



**Dr. Assaf Oshri**, Director of GCDS, has been selected as a member of the cohort of the Aspire Fellows 2025-2026 Program. He joins a selective community of faculty with remarkable achievements. The fellows will work together to create professional impact through signature projects.



**Katie Harmeyer**, a GCDS graduate student, was awarded the 2025-2026 Elise Bray Richey Endowment Scholarship. This award recognizes her outstanding academic performance, dedication and service she has contributed to the College.



203 Family Visits Complete  
186 BIRC Visits Complete  
10 June Recruitments

232

Participants Recruited



## Current Research at GCDS

◆ **Paper accepted for journal Prevention Science:**

Kogan, S. M., Reck, A. J., Tiwari, B., Thapha, J. R., Carter, S., Oshri, A., Koss, K., Ahn, S. J., Beach, S. R. H., Fisher, S., Smith, E. P., & Zhang, L. (in press). Family-centered prevention attenuates the association between structural racism risk and Black adolescents' self-regulation and externalizing behaviors: Secondary analysis of a randomized clinical trial. *Prevention Science*.

◆ **Dr. Charles Geier**, Associate Director of GCDS, has received a grant for his innovative project, "Stress in Real Life: A Student-Led Listening Session to Understand Contemporary Daily Stressors Faced by Rural Youth." The project will partner with [UGA Extension](#) and 4-H to center rural adolescents' voices in research.

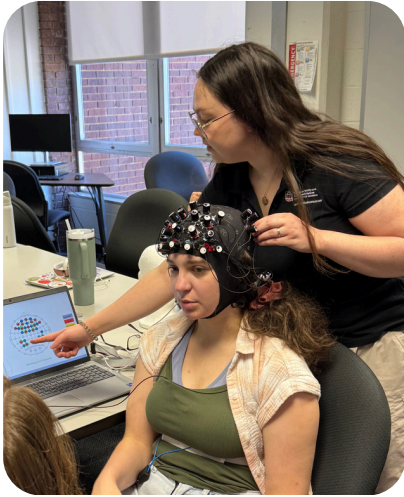
Dr. Linhao Zhang's research was recently featured in the

**UGA TODAY**  
and

**OnlineAthens** | ATHENS BANNER-HERALD

Dr. Zhang was a recent PhD graduate who conducted her research at GCDS. The study highlights the role of both sleep duration and quality of adolescent brain connectivity and mental health.

## Preparations underway to begin BRANCH Wave 2



Dry runs for Wave 2 of the BRANCH Study have begun! These sessions prepare the team for upcoming participant visits to the BIRC for their MRIs. They also provide an opportunity to test procedures and identify any necessary adjustments to ensure a smooth experience once Wave 2 officially begins.

**Anna Grossman** and **Katie Harmeyer** have passed the MRI operator test and are now cleared to do MRI scans at the BIRC, for the BRANCH study!

---

## URA Spotlight

Summer Undergraduate Research Assistant are getting familiar with the GCDS research projects and are now actively engaged with their assigned teams. The URAs work with the following teams:

- Family and Community Engagement Team
- BIRC Visit Team
- Family Visit Team
- Data Management Team



---

## Family and Community Engagement

- ◆ **Yareli Hernandez** was invited to discuss the GCDS BRANCH project in the podcast Chingonas y Chilloans with Sandra Sanches. The Podcast will be out soon.
- ◆ Community engagement efforts are ongoing for recruitment as well as retention of study participants.

## News for the Center

Group Picture Day at GCDS

