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## UAB: Where Scientists Want to Be

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## science news

### UAB: Where Scientists Want to Be

Shweta Patel

According to a survey *The Scientist* magazine conducted, the University of Alabama at Birmingham ranks No. 5 in the U.S. as the “Best Place to Work in Academia.” Life science researchers were surveyed on such things as the type of environment they worked in and their relationship with fellow colleagues. Last year, UAB was ranked 47th in the same survey. The drastic change in ranking is attributed to UAB’s focus on interdisciplinary collaborations. With such cutting-edge facilities like the new Shelby Interdisciplinary Biomedical Research building and such university-wide research centers like the Comprehensive Cancer Center, researchers have a greater opportunity to work together in solving problems. With an engineer down the hall and a pathologist down the street, making interdisciplinary connections is easier. This positive research environment is especially beneficial to undergraduates interested in graduate school and research opportunities. UAB challenges its students to think outside of the box, to ask the right questions. At such a high ranked university, this is where opportunities are available for the taking; this is where scientists want to be.