



Neuroscience Café

Thursday
February 18, 2021
6:00 PM



**Cassandra Newsom,
PsyD**

Assoc Professor
Neurobiology and Director of
Neurodevelopmental
Disabilities Core

“Autism in Alabama: Research Advances”

Dr. Cassandra Newsom, a licensed clinical psychologist and UAB Associate Professor in Neurobiology, has been named the Director of the Neurodevelopmental Disabilities Translational Research Core at the Civitan International Research Center. Dr. Newsom has been dedicated to research and clinical work in autism spectrum disorders, associated rare genetic disorders, and other neurodevelopmental disabilities for the past 16 years across her positions at Virginia Beach City Public Schools, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, and more recently from University of Texas Southwestern.

Dr. Newsom has an expertise in diagnostic and neuropsychological evaluations of children with developmental differences, and has contributed to multiple NIH and industry funded research projects over her career. In her new role at UAB, she is developing a patient research database and bank of biological samples with the goal of connecting researchers, clinicians, and families to promote cutting-edge interdisciplinary translational research in neurodevelopmental disabilities. Dr. Newsom is full of innovative ideas to bridge the gap between rapidly advancing discoveries in neuroscience and the hope for targeted, effective treatments and supports to improve the quality of life for people with neurodevelopmental disabilities.

Rajesh Kana, PhD

Professor at UA-Tuscaloosa
Psychology and Director of the
Center for Innovative Research
in Autism



Dr. Rajesh Kana is a Professor at UA in the Department of Psychology and is the Director of the Center for Innovative Research in Autism. He is also an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Psychology at UAB. Dr. Kana’s interests focus on basic and translational research on the neurobiology of autism. He uses a variety of brain imaging techniques, such as functional MRI, structural MRI, diffusion weighted imaging (DWI) and MR Spectroscopy to understand the functional and anatomical organization of the brain in autism. Dr. Kana studies social cognition, language comprehension, executive functions, and the impact of behavioral interventions on the brain in children and adults with autism. He received his Ph.D. in psycholinguistics from the Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi, India. As a William Fulbright Fellow, Dr. Kana learned neuroimaging at UCLA, followed by a postdoctoral training in using neuroimaging methods to study autism spectrum disorder at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh.

This UAB CNC Neuroscience Café is a **virtual event** in collaboration with the Birmingham area libraries
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