



Congratulations to our GCDS Student Winners!



Three GCDS members were named in the Top 100 Student Employees of the Year 2026 at UGA !

- Congratulations to **Morrighan Wingate**, PhD student and BRANCH Project Coordinator, for an individual award!
- Congratulations to **Katie Harmeyer** and **Feiyu Wang**, PhD students and URA coordinators, for a team award!

Katie Harmeyer won First Place Overall with "Turning Risk into Resilience: The Power of Sleep for Mental Health", at the FACS 3-Minute Research Competition held on March 21, 2026. Congratulations, Katie!



	Wave 1	Wave 2
Total Participants	recruited 281	scheduled 86
Family Visits Complete	271	65
BIRC Visits Complete	268	49
March Participants	recruited 0	scheduled 17



Current Research at GCDS



Dr. Assaf Oshri was an author of the publication titled, "Determinants and outcomes of pubertal stress recalibration process: A scoping review," in *Biological Psychology*.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biopsycho.2026.109238>

Rabeeh Azarmehr published an article on "Negative Urgency Mediates the Effect of Family Conflict on Cannabis Positive Expectancy: The Moderating Role of Anterior Cingulate Cortex" in *Addiction Biology*.

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/adb.70131>

GCDS team was accepted into the Vertically Integrated Projects for Research (VIPR) program for 2026–27. This collaborative program will create opportunity for further undergraduate involvement in GCDS research projects. Application is now open to interested undergraduate students:

<https://vipr.uga.edu/team/cultivating-community-roots-engaging-in-participatory-research-with-rural-georgia-middle-schoolers/>



Undergraduate Research Assistant (URA) Spotlight

Congrats to our URAs of the Month!



- **22 URAs** submitted their CURO abstracts to PIs & mentors for feedback
- URAs attended workshops organized by GCDS to learn more about CURO presentations
- URA work in BRANCH research continues in assigned teams

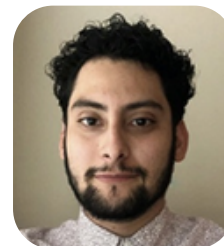


Mitchell Rice is a Biology major. He is analytical, takes initiative and helpful- a great addition to the Data management team.



Hannah Kittelson is a Psychology major. She shows great effort in study visits, her data collection role and the BRANCH study.

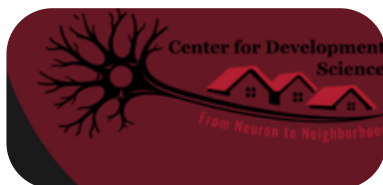
Visiting Scholars



- **Dr. Jack Peltz**, Assistant Professor from SUNY Brockport visited GCDS, March 19-20
- A special Training was conducted on data collection and management with the MUSE headbands
- A Talk and discussion was held, titled “Why Does Poor Sleep Put Us in a Bad Mood?: Exploring the Connections Between Sleep and Mood.”

Dr Carlos Espinoza, a lecturer at the University of North Georgia, visited GCDS for research discussions on 3/12/2026. His Talk was on Moral Identity, Empathy, and Well-being in Adolescence and Adulthood.

GCDS Updates



GCDS Inaugural Conference: Pathways of Risk and Resilience will be held April 22-23, 2026 at the Special Collections Library. To register: <https://gadevelopmentalscience.com/gcgs-conference/>



Congratulations to **Rabeeh Azarmehr** on successfully defending her PhD dissertation titled Neuroaffective Mechanisms Linking Family Conflict to Adolescent Cannabis Positive Expectancies: The Roles of Negative Urgency and Anterior Cingulate Activation! Rabeeh's committee consisted of Dr. Assaf Oshri, Dr. Charles Geier and Dr. Steve Kogan.

Family and Community Engagement



BRANCH study still recruiting to enroll possible new participants

Effort for retention of participants ongoing

Keeping engaged with community:

FACE team attended the Black History Event in the Pinewood Community library

