



**Happy New Year from GCDS!**



**Pending Grants submitted :**

- NSF Grant **\$895,275**
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation **\$500,000**
- Presidential Seed Programs
  - Seed Grand (PI -Assaf Oshri) **\$100,000**
  - Seed Grand (PI-Steve Kogan) **\$100,000**



	<b>Wave 1</b>	<b>Wave 2</b>
Total Participants	recruited 279	scheduled 59
Family Visits Complete	270	40
BIRC Visits Complete	265	30
January Participants	recruited 1	retained 9

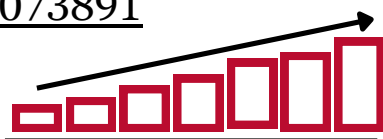


**Current Research at GCDS**



Congratulations! New publication by **Lauren Holley**, GCDS Child Life Specialist, was accepted to the journal *Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience*. The study is on Enhancing pediatric research protocols: Utilizing developmentally appropriate principles and incorporating Certified Child Life Specialists.  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dcn.2025.101659>

Congratulations to **Dr. Cullin Howard** and team on publishing a report on electronic media use among youth in *Pediatrics*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2025-073891>



Welcome, **Lois Mellinda Craig!**



Melinda joins GCDS as the new Field Research Team Lead and has already begun work with the BRANCH project.

# Undergraduate Research Assistant (URA) Spotlight



22 CURO URAs will be working at GCDS for Spring 2026:

- Welcome to the new URAs : Hannah Kittelson and Mitchell Rice!
- Spring Kickoff Meeting held on Jan 12<sup>th</sup> as an orientation for the URAs
- URA Team leads were selected
- URAs will work in 3 teams: Data Collection Team, Data Management Team and FACE team

**Congrats to our URA of the Month!**

**Gloria Sibymon**



Majors in Biomedical Physiology/ Pre-med. Gloria is off to a great start at GCDS with her enthusiasm to learn and attention to detail in working with the BRANCH project!

## GCDS Updates

- ◆ High School Intern working at GCDS through the Young Dawgs program in Spring 2026
- ◆ Discussions ongoing for selected medical students to do research at GCDS
- ◆ New updates to our website! Check the new addition on Hormesis: <https://gadevelopmentalscience.com/hormesis/>
- ◆ Search for the HDFS/ GCDS Biobehavioral Health Faculty is in process

## Science Spot



Graduate students and staff lead weekly meetings to discuss selected scientific articles or their ongoing research. January presentation topics were:

- 1/15/2026 New Methods in Wavelet analysis by **Cullin Howard**
- 1/22/2026 Intergenerational substance use by **Morrighan Wingate**



## BRANCH Wave 2

Year 3 of the BRANCH study marked the beginning of Wave 2 data collection. Activities include:

- Outreach to verify contact information
- Identify scheduling constraints, and tailor procedures to family needs
- Protocol piloting
- MRI visits and data acquisition

