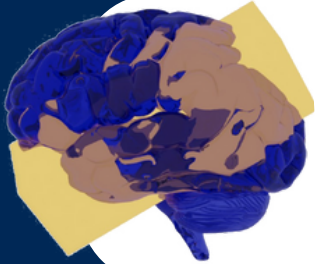


# NGP STUCO NEWSLETTER

VOL 21 | FEB 2025



## MAIN TOPIC THIS WEEK...

Check page 2 for invites to both our Chalk Talk info session & our Spring Retreat to Galveston!

### THE LINKS

Neuroscience Program

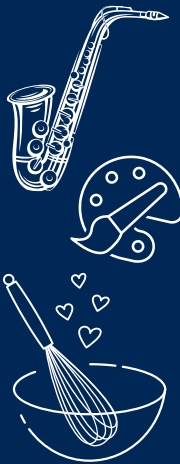
Master Doc

Slack

Twitter

### G&E AND NEURO ARTS SHOWCASE

Show off your artistic abilities and **register by 2/7** for the 10th annual showcase! All neuro students, staff, and faculty are welcome.



### SAVE THE DATES!

**Feb 10:** WIP: Jamie Tran, 11am, **MSB B100**

**Feb 12:** GSA Valentine's Day Event, 6pm - 8pm, BSRB

**Feb 17:** WIP: Ally Grace McConnell, 11 AM, MSB B605

**Feb 24:** WIP: Catalina Valdes, 11 AM, MSB B605

**Feb 25:** Defense: Eyad Shihabeddin, 3pm, MSB B100

**Mar 3:** Rotation Talks, 11 AM - 1 PM, MSB B605

**Mar 10 - 14:** *Spring Break*

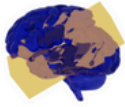
**Mar 17:** WIP: Takese McKenzie, 11am MSB B605

**Mar 24:** Let's Talk Chalk Info Session, 11am, MSB B605



# NEUROSCIENCE

Est. 1978



MD ANDERSON UT HEALTH HOUSTON GRADUATE SCHOOL  
**NEUROSCIENCE**  
Est. 1978

## LET'S TALK CHALK

### INFORMATION SESSION

24 MAR 2025, 11 AM - 12 PM

MSB B.605

Come hear from G&E faculty and students about Chalk Talks, our new candidacy format! See Kartik's Korner for more information.



## SPRING RETREAT



## THE SAN LUIS *Resort*

SPA & CONFERENCE CENTER

**Join us for an all-new Spring Retreat, designed for students!**

Connect with peers, participate in interactive workshops, and hear from our keynote & alumni speakers.

May 1 - 2, 2025

## SNAPS



Did someone go above and beyond? Did you get an award? Fill out this form, and we will highlight your snaps, big or small!

Snaps to...



**Cana Quave, PhD** (Advisor: Fabricio Do Mone, DVM, PhD) for a successful thesis defense! Congratulations, Dr Quave!



## NEUROSCIENCE

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KARTIK'S KORNER

Dear all,

Hope everyone is having a good year so far. I wanted to take this opportunity to announce that the neuroscience program will be moving to the chalk talk format for candidacy exams from Spring 2026 onwards. There is strong consensus among the program faculty that this format would be the most effective in highlighting the students' grasp of their research project. The format has been very popular among both students and faculty of the Genetics and Epigenetics (G&E) program.

Understandably, many of you are unsure about the format of the new exam. The program will be introducing several new initiatives to make this transition smoother.

**First**, students and faculty from the G&E program would be providing us with a short information session regarding the utility and efficacy of this format. This event has been currently scheduled for late March 2025.

**Second**, we will conduct a mock chalk talk during the program retreat in May. I will be the presenter and will be "examined" by other attending neuroscience faculty. This will be an opportunity for all of you to observe a chalk talk in action.

**Third**, starting from the fall 2025 semester, some of the WIP slots will be allotted for chalk talk practice. The first of these sessions would include a session where faculty would provide instructions on how best to structure your chalk talk. Additionally, a few faculty and I will be available for 1 hour practice chalk talks, if students would rather do this in a less public forum.

We are hopeful that these changes will aid in your development as articulate and independent investigators. If you have other specific suggestions, please feel free to email me.



- Kartik Venkatachalam, PhD

