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- Thanksgiving Break
November 27– 29
- Last Day of Class
December 4
- Reading Days
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- Final Exams
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Psychology & Neuroscience Undergraduate Newsletter

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Student Spotlight

Meet **Divya Mahesh**, a Senior Psychology major with minors in Chemistry and Neuroscience, who works in Dr. Laurie Sanders' laboratory at Duke University Medical Center. The Sanders lab studies Parkinson's Disease, focusing on the role of genome integrity and DNA repair.

Tell us about your research. My work is part of a larger project in the lab that looks into the presence of nuclear DNA damage in LRRK2-associated Parkinson's Disease and the effect that the modulation of two kinase proteins has on the damage. I use techniques such as cell culture, Western blotting, and immunocytochemistry to study these phenomena in patient-derived fibroblast cells.

What do you like most? While I enjoy learning laboratory techniques, my favorite part is the more theoretical aspect of research. I like thinking through the various potential causes of an observed phenomenon and using those hypotheses to develop a research plan. This is particularly important when troubleshooting inconclusive results or failed experiments.

Has this experience changed your ideas about research? Through this research experience, I have realized that science really is one long process of trial and error. At first, I would get really upset when my experiments failed, because I took it as an indication of my aptitude for science. I am now learning that failure is a natural part of the scientific process and it actually occurs more often than one thinks!





Meet a Gil Intern

Meet **Hannah Kim**, one of our Fall 2019 interns with the [Karen M. Gil Internship Program in Psychology and Neuroscience](#).

Hannah is a senior majoring in Psychology and Economics, with a minor in Social and Economic Justice. This Fall, Hannah is interning at the UNC Family Medical Center (FMC). She shares, "One of the most remarkable things I get to observe as an intern with the Behavioral Health Team is how holistic wellness is truly put into action. FMC is divided into teams, with each team having both a resident and attending physicians, as well as nurses, support staff, multiple social workers, and a population health expert. This heterogeneous team structure promotes a whole-person view of patients in the clinic."

Hannah is helping streamline care and assist providers by improving depression treatment tracking across the clinic. Her weekly responsibility of updating patients appointment notes ensures that this progress tracking is done in a timely manner and helps the clinic meet their goal of getting 50% of patients with depression to improve their symptoms within a 15-month period. She will also co-lead a mindfulness class to encourage people to promote their own wellness by equipping them with coping strategies and skills to live in the moment.

Want to be a Gil Intern? Learn more about the [application process online](#). Questions can be directed to [Chelsea Ewing](#).

Diversifying Psychology Weekend

Our Diversifying Psychology Weekend is an opportunity for talented ethnic/racial minority undergraduates and recent college graduates who are invested in pursuing doctoral-level training in clinical or developmental psychology. The program includes an intensive set of seminars, panel discussions, and workshops. Students will have the opportunity to learn how to develop a competitive application; meet psychology doctoral students and faculty in formal and informal settings; and receive an introduction to UNC Clinical and Developmental Psychology programs and graduate training.

Travel, housing, and meals are provided for all attendees. The next Diversifying Psychology Weekend will be held on March 26-28, 2020. Applications are due by December 16, 2019.

Eligible applicants must:

- be enrolled at a college/university as a sophomore, junior, or senior, or have graduated with their degree within the past 2 years;
- identify as an ethnic/racial minority; and
- have a strong interest in pursuing a doctoral degree in either clinical or developmental psychology.

We encourage you to apply! There is a simple application process that requires an online application (due by December 16) and you must also submit official/unofficial transcripts and two reference letters.

[Learn more on our website!](#) Questions may be directed to [Lisa Clement](#).



Study Abroad!

Consider going abroad to Scandinavia next summer! Many psychology, neuroscience, and pre-medicine/health science courses—as well as research assistantships! - are offered by DIS, including a course taught by our own Dr. Keely Muscatell during Summer 2020.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the program and courses offered. [Click here](#) to find a laboratory to assist in over the summer.

Additional opportunities can be had by obtaining a graduate degree in Scandinavia. If you're graduating soon and unsure of what you want to do, DIS and Karolinska Institute are partnering up to offer 1 & 2 year Master's program in health related-disciplines, such as Biomedicine, Public Health Science, Health Informatics, and more. [Learn more.](#)

Cognitive Science Minors!

[Join us](#) for a casual discussion about the future of the Cognitive Science minor (as well as free pizza!) We'll meet Weds, October 23 at 3:30 pm in Davie 112.

Jobs & Other Opportunities

Looking for a post-baccalaureate position in psychology? Check out an [online database of active positions](#)! You can also subscribe by email to be notified of new postings. This is a great resource for new graduates!



The Raising Grateful Children Project at UNC is recruiting undergraduates to assist with data analysis. Research assistants will receive 3 course credits for PSYC 395 and must have afternoon availability at least 2 days a week. To learn more, contact [Dr. Allegra Midgette](#).



An info session for undergraduates who are interested in participating in research on autism will be held on Monday 10/28 at 5:30 at UNC TEACCH. Research opportunities include assisting with an intervention study, coding video recordings, and entering and analyzing data.



Join us for UNC Psych&Neuro Fest! Faculty and graduate students will be sharing their research and talking about how to get involved in laboratories on Friday, November 8, 2:30—4:30 pm, in Davie Hall's Lobby. Drop by anytime!



UNC's Applied Physical Sciences Ph.D. Program is holding an Open House for students considering graduate school. On Thursday, Nov 7 from 4:30—8 pm in Murray Hall, faculty and students will share about open research opportunities, cutting-edge research, and to talk about your career plans. A buffet dinner is provided. [RSVP here](#). Learn more about the program [here](#).



Children's National Hospital in Washington, D.C. is hiring research assistants to start Winter 2019. RAs will help with NIH funded studies on children and young adults with type 1 diabetes. Must have a BA/BS degree, reliable transportation, evening hours availability, and prior experience in clinical humans subject research. To apply, send your cover letter and CV to mhrose2@cnmc.org.



Adults (18 and up) can participate in a 20 minute survey that is part of a study examining how people engage with the environment. Those who participate are eligible to enter a raffle for an Amazon gift card. All responses will be kept confidential and the research project has been approved by Long Island University. [Click here to participate](#).

