



Congratulations to **Dr. Assaf Oshri** on being awarded the **Samuel A. and Sharon Y. Nickols Professorship!** Established in 2001, this professorship will support scholarly activity, writing & publishing, and research.
<https://www.fcs.uga.edu/alumni/endowed-professors>



230 Family Visits Complete
223 BIRC Visits Complete
12 August Recruitments

249

Participants Recruited



Current Research at GCDS

• Publications:

The paper by lead author Dr Linhao Zhang was featured in:

<https://www.psypost.org/teen-sleep-habits-may-shape-brain-connectivity-linked-to-behavior-problems/>

- The GCDS page in GitHub is up! This platform will be used for project management and team collaboration with research projects. It is being populated with data processing, analysis and publication scripts.
- GCDS collaborations are ongoing with RIT to investigate new contactless technology for physiological data from children & parents.
- Ongoing work taking place at GCDS with Neuroimaging data and Survey data



Science Spot

Weekly meetings dedicated for discussions on articles of choice by graduate students and staff, held during GCDS meetings.

This month, presentations were led by Dr. Oshri, Dr. Scharf, Dr. Kogan and graduate student, Katie Harmeyer.



photo of Dr. Kogan presenting about Prevention Science on 8/20/2025

BRANCH Wave 2



Next Wave of the BRANCH study has begun! Participant visits to the Bio Imaging Research Center (BIRC) for Wave 2 began on 8/14/25.

These MRI Visit 2 scans are conducted 18 months after the initial visit. During this visit to BIRC, hair samples, saliva and vitals are also collected from participants.

URA Spotlight



21 CURO URAs have joined the Center for Fall Semester

Fall 2025 URAs have been busy working in their teams and learning with the BRANCH study

Some highlights:

- URAs are being trained in the Data Management Team to help with sleep data for Wave 2
- URAs are developing training materials needed for Wave 1 and Wave 2

URA of the Month



Jackie Munoz majors in Biology and is a member of the Family Visit Team. She has been instrumental in getting visits staffed & working with siblings during participant visits. Thank you, Jackie!

Family and Community Engagement

Community engagement efforts are ongoing for recruitment as well as retention of BRANCH study participants.

Events in August



Connecting with community at the Back to School bash in Gainesville, GA



News for the Center



GCDS is using new Garmin Vivosmart watches for collecting data for the BRANCH study. They are being used for heart rate variability and sleep actigraphic data collection.



Pediatric Electrodes are now being used on BRANCH study participants as they are better suited for children.