



# Psychology and Neuroscience Undergraduate Newsletter

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## Important Dates

Spring Break Begins:	Friday, March 11
Classes Resume:	Monday, March 21
Wellness Day:	Thursday, April 14
Spring Holiday:	Friday, April 15
Classes End:	Wednesday, April 27

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## Student Spotlight



Meet Harisha Matada, a senior Neuroscience and Biology double major with a Chemistry Minor. She works in Dr. Monica Gaudier-Diaz's Social Neuroscience and Health Lab.

The research I was involved in looked at the bi-directional links between social stress and inflammation. I was involved in the CogIn and PRES study which both utilized an acute social stressor task to induce stress in participants as a way to assess emotional reactivity and inflammatory responses. Furthermore, we also looked at the influence of other variables such as social belongingness and socioeconomic status influencing these physiological responses. Currently, I work with a biotech company called Altis Biosystems which uses a human intestinal stem cell model to test drugs. My role involves maintaining cell cultures and monitoring the electrical conductance in our in vitro gut model.

### How has the University move to remote learning affected your research or ability to do research?

The pandemic definitely put a wrench into our research as our previous protocols involved working in close contact with our participants. However, through creative and critical thinking we were able to modify our protocols and adapt to the changing circumstances. This ensured that our data collection process continued in a safe and efficient manner.

### What encouraged you to get involved in research?

Curiosity was the main reason that drove me to find my passion for research. One of the main reasons UNC stood out to me was because of the innovative and novel research being conducted on the campus. As a first-year, learning about my professor's research was an eye-opening experience and I knew that this was something I wanted to get involved in. Although it seemed daunting at first, after talking with peers and professors I was able to learn about the vast resources on campus to help me get involved in research and find a lab best suited for my interests. Soon enough, I was able to find a position with the Social Neuroscience and Health Lab, and I was able to gain hands on experience on multiple research projects to better understand how social factors influence stress. Furthermore, the skills and experiences I gained through academia research allowed me to venture into industry research.

### What do you want to do as a career?

In the future, I hope to practice medicine as a physician along with continuing research. I want to serve as an advocate for health equity and the improvement of health literacy among individuals. I see myself doing this by not only physically treating them, but also through educating people about preventative measures and translating science to be more comprehensible to the general public. I think increased access to literature and research can promote these ideas, as I hope more health institutions adopt these ideals to ensure the betterment of public health.

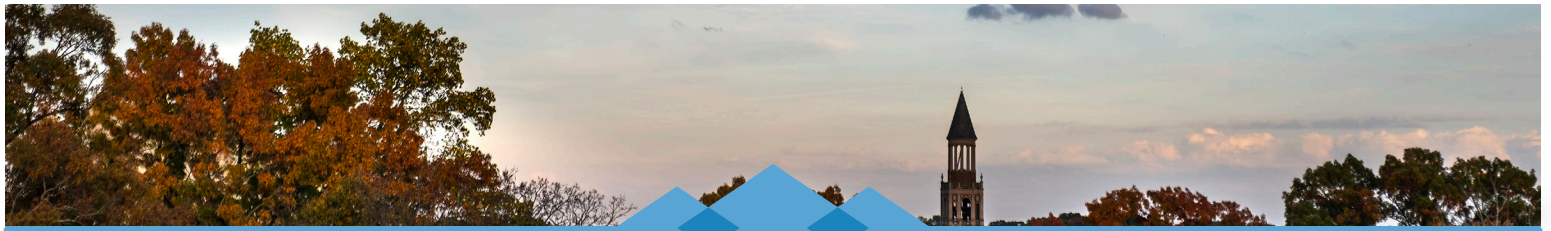
### Has this experience changed your ideas about what research is and how it's done?

This experience has shown me what goes into research studies prior to initiation, during the data collection process, and throughout data analysis. I had the privilege of joining the lab as they were just about to begin a new study and was able to see the timeline of a research project and all the hard work that goes into it. Moreover, it has given me a strong grasp on research techniques and experience working as a team with a common goal of working towards answering a research question. Initially, research had seemed a little over my head as I was unfamiliar with a lot of terminology and processes. Now, I've realized that it played an important role in my learning experience here at Carolina as I was able to apply my knowledge from a classroom setting into the real world.



COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Psychology and Neuroscience



## Meet our Spring 2022 Gil Interns



**Alyssa Choate**  
Class of 2023

Clinical  
Psychology



**Alexis Dumain**  
Class of 2023

Clinical  
Psychology



**Sree Gogineni**  
Class of 2023

Behavioral and  
Integrative Neuroscience



**Jessica Ndukwe**  
Class of 2024

Clinical  
Psychology



**Alice Novinte**  
Class of 2022

Clinical  
Psychology



**Jasmine Padgett**  
Class of 2022

Clinical  
Psychology



**Jennifer Persia**  
Class of 2023

Developmental  
Psychology



**Courtney Pfister**  
Class of 2022

Behavioral and  
Integrative Neuroscience



**Tien Phan**  
Class of 2023

Developmental  
Psychology



**Maria Phelps**  
Class of 2022

Behavioral and  
Integrative Neuroscience



**Benjamin Rees**  
Class of 2022

Behavioral and  
Integrative Neuroscience



**Carolina Vincent**  
Class of 2022

Clinical  
Psychology





## 2022 J. Stephen Reznick Diversity and Psychological Research Grant

*The Reznick Diversity and Psychological Research Grant will support students from underrepresented backgrounds OR those who are interested in conducting research with populations traditionally underrepresented in psychological research.*



**Dujana Biheis**

RECIPIENT

2022 J. Stephen Reznick Diversity and Psychological Research Grant

Dujana is a first-year undergraduate majoring in Psychology. She is interested in the social and emotional development of children and adolescents, along with female sexual development during puberty and adulthood. She is passionate about exploring the social psychology of menstruation, particularly the history and existence of concealed ovulation. She will pursue her research on emotions and physiology this spring in Dr. Kristen Lindquist's Carolina Affective Science Lab.



**Austin Geer**

RECIPIENT

2022 J. Stephen Reznick Diversity and Psychological Research Grant

Austin is a junior, transfer student majoring in Biochemistry and Neuroscience. He is interested in researching neuropharmacology and mechanisms of addiction and emotion. Currently, Austin is currently searching for a lab with his grant in the department. He also performs research in the Department of Chemistry studying integrated catalysis under Dr. Alexander Miller. Eventually, he plans to enroll in a dual PharmD-P.hD program to study, teach, and research neuropharmacology techniques.



**Jinia Chakraborty**

HONORABLE MENTION

2022 J. Stephen Reznick Diversity and Psychological Research Grant

Jinia is a junior Psychology B.S with minors in Spanish for the Health Professions and Chemistry. She is a member of the Carolina Affective Science Lab under Dr. Kristen Lindquist. She is mentored by Mallory Feldman. Her project involves studying how neural networks underlying emotion shape emotional experiences across the lifespan. Jinia is interested in how we can better support our aging population by studying and understanding their needs through psychophysiological methods.



**Tiosa Iyamu**

HONORABLE MENTION

2022 J. Stephen Reznick Diversity and Psychological Research Grant

Tiosa is a second-year Psychology major and Creative Writing minor. They are interested in research that studies the experiences and struggles of Black LGBT+ youth, specifically coming out experiences in Black trans and nonbinary youth.



## Summer School 2022

### **Maymester (5/11 - 5/27/2022)**

PSYC 220 - Dr. Jeannie Loeb  
PSYC 435 - Dr. Jennifer Arnold  
PSYC 501 - Dr. Patrick Harrison

### **Session 1 (5/11-6/16/2022)**

PSYC 101 - Dr. Ndidi Adeyanju  
PSYC 210 - mostly asynchronous - Dr. Natasha Parikh  
PSYC 225 - two sections, all asynchronous - Dr. Vicki Chanan  
PSYC 230 - Kathryn Weatherford  
PSYC 245 - two sections, all asynchronous - Dr. Desiree Griffin  
PSYC 245 - remote synchronous - Dr. Charlie Wiss  
PSYC 250 - mostly asynchronous - Dr. Rosa Li  
PSYC 250 - mostly asynchronous - Dr. Louis Gariepy  
PSYC 260 - two sections, mostly asynchronous - Dr. Steve Buzinski  
PSYC 270 - Dr. Thomas Farrer  
PSYC 490 (Psychology of Music) - Dr. Natasha Parikh

### **Session 2 (6/20 - 7/26/22)**

PSYC 101 - Dr. Ndidi Adeyanju  
PSYC 175 - two sections, mostly asynchronous - Dr. Monica Gaudier-Diaz  
PSYC 210 - remote synchronous - Dr. Carla Fernandez  
PSYC 210 - Chris Strauss  
PSYC 220 - remote synchronous - Dr. Becca Stephens  
PSYC 222 - all asynchronous - Dr. Dave Eckerman  
PSYC 230 - Dr. Marsha Dopheide  
PSYC 245 - Alexandra Wojda  
PSYC 250 - Lindsay Gomes  
PSYC 260 - Josephn Leshin  
PSYC 270 - remote synchronous - Dr. Carla Fernandez  
PSYC 502 - Dr. Elizabeth Jordan  
PSYC 504 - mostly asynchronous - Dr. Murray McNeil

**\*\* Please note that the department does not in any way guarantee these courses for summer 2022. This is the tentative plan - and plans will be "official" when Summer School registration begins. Do also note that Summer School has a policy of canceling courses which do not have sufficient enrollment.\*\***

**\*\* Courses are in-person unless otherwise noted below. With regards to in-person courses, to find out if there are any remote components, please check "class features" in ConnectCarolina and/or contact the specific professor.\*\***

## Flu Shot Study

The Social Neuroscience & Health Lab at UNC is looking for participants for a study examining biological changes related to immune system activation. This study is broken down into four components. (1) First, participants will first complete an online consent session via Zoom and schedule all study sessions. (2) Next, participants will then come to the lab (In-lab Session 1) to complete several tasks and questionnaires, provide blood samples via finger and arm pricks (~90 minutes), and receive the influenza vaccine at the student stores pharmacy (~30 minutes). (3) Twenty-four hours after receiving the FDA-approved influenza vaccine, participants will come back to the lab (In-lab Session 2) to complete another set of tasks and questionnaires (~60 minutes) and complete the second blood collection (15 min). (4) The final component to this study is completing 10 brief survey reports (~3-5 minutes each). The first survey is sent via text the day before in-lab Session 1 and the last survey is sent at the end of the day of in-lab Session 2.

Participants will receive \$40 for completing the first session, the first blood collection, and receiving the influenza vaccine, \$40 for completing the second session, the second blood collection, and debriefing, and \$20 for completing the 10 brief survey reports. Participants who complete all study components will receive a total of \$100. Additionally, participants who complete all 10 brief survey reports can be entered into a drawing to enter an additional \$50 gift card.

If you: have a non-familial close-other whom you see every day, have not already received the annual influenza vaccine, do not report current illness, do not use of tobacco products, do not use mood or immune-altering medications, are not allergy to eggs, do not report current depression, anxiety, any major medical condition (e.g., diabetes, asthma), do not have had Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS), are not allergic to the influenza vaccine or ingredients present in the vaccine, do not report exposure to Covid-19, or do not report upper respiratory symptoms, then you may be eligible to participate. If you are interested in participating, please complete the following online screening questionnaires ([https://unc.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_0qY8KTzDbF0Uxdc](https://unc.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0qY8KTzDbF0Uxdc)). If you are interested in learning more, please email us at [immunestudy@unc.edu](mailto:immunestudy@unc.edu).

PI: Dr. Keely Muscatell | IRB UNC #20-2607



## Opportunities

The Department of Psychology and Neuroscience Undergraduate Research program, on behalf of the Lindquist Undergraduate Research Fund, would like to announce the availability of Undergraduate Research grants. Grants of up to \$250.00 are available to help fund undergraduate research projects in the department (e.g., buy needed equipment, buy software, recruit participants) or to offset costs related to presenting or publishing research. Any hardware or software purchased will become property of the faculty mentor's lab upon completion of the undergraduate research project. These grants are made possible by a contribution from an anonymous donor. To apply for Spring 2022 grants, undergraduate students should submit a 1-page letter of application briefly explaining the research project, the proposed use of grant funds, and a projected budget. Applications require faculty approval. Letters of application should be in PDF format and contain the signature of the student's faculty mentor. Please submit applications to Dr. Vicki Chanon ([vchanon@unc.edu](mailto:vchanon@unc.edu)) or Dr. Monica Gaudier-Diaz ([gaudier@email.unc.edu](mailto:gaudier@email.unc.edu)).

The deadline for Spring applications is February 25th, 2022 and all funds must be used before May 31st, 2022.

Are you working on undergraduate research and would like to publish your work? Submit your project to UNC JOURney, the only undergraduate research journal on campus. We publish student research in the popular sciences, natural sciences, humanities, and social sciences, both independent and faculty-mentored. Check us out for more information at [uncjourney.unc.edu](http://uncjourney.unc.edu)!

We will be accepting submissions until February 25, 2022, at 11:59 PM.

A full-time, research assistant position (Clinical Research Intern) will be available soon in the laboratory of Dr. David Madden, at the Duke University Medical Center. Anticipated start date is in the spring of 2022. The lab is located in the Brain Imaging and Analysis Center (BIAC), with research focused on the investigation of age-related differences in cognition, particularly visual attention, using both behavioral and neuroimaging measures. Research participants are predominantly healthy adults, although some patients with cognitive impairment are also tested. A theme of the research is structural and functional connectivity measures, in relation to visual search performance. Additional information is available at the lab website <https://sites.google.com/site/maddenlabduke/home>. Applicants should have a B.A. or B.S. in neuroscience, biology, psychology, or other related scientific fields. Strong interpersonal skills, strong written and oral communication, and teamwork are required. Technical skills including basic statistical knowledge, use of basic computer applications and programming, and knowledge of cognitive psychology and neuroscience are desirable.

Interested candidates should send their resume, a list of references, availability date, and a cover letter, to Dr. Madden at [david.madden@duke.edu](mailto:david.madden@duke.edu).

The Psychology and Neuroscience Ambassador Program is now accepting applications for new members in the spring semester. This brand-new organization aims to provide guidance via resources and mentorship with the hopes of helping new students navigate classes and other experiences within the Psychology and Neuroscience departments at UNC.

Applications for this role can be found on the [official website](#).

Are you interested in teaching music? Through Musical Empowerment, you can provide free music lessons and mentorship to a young student from the Chapel Hill-Carrboro area. This semester, the once-a-week, 40-minute lessons will be entirely virtual and you will be able to get to know a student, create your own lesson plans, and prepare your student for the virtual recital at the end of the semester. In addition, we offer events for our teachers to create a community and enrich their teaching experience. Many of our students are from underserved communities and would not be able to afford music lessons otherwise.

[Apply to become a teacher.](#)

The Social Neuroscience and Health Lab is looking for a few Research Assistants on a new project: the First Impressions Study. This study investigates how the brain and body respond to first impressions in a social task by using questionnaires, blood samples, and fMRI scans. RAs will help collect and manage data, and they will have access to great trainings and resources. RAs must be available 11am-3pm at least 2 days per week, although the weekly time commitment within these hours will vary.

If you are interested, fill out this [survey](#) and we will contact you if you are a good fit.





The Center for Anxiety and Traumatic Stress Disorders and Complicated Grief Program (CATSD) at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston is accepting applications for a Clinical Research Coordinator position. The center conducts state-of-the-art research aimed at improving the standard of care for people suffering from anxiety disorders. Our faculty and staff of psychiatrists and psychologists explore the mechanisms and treatment of anxiety, stress, and grief related disorders, including Panic Disorder, Social Anxiety Disorder, Generalized Anxiety Disorder, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, and Complicated Grief (for more information see: <https://www.massgeneral.org/psychiatry/treatments-and-services/center-for-anxiety-and-traumatic-stress-disorders>).

The Clinical Research Coordinator (CRC) will be responsible for managing studies focused on the phenomenology, biology, and treatment of anxiety, grief, and stress related disorders at the Center for Anxiety and Traumatic Stress Disorders (CATSD).

Qualified applicants must have achieved a Bachelor's degree in Psychology or a related field. One year prior relevant coursework, research experience, and/or volunteer work is strongly preferred.

[Apply](#)

The UNC-CH Chapter of Psi Chi cordially invites you to apply for membership. Psi Chi is the International Honor Society in Psychology, and membership depends upon class standing and academic achievement. Membership is a lifetime honor, and our members enjoy an array of benefits.

Online application must be filled out through the following [link](#) by March 4th.

The Department of Veterans Affairs - Mid-Atlantic Mental Illness Research, Education, and Clinical Center (MIRECC), in Durham, NC is looking to fill a full-time position for a Psychology Technician with Coaching Into Care – a national call center for family and friends of Veterans. Candidates need to have graduated with at least a minor in psychology and willing to work for 1-2 years in the position.

The primary duties of the position are to provide mental health resources and other needs assessments for clinical care/consultation, working as part of a multi-disciplinary team in a call center to assist the family members of veterans with connecting veterans with mental health services for problems in adjustment post-deployment. He/she serves as a first-line responder to incoming calls, manage and respond appropriately to crisis situations, possess skills to flexibly respond to a variety of forms of psychopathology, and assess and summarize relevant clinical issues for appropriate response or hand-off. The incumbent provides mental health assessment and customer service assistance to Veterans and their families through the Coaching Into Care (CIC) multi-site call center, as well as support for the national CIC program lead and MIRECC collaborators in related quality improvement and clinical research projects.

Please email Dr. Cindy Swinkels and Ms. Crystal Barnes at: [Cindy.Swinkels@va.gov](mailto:Cindy.Swinkels@va.gov) and [Crystal.Barnes@va.gov](mailto:Crystal.Barnes@va.gov). Include your CV/resume and cover letter.

#### Carolina Career Exploration and Experience Days

- [Carolina Career Exploration & Experience Day \(STEM Majors\) – February 16th, 1-4PM](#)
- [Carolina Career Exploration & Experience Day \(ALL Majors\) – February 17th, 1-4PM](#)
- [Login with ONYEN to the official Careers Platform for UNC Students - Handshake](#)
- [Prepare for Fairs and Recruitment with UCS Career Education Workshops Spring 2022](#)
- [Use Handshake to schedule 1:1 Career Coaching Appointments and more!](#)
- [Over 20,000 active Full-Time Job Postings and 8,000 Internship Postings on Handshake!!](#)

Start exploring or applying to job opportunities today with the companies signed up for our Carolina Career Exploration & Experience Days on February 16-17th!

Paid Summer Research Programs -- deadlines are fast approaching!

PathwaysToScience.org has a searchable database of 600+ summer research programs in all STEM disciplines. These are all FULLY FUNDED opportunities including programs sponsored by NSF, NASA, NIH, etc.

Undergraduate Students apply [Here](#)

## 14<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL DIVERSITY AWARDS

It is that time of year again where we recognize people and groups that have given their time and effort to advance diversity, equity and inclusion at Carolina and in our surrounding community. This work continues to be important as we build our community together, and we ask you to consider nominating individuals and group collaborations for the 14th Annual Diversity Awards.

The Diversity Awards Committee will be accepting [nominations](#) for the awards beginning Monday, January 10, 2022. The deadline for submissions is Monday, February 25, 2022, at 11:59 p.m.



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Diversity and Inclusion

An inclusive blue begins with *you*