



TRIANGLE CHAPTER
SOCIETY FOR NEUROSCIENCE

THE TRIANGLE TRANSMITTER

The Triangle SfN Chapter is proud to announce its 2023-2024 council members! Council members attend monthly chapter meetings, help to organize regional chapter events, and participate on chapter committee boards. These annually-elected positions are essential to our chapter's success! Welcome to our amazing members! Anyone is welcome to attend our council meetings on the first Thursday of every month at the NC Biotechnology Center at 6pm. Please contact sabrinae@email.unc.edu and mmcdowell@email.unc.edu if interested, we are looking for individuals to join the Sponsorship Committee!

Welcome TsfN 2023-2024 Council Members!

Dr. Sabrina Robertson
Chapter President (UNC-CH)

Dr. Kati Healey
Chapter Representative (Duke)

Madison McDowell
Secretary (UNC-CH)

Becky Klein
Treasurer (Evecxia Therapeutics)

Dr. Leslie Wilson (Chair), Leon Grigorian
Sponsorship Committee (NIEHS, Retired)

Dr. Shveta Parekh
Outreach Committee Chair (UNC-CH)

Shannah Witchey (Chair), Dr. Kati Healey, Sophie Bendrath
Program Committee (Inotiv, Duke, UNC-CH)

Eden Harder
Membership Chair (UNC-CH)

Chloe Du
Communications Chair (UNC-CH)

Dr. Jesse Cushman and Amilcar Rodriguez
Science Policy Chairs (NIEHS)

Additional Council Members:

Dr. Eric Harris (Retired Biotech Industry Professional)
Amir Rezvani (Duke), **Olivia Kovacs** (Duke), **Megan Stout** (Duke),
Dhruthi Yajaman (UNC-CH), **Katy Pierce** (UNC-CH)

FALL 2023

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REGISTRATION OPENS MARCH
visit trianglesfnchapter.org



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APRIL 26TH 9AM-5PM

EVENT AND RECEPTION ARE FREE!
POSTER TRAVEL AWARDS
REGISTRATION REQUIRED

NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY

**TRIANGLE SFN 2024
NEUROSCIENCE
MEETING**

DISTINGUISHED LOCAL SPEAKERS, STUDENT
PRESENTATIONS AND POSTER SESSION!

KEYNOTE BY DR. YARIMAR CARRASQUILLO
NCCIH

Neuroscience Annual Meeting 2023 Recap

We had an exceptional year and our support from the North Carolina Biotechnology Center was critical to this success. In September 2022, we took our annual meeting which had been moved from the spring due to the Omicron surge back to a combined in person/virtual hybrid event for the first time since the pandemic erupted in 2020. We had ~200 individuals attend in person, 4 local speakers, an exceptional keynote speaker, numerous companies from the triangle host booths. In [April 2023](#), we led our team through an [annual meeting](#) for a second time at the Washington Duke Inn, and we had the largest registration to date ~250 registrants, >200 attendees, [80 posters](#), and numerous neurotech vendors host booths and serve as sponsors. Our spring meeting in 2024 will be held on April 26th from 9am-5pm at North Carolina Central University so we hope to have even more members attend. These annual meetings contribute significantly to neuroscience and neurotechnology growth in the state of NC especially in the Research Triangle. The meetings are unique opportunities to bring local scientists, public, biotech professionals, and neurotech companies in our area together to hear about cutting edge neuroscience work in the region. Our spring 2023 meeting featured several inspiring speakers:

1. “The effects of alcohol on astrocytes across the lifespan”

- Dr. Alex Marshall, NCCU

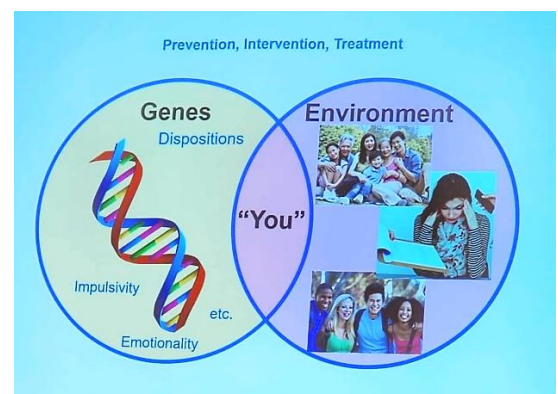
The main topic of this presentation were long-term effects of alcohol consumption by adolescents and adults on male and female astrocytes. Differences were observed in morphology of astrocytes and alcohol response depending on sex.

2. “Science Fiction or Science Fact? The Potential of Genetics to Revolutionize our lives.”

- Dr. Danielle Dick, Director, Rutgers Addiction Research Center and Professor, Robert Wood Johnson

Medical School, Psychiatry, Rutgers University

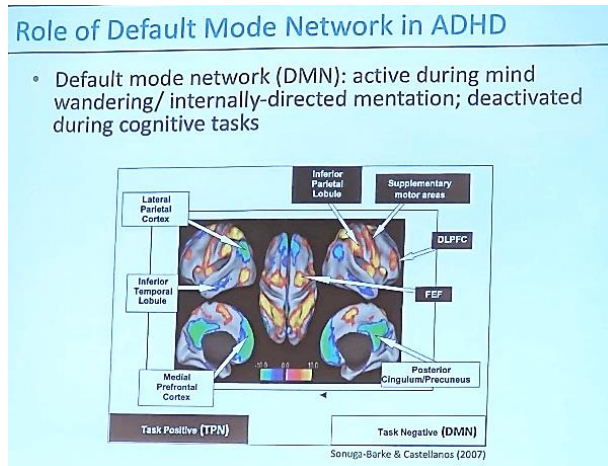
The main focus of Dr. Dick’s Keynote Presentation was the role played by genetic and environmental factors in patterns of substance abuse and related behavioral disorders. The talk reviewed some of the emerging statistical correlations between human polygenic scores generated from genome-wide association study (GWAS) data and disorders such as alcohol and illicit drug use, disinhibited behaviors, criminal justice involvement, as well as socioeconomic attainments and reproductive health. Dr. Dick also talked about phenome-wide association study (PheWAS) results based on anonymized human clinical electronic health record (EHR) data.



3. “Disrupted Static and Time-Varying Functional Connectivity in Children with ADHD”

- *Dr. Jessica Cohen, UNC Chapel Hill*

Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) affecting about 9% of school aged children is linked to atypical patterns of connectivity among major brain networks and, in particular, relating to the default mode network (DMN). The DMN Interference Hypothesis suggests that “intrusions” of DMN into task-positive networks underlie attention lapses. Children with ADHD get stuck in a hyperconnected brain state and have trouble maintaining an anticorrelated brain state.



Some of our attendees also attended a lunch with our keynote speaker, Dr. Danielle Dick to discuss her career journey, advice to the future scientists and how she progressed throughout her life in research. In the last half of the meeting, poster presentations were held and awards were announced at the end. We were glad to see so many faces at our spring 2023 meeting and hope to see many more in the next meeting!



Brain Night at the Natural Sciences Museum 2023

Brain Night at the Natural Sciences Museum in Raleigh was so fun! Our team at Triangle SFN joined scientists from NC State University for Brain Night at the Museum. There were many brains out on display from flies to humans and every animal in between! Local neuroscientists helped the general public to interact with hands-on-brains- and behavior-themed exhibits. Shveta Parekh and Leslie Wilson, our outreach chair and sponsorship chair, led a booth designed to inform the general public about MRIs. They had a 7T MRI available on a computer program for everyone to visualize. The exciting part was winning a squishy brain toy for finding the corpus callosum on the MRI! There were many winners that night. Overall, the night was well attended and a phenomenal success.



Anniversary Party 2023

The annual Anniversary Party to celebrate Triangle SfN's 9th birthday was held July 25th at the Duke Institute of Brain Sciences (DIBS) Cube. Members new and old gathered to snack, listen to good tunes and cheers to Triangle SfN's accomplishments in year 9!

We reflected on hosting our biggest Neuroscience Meeting yet, at the Washington Duke Inn and Golf Resort, a successful Neuroscience Trivia competition and the numerous outreach opportunities the chapter participated in.

We were glad to see so many members from the Triangle SfN Chapter at this get together and we look forward to seeing everyone at our upcoming Chapter events this year!



Have an event you'd like to promote? Send an email to TriangleSfNChapter@gmail.com to have your event added to our calendar!

NCCU Duke D-Care Program

The inaugural year of the Duke-N.C. Central Alcohol Research Education (D-CARE) program culminated in program members presenting their research at the Duke University Undergraduate Research Showcase on July 28th. This unique undergraduate research experience places students from Duke University and North Carolina Central University (NCCU) into a 9-month academic and research program focused on alcohol research. Students are paired one from each university, and placed into an alcohol focused research lab for a summer internship. The summer research experience also included professional and social activities such as ethics and scientific methods bootcamps, journal clubs, attending a Durham Bulls baseball game, and an ice cream social event. This program is funded by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) R25 funding mechanism. Applications for the 2024 D-CARE program will open in fall 2023 and questions regarding applications should be directed to Dr. Wendy Heck-Grillo wheck@nccu.edu.



Order Your Triangle SfN T-Shirt!

Men's

Women's

Show your support for Triangle SfN with this stylish neuron T-shirt! Available in men's and women's sizes.

T-shirts cost \$18.

To order, please fill out this form:
<http://goo.gl/forms/wYO3ubCyeVou4M53>



NORTH CAROLINA TRIANGLE CHAPTER

SOCIETY FOR NEUROSCIENCE

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Annual Dues:

Regular Membership: \$20.00/year or \$50.00/3 years

Student Membership: \$5.00/year or \$12.00/3 years

Partner Membership: \$25.00/year or \$60.00/3 years

**Membership in Triangle SfN
does not require membership in
National SfN**

TO RENEW OR MANAGE YOUR MEMBERSHIP, VISIT US ONLINE AT

www.trianglesfn.org

Keep in Touch!

General questions and comments:

TriangleSfNChapter@gmail.com

Communications committee:

TriangleSfNChapter@gmail.com

Twitter: [@Triangle_SfN](https://twitter.com/Triangle_SfN)

Website: <http://www.trianglesfnchapter.org>

Facebook Page:

facebook.com/TriangleSfN/

Facebook Group:

facebook.com/groups/trianglesfn

LinkedIn: [Society for Neuroscience
Triangle Chapter](https://www.linkedin.com/company/society-for-neuroscience-triangle-chapter)