



*University Seminar Series: **GW** Robotics, Artificial **I**ntelligence (AI),
and **T**ransportation for **S**mart Health & Smart Cities (**GRITS**)*

Executive function in Autism: What have we learned with functional imaging?

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Over 70% of children and adults with autism have executive function challenges. Even when core symptoms of autism are addressed, executive problems persist and lead to poor outcomes for daily living, education, and vocational outcomes. I will share some of our recent work on using brain imaging to understand the comorbid executive deficits and how a transdiagnostic approach can provide insights that cut across diagnostic labels.



Dr. Chandan Vaidya is Professor in the Department of Psychology and faculty in the Interdisciplinary program in Neuroscience at Georgetown University Medical Center (GUMC) and affiliated with the Children's Research Institute at Children's National Hospital in Washington, DC. She completed her undergraduate studies in Psychology at Sophia College in Mumbai, India, her doctoral studies in Developmental Psychology at Syracuse University, New York, and her post-doctoral training in Cognitive Neuroscience at Stanford University. Dr. Vaidya joined the Department of Psychology as Assistant professor in 2000. Dr. Vaidya is currently serving as the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs at the Main Campus for Georgetown University. Her research aims at characterizing the neurobiological basis of goal-directed purposeful behavior. Our ability to control our thoughts and actions, termed executive control, determines our success in how well we adapt to our environment. Problems with this process are at the heart of many psychiatric disorders with origins in early development. They are also associated with physical health status tied to metabolic functioning. Discovering the neural roots of these problems is a primary mission of Dr. Vaidya's Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience Laboratory (DCNL). Studies at DCNL are funded by the National Institute of Health and foundation grants.

Wednesday, January 29, 2024

Time 11:00am—12:00pm (Pizza for participants will be provided)

SEH B1270 (800 22nd st. NW Washington, DC 20052)