Vanderbilt Kennedy Center Science Day
Tuesday, January 23, 2018

11:30 a.m. Registration and Poster Hanging Opens

12:00 p.m. Lunch buffet available

1:00 p.m. Welcome and Opening Remarks (Board of Trust Room)
- Ron Emeson, Ph.D., Science Day Chair
- Jeffrey R. Balser, M.D., Ph.D., President & CEO, Vanderbilt University Medical Center; Dean, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine
- Jeff Neul, M.D., Ph.D., Vanderbilt Kennedy Center Director

1:15 p.m. VKC Data Blitz (Board of Trust Room)
David Zald, Ph.D., Introduction of Science Day Poster Abstract Competition Winners & Announcement of Warren Lambert Memorial Awards
Data Blitz Presenters:
- Kirill Zavalin (Cellular/Molecular Neuroscience, Graduate Student): “Excitatory to Inhibitory Transition in GABAergic Currents Guides Circuit Formation of Cortical Interneurons”
- Allison Whitten (Systems Neuroscience, Graduate Student): “Investigating Neural Bias to Speech Using Auditory Event-Related Potentials in Children”
- Jena McDaniel (Clinical/Behavioral/Intervention Research, Graduate Student): “Can an Automated Measure – Child Reciprocal Vocal Contingency – Predict Language Outcomes for Young Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder?”
- Anna Pfalzer (Cellular/Molecular Neuroscience, Postdoctoral Fellow): “Alterations in Arginine and Cholesterol Metabolism are Rescued with Manganese Exposure in a Mouse Model of Huntington’s Disease”
- Branden Stansley (Systems Neuroscience, Postdoctoral Fellow): “Meta-Modulation of mGlu5 by mGlu3 during Hippocampal Dependent Synaptic Plasticity and Behavior”

2:00 p.m. Introduction of Keynote Speaker
Ron Emeson, Ph.D., Science Day Chair

2:05 p.m. Keynote Address (Board of Trust Room)
Technology as a Tool for Bringing Services and Research to Individuals with Developmental Disabilities, Families, and Communities
Leonard Abbeduto, Ph.D., Tsakopoulos-Vismara Endowed Chair of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences; Director, MIND Institute, University of California Davis

3:00 p.m. Poster Session 1 (Ballroom)—Reception Buffet is open

3:45 p.m. Poster Session 2 (Ballroom)

4:30 p.m. Appreciation (Ballroom)
- Planning committee—Science Day quiz & prizes
- Jeff Neul, M.D., Ph.D., VKC Director

4:45 p.m. Posters Removed
Science Day Goals

- To promote “centeredness” by providing a scientific forum for VKC faculty, their students, postdoctoral fellows, and trainees;
- To promote interdisciplinary research collaboration; and
- To provide faculty and trainees with an opportunity to present significant research findings and evidence-based service practices

Vanderbilt Kennedy Center for Research on Human Development

Who We Are and Who We Serve

The Vanderbilt Kennedy Center has been transforming the lives of children and adults with disabilities through innovative research, training, and services for 53 years. Our mission is to facilitate discoveries and best practices that make positive differences in the lives of persons with developmental disabilities and their families. We support and apply scientific research to bring better services and training to our communities.

We generate new knowledge and train future researchers as a national Eunice Kennedy Shriver Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Center (IDDRC), one of 14 supported by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. Over 220 faculty members in 26 departments in all 10 Vanderbilt schools and colleges conduct research and engage in clinical activities that advance the diagnosis, prevention, treatment, and amelioration of intellectual and developmental disabilities. They address autism spectrum disorders, learning disabilities, genetic syndromes, and acquired or general intellectual and developmental disabilities. They use a broad range of methodologies including identifying basic mechanisms, treatment targets, and aberrant developmental processes in model systems; measuring cognitive, social, emotional, and neural phenotypes in IDD; and conducting treatment and intervention studies.

Vanderbilt faculty affiliated with the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center can access a wide range of research support services organized into five cores, listed below. For more details on services, consult the Research section of the VKC website (vkc.mc.vanderbilt.edu/vkc/iddrc/cores/).

Administrative Services Core A

Jeff Neul, M.D., Ph.D., Director
Laurie Cutting, Ph.D., Associate Director
Tim Stafford, MMHC, Operations Director
Jan Rosemergy, Ph.D., Deputy Director
- Governance and oversight
- Fiscal and resource management
- Space and facilities
- Technical services—IT and graphics
- Training, education, and communications
Clinical Translational Core B
Zachary Warren, Ph.D., Director
Paul Harris, Ph.D., Associate Director
- Recruitment services
- Research registries, epidemiological database services, and database mining
- Neurobehavioral phenotyping and outcomes
- Human study and clinical trial services

Translational Neuroimaging Core C
Laurie Cutting, Ph.D., Director
Sasha Key, Ph.D., Associate Director
- Design of experiments, including selecting appropriate functional MRI tasks and other modalities of MR imaging or EEG/ERP/eye tracking acquisition parameters
- Implementation of MR imaging and psychophysiological data collections with special populations (individuals with various developmental disabilities, especially children and infants)
- Management and analysis of MR and EEG/ERP/eye tracking data

Neuroscience Core D
Ron Emeson, Ph.D., Director
Fiona Harrison, Ph.D., Associate Director
- Mouse behavioral phenotyping
- Neurochemistry
- Molecular neurobiology and genomics
- Scientific instrumentation

Biostatistics & Bioinformatics Core E
Hakmook Kang, Ph.D., Director
Julie Lounds Taylor, Ph.D., Associate Director
- Biostatistics consultation and education
- Platform development, complex modeling
- IDD database development leveraging BioVU/Synthetic Derivative

IDDRC U54 Research Project: Sensory and multisensory contributions to autism
Mark Wallace, Ph.D.

The Vanderbilt Kennedy Center conducts training, provides services and technical assistance, conducts research, and disseminates information as a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) supported by the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Projects and activities are focused on four areas of emphasis:
- Education and early intervention,
- Employment,
- Health and mental health,
- Quality of life.
The Vanderbilt Consortium Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) Training Program prepares graduate and postgraduate students in a variety of health-related fields, including audiology, deaf education, family/parent resources, nursing, nutrition, occupational therapy, pediatric dentistry, pediatrics, pharmacy, physical therapy, psychiatry, psychology, religion, social work, special education, and speech-language pathology. Supported by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Health Resources and Services Administration, the program stresses interdisciplinary, family-centered, culturally competent, community-coordinated services for infants, children, and adolescents with neurodevelopmental and related disabilities. LEND collaborates with Belmont University, East Tennessee State University, Meharry Medical College, Milligan College, Tennessee State University, University of Tennessee Nashville, as well as affiliates from Family Voices of Tennessee.

The VKC Treatment and Research Institute for Autism Spectrum Disorders (TRIAD) works to improve ASD assessment and treatment services for individuals with ASD and their families, while advancing knowledge and training. TRIAD programs address community needs for cutting-edge information, high-quality support, and innovative interventions for children with ASD. TRIAD-directed research programs and partnerships examine the causes and treatment of ASD.

One in 5 children has a developmental disability. Examples include autism, intellectual disability, genetic syndromes, brain or spinal cord injury, and cerebral palsy. The developmental concerns of Center researchers and clinicians are broad, including sensory impairments, learning disabilities, behavior disorders, depression, schizophrenia, and chronic health conditions. In understanding and treating disabilities, researchers, clinicians, and educators consider individual and family strengths and resources as well as challenges across the lifespan.

Taking Part in Research
Babies, children, and adults, with and without disabilities, are invited to be part of studies. We provide two ways to find out about studies.

- **StudyFinder**
  (615) 322-8238
  A website listing research projects of VKC Investigators and Members involving children and adults, with or without disabilities; project may provide treatment or advance knowledge.
  vkc.mc.vanderbilt.edu/studyfinder

- **Research Match**
  Includes an Intellectual Disabilities Sub-Registry. Families may sign up and get matched with research. Researchers can list studies.
  researchmatch.org

Vanderbilt Kennedy Center Contacts
Toll-Free & VKC UCEDD (866) 936-VUKC [8852]
General Information (615) 322-8240
Tennessee Disability Pathfinder (615) 322-8529, (800) 640-4636
Vanderbilt Autism Resource Line (615) 322-7565, (877) 273-8862
Website vkc.mc.vanderbilt.edu
In Grateful Appreciation

Vanderbilt Kennedy Center Science Day Faculty Planning Committee
- Ron Emeson, Ph.D. (Committee Chair, Undergraduate Chair), Joel G. Hardman Professor of Pharmacology; Professor of Biochemistry, Molecular Physiology & Biophysics, and Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences
- David Zald, Ph.D. (Systems Neuroscience), Cornelius Vanderbilt Chair and Professor of Psychology and Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences
- Aaron Bowman, Ph.D. (Clinical/Molecular Neuroscience), Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Biochemistry, and Neurology
- Melanie Schuele, Ph.D. (Clinical/Behavioral/Intervention Research), Associate Professor of Hearing & Speech Sciences

Vanderbilt Kennedy Center Staff
- Science Day planning and coordination: Jan Rosemergy, Jon Tapp, Elizabeth Turner
- Support: Laurie Fleming, Sue King, Courtney Taylor

Vanderbilt Kennedy Center Travel Awards

Attention: Poster Presenters
Thank you for taking part in Vanderbilt Kennedy Center Science Day! All poster presenters will be appointed as a Vanderbilt Kennedy Center Affiliate. All Affiliates may compete for VKC Travel Awards.

Vanderbilt Kennedy Center Travel Awards—Eligibility and Application Process
VKC Travel Awards supplement other funding sources. Applications (letter of request) will be considered for travel to present at scientific conferences or meetings beginning Jan. 23, 2018. A Travel Award will not exceed $250, and an Affiliate is eligible for a single Award between annual Science Days. Travel Awards are available on a first-come, first-served basis until funds set aside for this purpose are fully committed.

Eligibility
Graduate students and postdoctoral fellows:
- Who are engaged in research with a VKC Investigator or Member
- Who are VKC Affiliates (i.e., who presented a poster at Vanderbilt Kennedy Center Science Day, Jan. 23, 2018)
- Who will use the funds to travel to a research conference at which the Affiliate is making a presentation

Process
- The VKC Affiliate submits a letter of request, co-signed by the VKC Investigator or Member with whom the trainee is conducting research. The letter should describe how the travel award would be used (conference title, location, dates, presentation title), and how the trainee’s research interests and research training would be served.
- Letter of request should be submitted to Jan Rosemergy, VKC Deputy Director, for review and decision. (jan.rosemergy@vanderbilt.edu; (615) 322-8238; 1207 17th Ave. S., Suite 202, Nashville 37212).
• VKC Communications will notify Affiliate of decision. If a Travel Award is made, instructions for payment will be included in award letter.

**Attention: Students Attending Science Day**

Students often look for positions in research labs or programs, and in turn, researchers often are looking for interested students to become involved in their research. We hope you will use VKC Science Day as an opportunity to explore the range of research in many disciplines, to talk with trainees and faculty engaged in research, and to identify labs or research programs you may want to contact in the future.

**Poster Abstracts**

Poster abstracts are available on the VKC website at [vkc.mc.vanderbilt.edu/vkc/scienceday/](vkc.mc.vanderbilt.edu/vkc/scienceday/).

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