

Saved by the bell: A neurobiological investigation of the protective effects of delayed high school start times in youth with and without ADHD

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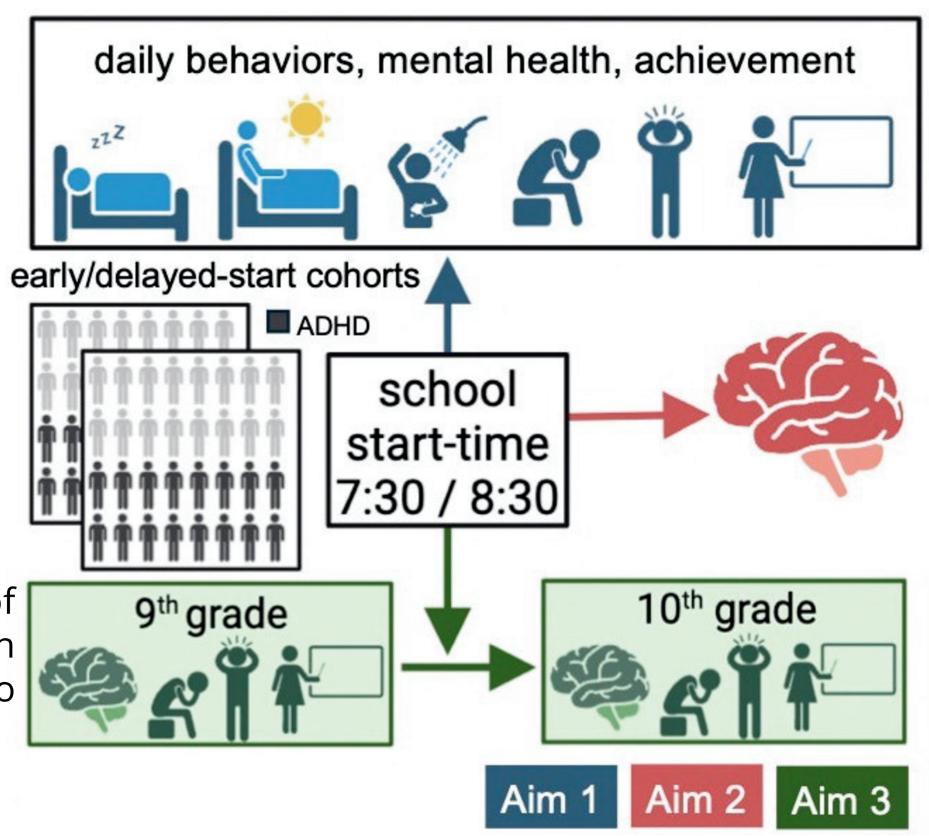


Project Overview

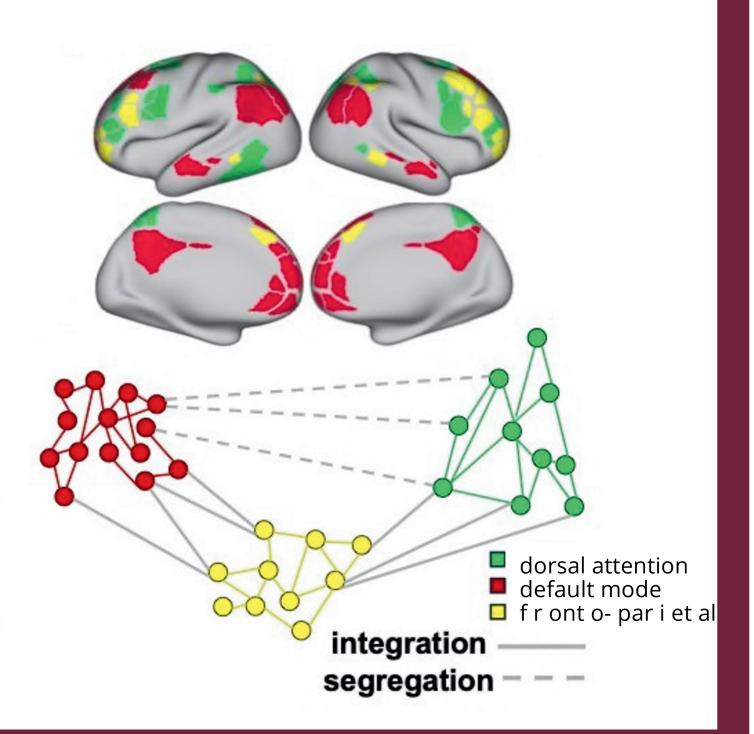
- Youth starting high school, especially those with ADHD, tend to not get enough sleep, which is a critical issue during a time that is characterized by new academic challenges and increased risk for mental health problems.
- This project will leverage the onset of a Florida state law (HB733) mandating a delay in high school start times by studying two cohorts of 9th grade students with and without ADHD, one cohort starting school at 7:30 (early start) and one cohort starting school at 8:30 (delayed start).

Project Design

Aim 1. Test the effect of delayed school start time on daily behaviors, mental health, and academic achievement in 9th grade students with and without ADHD.



Aim 2. Test the effect of delayed school start time on functional brain networks supporting internally and externally directed attention.



Aim 3. Test the effects of delayed school start time on the transition from 9th to 10th grade.

Summer 2024 FYAP period piloting and testing functional MRI protocols at the Magnetic Resonance Imaging Facility

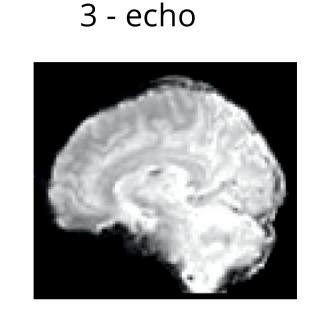
Single - echo

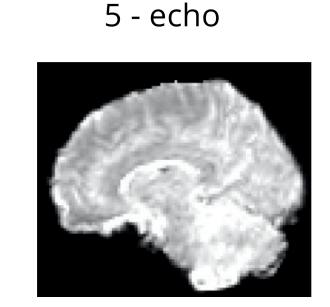


fMRI reading task development



fMRI scanner sequence testing – how many echos to include? Number of echos = the number of data points per radiofrequency pulse More echos = better signal but more data is expensive





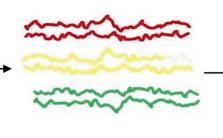
testing cognitive state-based differences in functional connectivity

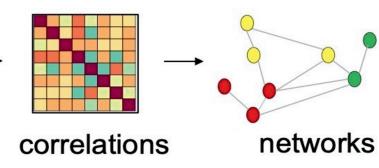
rhyme semantic functional connectivity analysis pipeline testing

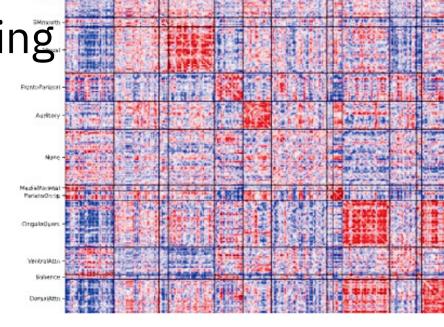
shoe

brain regions timeseries

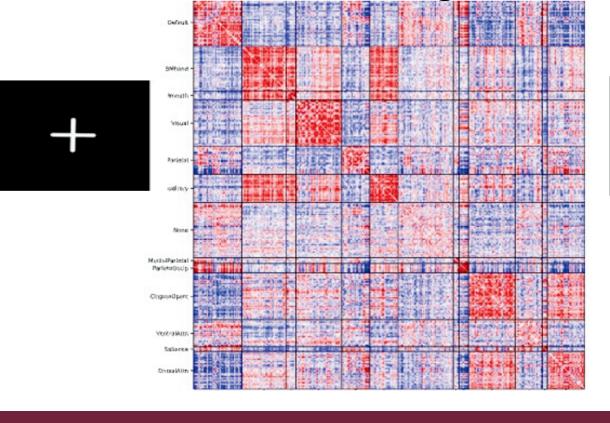
dead bead







resting state



reading

dead bead

Next Steps Fall 2024:

- Collect the early-start 7:30 am cohort including ½ with ADHD
- Examine objective and subjective sleep related to mental health and
- achievement
 - Test the proposed neurobiological mechanisms linking sleep to functional brain networks supporting internally and externally directed attention and test for the moderating role of ADHD

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