



# Neuroscience Café

Thursday  
January 21, 2021  
6:00 PM

## “Why are so many kids becoming nearsighted and how can we stop it?”



**Timothy Gawne, PhD**  
Professor  
Dept Optometry & Vision  
Science

Dr. Gawne received his BS in Electrical Engineering from MIT in 1978 and worked for two years at the Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC). He received his PhD in Physiology from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS) in 1984. After completing postdoctoral studies at USUHS, he worked as a physiologist and staff fellow at the National Institute of Mental Health. In 1996, Dr. Gawne joined the UAB School of Optometry as faculty in the Department of Optometry and Vision Science. His current primary research interest is in the neural circuitry that actively controls eye growth during infancy and childhood.



**Andrew Pucker, OD, PhD**  
Assoc Professor  
Dept Optometry & Vision  
Science

Dr. Pucker earned his OD, MS, and PhD degrees from The Ohio State University, and he is currently an Assistant Professor and Chief of the Myopia Control Clinic at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Dr. Pucker has been the Principal Investigator of a National Eye Institute funded project related to myopia development, and he manages other projects related to contact lenses, dry eye, and refractive error development. Dr. Pucker is a *Contributing Editor for Contact Lens Spectrum*. He is a Fellow and Diplomate of the American Academy of Optometry, and he is a Fellow of the Scleral Lens Education Society. Dr. Pucker has also received a number of other honors, which include winning two William C. Ezell Fellowships, winning the Irvin M. and Beatrice Borish Award, receiving the Association of Schools & Colleges of Optometry's Rising Star Award, and being named as an Emerging Vision Scientist by the Alliance for Eye and Vision Research. During his free time, he enjoys traveling, home brewing, and spending time with his family.

This UAB CNC Neuroscience Café is a **virtual event** sponsored by the Birmingham area libraries

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