotten funding from DoD as PI before.
- **DEPSCoR program has two tracks:**
  - Research collaboration ([link](https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=346651), currently open)
  - Capacity building.
- **Relevant topic:** Topic 6: Neurophysiology of Cognition

Thanks for the tip, Dr. Vignesh Narayanan!

Interested in having your grant aims reviewed by other CAN researchers? We have a new centralized process to facilitate scheduling a grant review. https://redcap.healthsciencessc.org/surveys/?s=N93FYKPAF7M9N0
Recruiting Studies

**Brain Research Across Development (B-RAD) Lab**

Dr. Caitlin Hudac is recruiting children aged 10-14 years of age without a known neurodevelopmental or psychiatric disorder. Investigating social attention, the study involves parent and child surveys and questionnaires, as well as a lab visit in which the child will participate in an EEG eye tracking experiment.

**Contact**: (803) 470-5776

b-rad-laboratory@gmail.com

**Community-Oriented Lab for Autism and Behavioral Interventions (COLAB)**

Dr. Sarah Edmunds is recruiting families with toddlers (ages 2-5) for a study about emotional regulation that either have an ASD diagnosis, some development concerns with no current diagnosis, or no development concerns. Families may receive a free diagnostic evaluation for their toddler and $20 per visit.

**Contact**: (803) 386-1130 | COLAB@mailbox.sc.edu

**Early Social Development (ESD) Lab**

Dr. Jessie Bradshaw is recruiting babies between the ages of 0-36 months to participate in multiple studies. Participation includes a variety of developmental assessments and participants can receive between $120 and $200, dependent upon the study.

**Contact**: (803) 993 - 8356

esdilab@mailbox.sc.edu

**Autism and Family Lab**

Dr. Rob Hock is recruiting for his randomized controlled trial of Autism Parent Navigators, a prevention program for co-caregivers that targets parent mental health, parenting quality, ASD service engagement, child challenging behaviors, and child adaptive functioning. Participation eligibility includes a child diagnosed with ASD within the last 12 months, the child is between 18-mos and 8 yrs, and parenting responsibilities are shared by another adult who lives in the same home.

**Contact**: (803) 386-9451 | hbehr@email.sc.edu

**Family Experiences Lab**

Dr. Jessie Klusek is recruiting mothers with a child with autism and women who are 45-78 years old, with biological children, for a variety of studies related to the FMRI gene. Check out their website for details about each study!

**Contact**: (803) 576-7359

scfamilystudy@gmail.com

**Developmental Dynamics Lab**

Dr. Liz Will is recruiting infants with Down syndrome 12-months and younger to participate in a longitudinal study on early development and communication. Assessments involve play-based activities, once every 3-6 months, for ~2 years.

**Contact**: willea@mailbox.sc.edu

**CAN studies currently recruiting human subjects**