

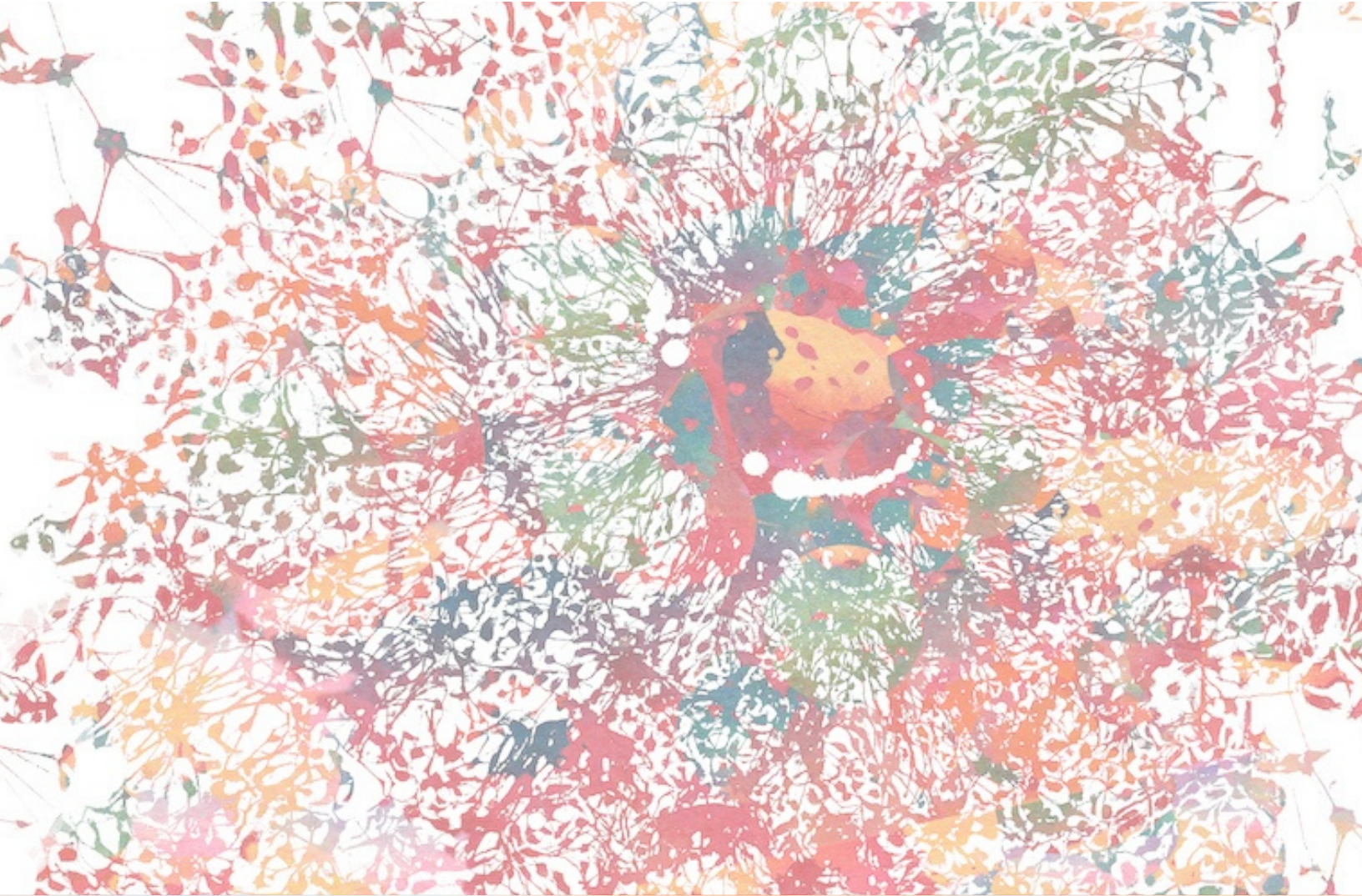
NDRB Signals

ABBREVIATED EDITION

DEPARTMENT OF NEUROSCIENCE, DEVELOPMENTAL AND REGENERATIVE BIOLOGY

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2022



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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

MARTHA DE LOS REYES



Martha is majoring in Neuroscience with a Molecular concentration. She's a post baccalaureate psychology student and plans to pursue a PhD in Neuroscience to go into research. She was born and raised in San Antonio, Texas in the Mexican American culture which she considers an important part of her identity. When she's not working or studying, she enjoys reading a good book or listening to audiobooks.

Q: WHAT IS YOUR DREAM JOB?

There is much to learn about the brain and discoveries to be made. I would love to be a part of any research that is exploring how our brains work and affect behavior. I also have an interest in epigenetics, so if I could find something that relates to both of these topics, it would be really cool.

Q: WHY DO YOU CHOOSE NEUROSCIENCE AS YOUR MAJOR?

I majored in Psychology first for my bachelor's degree and I really enjoyed learning about the brain in my psychology classes. Learning about neurons, neurotransmitters, the different brain regions, and their functions really made my brain light up! It turned out I was passionate about neuroscience and wanted to do something different related to that field of science. Someone I worked with inspired me to switch routes and just go for it!

Q: WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO THE INCOMING NEW STUDENTS?

Time management is a skill you need to succeed in! So plan out your due dates on a calendar and then break up big assignments into smaller pieces that are more manageable. While you are in college, you should connect with your professors and other students to learn about different opportunities that are out there. You should make sure to do an internship, ask to work in a research lab, or do volunteer work to gain experience and to find out what you like to do and if it is something you will enjoy doing in the future.

FAREWELL RECEPTION FOR DR. ISABEL MUZZIO



The NDRB Department hosted a farewell reception for Dr. Isabel Muzzio on Thursday, July 28, 2022 at the BSE Atrium. Dr. Muzzio joined UTSA in August 2015, and was an exceptional researcher, teacher, mentor and colleague. Earlier this year Dr. Muzzio was awarded the UTSA Presidential Teaching Excellence Award.

We thank Dr. Muzzio for her seven years of service at UTSA. Congratulations and good luck to Dr. Muzzio on your new position at the University of Iowa. We will miss you!

R01 AWARD - DR. FIDEL SANTAMARIA



Congratulations to Dr. Fidel Santamaria, on receipt of a new R01 award totaling over \$600K, over three years.

CRCNS: The diffusional complexity of the brain's extracellular space, will allow Dr. Santamaria and his collaborator to conduct research to determine the intricacies of the "space" between brain cells, an understudied area! By building biophysical models of excitable cells in the hippocampus, a brain structure involved in learning and memory, these studies will shed light on pathological conditions such as epilepsy and gliosis.

FALL 2022 NEURO SEMINARS

| Date | Speaker | Affiliation | Title | Host |
|-------------|---|---------------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| 8/25 | Andrew Maurer PhD | Univ. Florida | Floating ideas on theta waves | Dr. Savelli |
| 9/1 | Lindsey Macpherson, PhD | UTSA | Twisting the tongue map - new insights into the function of regional specialization of taste | Dr. Wilson |
| 9/8 | Genaro Coria-Avila PhD | Univ. Veracruzana | Neurobiology of sexual partner preference: from biological diversity to psychiatric disorders | Dr. Monje |
| 9/15 | Zayd Khaliq PhD | NINDS | Local receptor control of axonal excitability and striatal dopamine release | Dr. Wilson |
| 9/22 | Nicole Wicha PhD | UTSA | Electrophysiological signatures of cognitive development and bilingualism in processing simple arithmetic | Dr. Wilson |
| 9/29 | Alfonso Apicella, PhD | UTSA | Cortical Circuits: Auditory Processing | Dr. Wilson |
| 10/6 | Nicolas Tritsch PhD | NYU | intrinsic reward-like dopamine and acetylcholine dynamics in striatum | Dr. Wilson |
| 10/13 | Mel Feany PhD | Harvard Univ. | Genetic Analysis of Neurodegeneration | Dr. Lee |
| 10/20 | Annual Neurosciences Symposium - "3D models of human cortex development and function" | | | |
| 10/27 | Michael Scofield PhD | Med. Univ. SC | Corticostriatal plasticity and cue-induced cocaine seeking | Dr. Wanat |
| 11/3 | Harold Zakon PhD | UT Austin | Diversity of communication signals in electric fish: neurobiology meets molecular evolution. | Dr. Troyer |
| 11/10 | Lynette McCluskey PhD | Augusta Univ. Med. College of Georgia | Immune regulation of taste function | Dr. Macpherson |
| 11/17 | Susan Sangha PhD | Indiana Univ. Sch. Med | Using Learned Safety Cues to Map the Behavioral and Circuit Mechanisms of Fear Regulation | Dr. Burgos-Robles |
| 12/1 | Shannon Macauley PhD | Wake Forest Sch. Med. | TBD | Bhaskar |

FALL 2022 CMB/DRS SEMINARS

| Date | Speaker | Affiliation | Title | Host |
|-------------|------------------|-------------------------------|---|------------------------|
| 8/29/2022 | Pei Wang | UTHSA | The role of Hippo pathway in pancreas diseases and development | Brian Hermann |
| 9/12/2022 | Jungsu Kim | Indiana University | Emerging roles of glial cells in Alzheimer's disease | Hyoung-gon Lee |
| 9/19/2022 | Jake Lehle | UTSA DRS student | Epigenetic Reprogramming in a Dish - An In Vitro Model of Transgenerational Epigenetic Inheritance | John McCarrey |
| 9/26/2022 | Anukriti Singh | UTSA DRS student | Primate Spermatogonial stem cells and their niche: a single-cell view | Brian Hermann |
| 10/3/2022 | Victor Corces | Emory/Whitehead | Mechanisms of transgenerational inheritance of obesity epiphenotypes | Jenny Hsieh |
| 10/10/2022 | Toshi Shioda | Harvard/MGH | Human Primordial Germ Cells: Normal Development and Diseases | Josh McCarrey |
| 10/17/2022 | Erzsebet Kokovay | UTHSA | The role of microglia in neural stem cell aging | Brian Hermann |
| 10/24/2022 | Jenna Schmidt | WNPRC/University of Wisconsin | Editing the macaque embryonic genome: challenges and considerations - VIRTUAL | Brian Hermann |
| 10/31/2022 | Marcel Daadi | TBRI | Physical and Cognitive-Based Regenerative Rehabilitation in Nonhuman Primate Model of Parkinson's Disease | Brian Hermann |
| 11/7/2022 | Idse Heemskerk | University of Michigan | Decoding the signaling dynamics that control human gastrulation, with pluripotent stem cells | Lacy Barton |
| 11/14/2022 | Todd MacFarlan | NICHD | Zinc finger genes vs. Retroviruses: a story of combat and cooperation in mammals | Jake Lehle |
| 11/21/2022 | James Lechleiter | UTHSA | Targeting Astrocytes as a Strategy to Treat Brain Injury | Gopakumar Changarathil |
| 11/28/2022 | Qi Chen | UC Riverside | Sperm RNA Code: How many bits of information for epigenetic inheritance? | Brian Hermann |

COS STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER (COS SSC)

The College of Sciences Student Success Center hired 41 Science Mentors for the 2022-2023 Academic Year. Science Mentors are sophomores, juniors and seniors who meet 1 on 1 with COS freshmen, sophomores and transfer students to provide support, information on campus resources, and encourage involvement. Juniors and Seniors may request a Science Mentor as well.



In preparation for the fall semester, the Science Mentor team attends training for 1.5 weeks. Training consists of learning about campus resources, event planning, promoting wellbeing, communication and overall leadership skills.

FALL 2022 NEUROSCIENCE MAJOR SCIENCE MENTORS



Dionne Onyemaizu



Somya Mohan



Megan Brown



Adyasha Aruk

Congratulations to our Neuroscience students who have been selected as Science Mentors in the Student Success Center this fall.

NEURO-MIND ASSOCIATION (NMA)



The NDRB department is excited to announce its NEW student organization: The Neuro-Mind Association (NMA)!

The organization strives to bring awareness to and educate the community on the field of Neuroscience and includes research and career opportunities. To get involved for the Fall semester, visit [Rowdy Link](#) or email at neuromindaUTSA@gmail.com

MONTHLY AWARENESS

Did you know that August is National Spinal Muscular Atrophy Awareness Month? Spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) is a group of hereditary diseases that progressively destroys motor neurons—nerve cells in the brain stem and spinal cord that control essential skeletal muscle activity such as speaking, walking, breathing, and swallowing, leading to muscle weakness and atrophy.



UPCOMING EVENTS



NDRB Research Showcase

Mon. Aug. 22, 2022 12pm-2pm @ BSE Atrium

Stop by, grab a slice of pizza and view poster presentations of available research opportunities, presented by Neuroscience and DRS program faculty to showcase the research performed in their labs.

All undergrad, masters and PhD students are invited!



Fall 2022 Undergraduate Welcome Day

Tue. Aug. 23, 2022, open house 8am-5pm @ BSE 2.304

Light breakfast, lunch and snacks will be served! Come grab some food, talk to our faculty, and review research posters!

Fall 2022 PhD Orientation

Monday, August 22, 2022 @ Loeffler

Contact Janice Marshall (Janice.Marshall@utsa.edu) for additional information.

UPCOMING DEADLINES

August 30 (Tue) Deadline to add a class or late register on ASAP. Registration will close at 5pm.

August 31 (Wed) All students (undergraduate and graduate) who have not made payment arrangements by 5 p.m. on this date will be charged a \$100 LATE fee.

FALL 2022 ACADEMIC CALENDAR