

October 2022 Newsletter

October Events

- **Science Meeting:** October 6, 3:30PM @ IMB Conference Room
- **First Thursday Social:** October 6, ~4:30PM @ the Graduate Hotel
- **Third Thursday – Work in Progress:** October 20, 3:30 PM @IMB Conference Room
- **Trainees: Grad School applications:** October 24, 3-5 pm @ IMB 125



**CAROLINA
AUTISM & NEURODEVELOPMENT
CENTER**

In this Newsletter...

Down Syndrome Awareness Month

Faculty/Research Spotlight and Shout-outs

Highlights from our visit with Dr. Robins

CAN Trainee Events



Dr. Diana Robins, Speaker

Autism's Got Talent!

❖❖ **Coming April 2023!**

Join us for Autism's Got Talent, a virtual talent show for individuals with autism!



October is Down Syndrome Awareness Month!

What is Down Syndrome?



Down Syndrome is a condition occurring when a person is born with an extra copy of chromosome 21.

Ways to celebrate Down Syndrome!

- Learn about athletes participation in the Special Olympics! ([link](#))
- Learn about organizations in South Carolina ([link](#))
- Sign up for the Buddy Walk on Sunday 10/16/22 in the lowlands ([link](#))
- Check out the 2022 Photographs and stories hosted by Family Connection SC ([link](#))

How can I talk about Down Syndrome?

- Many organizations encourage using person-first language (i.e., individual with Down Syndrome)
- Down Syndrome is a condition people have, not a disease they suffer from

Science Meeting: October 6, 3:30PM @ IMB Conference Room

Join us to learn about the Down Syndrome research being conducted here at UofSC with **Dr. Liz Will** and **Manasi Agrawal!**



Dr. Will will present data from her NIH F32 study on co-occurring autism in Down syndrome and discuss considerations related to early delays and developmental profiles with assessment implications.

Manasi will present her dissertation work showing morphological changes in Down syndrome human iPSC-derived neurons during development and explore pathways contributing to this phenotype.



Research Roundup



Lab Spotlight

The Neurodevelopmental Disorders (NDD) Lab

Principal Investigator:
Dr. Jane Roberts
Carolina Distinguished Professor



This summer, the NDD lab received an R01 grant to study autonomic functioning in infants with Fragile X syndrome or the Fragile X premutation.

The lab is wrapping up two R01's examining emergence and stability of autism and anxiety in preschoolers with neurodevelopment disorders.

In the past six years, the NDD Lab has produced 60+ publications, enrolled 266 infants and children, and visited 26 states and provinces to conduct research.

Speaker Highlights

Last month, we were lucky to host **Dr. Diana Robins**, Professor and Director of the AJ Drexel Autism Institute at Drexel University!



Thank you to all who attended talks and met with Dr. Robins!

We had several small- and medium-sized group conversations with Dr. Robins that covered issues relevant to CAN, including:

- Early screening and the path to intervention
- Intersections of medical, clinical, and basic science
- Strategic planning: how does CAN continue to grow?

Have an idea for our next external speaker?

Let us know!

Recent accomplishments



Congratulations to **Dr. Katie Wolfe** and **Dr. Erik Drasgow** from our College of Education and **Dr. Laura C. Chezan** from Old Dominion University whose co-Edited book "Evidence-Based Practices for Supporting Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder" was just published by Rowman & Littlefield. Check it out here ([link](#))!

Congratulations to **Dr. Jessica Bradshaw, Dr. Dexin Shi, Alexis Federico,** and their colleagues for their in press article: "The Pull-to-Sit Task: Examining Infant Postural Development in Autism Spectrum Disorder," currently available online in the Journal of Pediatrics. Check it out here ([link](#))!



Autism's Got Talent!

The Dean's Office awarded **Dr. Jessica Bradshaw** and CAN Research Center a **Co-Curricular Programming Grant** to be included in the Spring 2023 Play Theme Semester.

Thanks to our grant, CAN is excited to announce Autism's Got Talent, a virtual talent show for individuals with autism.

Join us April, 2023 for this event!



November - Save the date!

Research Speed Dating Event November 8, 4:30-6

Hosted by the CAN Trainee Committee

What: This is a semi-structured event for trainees and faculty to learn about each other's research interests, backgrounds, and areas of expertise. The Trainee Committee will provide questions and attendees will chat with CAN members throughout the event.

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

Where: Location to be determined

How: Please RSVP through this form:
<https://forms.gle/hCLmjdRafMSreF4t6>

CAN Trainee Opportunities!

Thank you to all the **CAN members** who attending the B-RAD Lab CV workshop!
Please let us know if you have ideas for trainee professional development events.

**Grad School Applications:
In-Person
October 24, 3-5**

May be most beneficial for undergraduate students.
Hosted by the B-RAD Lab.
Sign up here: ([link](#)). Contact us for details: b.rad.laboratory@gmail.com