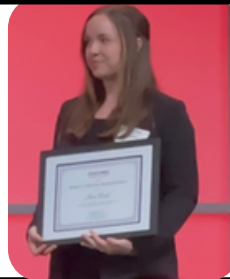




Rabeeh Azarmehr was awarded the Dissertation Completion Award Assistantship for 2025-2026. This competitive award recognizes outstanding students and supports them in the completion of their doctoral studies.



Dr. Ava Reck, a GCDS alum, received the UGA's prestigious Robert C. Anderson Award. This honor recognizes her outstanding contributions as a scholar and the impact of her work in developmental science.



173 Family Visits Complete

161 BIRC Visits Complete

10 April Recruitments

208

Participants Recruited

Current Research at GCDS



Upcoming Publications:

Reck, A., Holley, L., Bower, K., Whitaker, S., Hall, C., Brown, C., Berg, A., Alvarado, C., Bales, D., Suma, K., Fowler, K., Geier, C., & Oshri, A. (in printing). Building trust in rural communities: Recruitment and retention strategies in developmental science. Frontiers in Public Health.

Posters accepted at 2025 Flux Congress:

- "Severity of Parental Alcohol Problems and the Development of Youth Alcohol Expectancies: The Mediating Role of Impulsivity in Reward Processing Context" by Morrighan Wingate
"Paths through Puberty: Hormonal (DHEA and Testosterone) and Phenotypic Mechanisms of Affective Symptom Development in Adolescent Girls" by Avary Evans

Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) Collaborations

- video plethysmography: testing a non-invasive camera-based technology to track changes in stress physiology
a stress task to understand how adolescents neurologically engage with stressful events and role of parental support
integrating MRI-collected brain activation data and stress response system data to explore how youths' stress regulation is linked to their brain activation patterns



Current GCDS Project Funds

Total Award for ABCD study: \$3.34M
A Neuroecological Approach to Examining the Effects of Early Life Adversity on Adolescent Drug Use Vulnerabilities Using the ABCD Dataset

Total Award for BRANCH study: \$3.26M
Early Adversity and Drug Use Vulnerability Among Low-Income Rural Children: Testing a Neuro-ecological Model of Resilience

New grant awarded from Mental Research Institute: \$25,000

Congratulations, new PhDs!



Dr. Katie Suma successfully defended her dissertation titled, "Disentangling Contexts: Socioeconomic Variability and Black Mothers' use of Active Direction."



Dr. Linhao Zhang successfully defended her dissertation titled, "Development of Psychopathology: The Role of Psychosocial Stress, Sleep Health, and Neural Networks."

## Visiting Researchers



**Dr. Ava Reck**, our invited guest speaker, presented her talk “From Systems to Solutions: Addressing the Roots of Childhood Adversity in Developmental Research,” to students, staff and faculty at GCDS.

April 3, 2025



**Lauren Holley**, was recognized at a UGA Luncheon for being an outstanding student-staff member, Apr 16, 2025

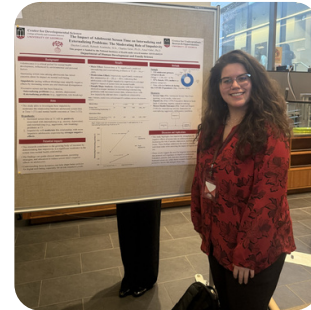
14

## URA Spotlight

Undergraduate Research Posters from GCDS were presented at the Spring CURO Symposium held by Morehead Honors College, April 7th



- Gabi Griffin
- Logan Aimone
- Shani Gilad
- Alice Brodsky
- Nicki Orouji
- Amelia Rehman
- Gabriel Burns
- Saili Kudchadkar
- Tori Vega
- Daylen A. Lomeli
- Nika Shlomi
- Maggie Brown
- Sydnee Durham
- Addison Wint



**Daylen Lomeli** presented her poster titled “The Impact of Adolescent Screen Time on Internalizing and Externalizing Problems: The Moderating Role of Impulsivity” at Brown University, in April.



## Family and Community Engagement

- ◆ Barnett Shoals Elementary Lunch on the Lawn  
4/2/25, *Barnett Shoals Elementary*
- ◆ Oglethorpe Library Spring Break  
4/3/25, *Oglethorpe County Library*
- ◆ Elbert Library Spring Break  
4/4/25, *Elbert County Library*
- ◆ Crafternoon at Oconee County  
4/8/25, *Oconee County Library*
- ◆ Pinewoods Annual Spring Festival  
4/11/25, *Pinewoods Library*
- ◆ The Children’s Booth at Athens Farmers Market  
4/12/25, *Athens Farmers Market*



## News for the Center

- ◆ Georgia Center for Developmental Science is officially on Google and Google Maps
- ◆ A new Data Processing & Analysis Unit is being set up within GCDS and equipment is being purchased

## New Improvements at the BIRC

A new video is now available at <https://youtu.be/CtbZOIDJ5rs?si=oDfOBZnIzeaOGKn5>  
This was created to show how participants will go through the process of an MRI visit at the imaging center.