

## Robert G. Siekert New Investigator Award in Stroke



### Seth A. Hays, PhD

Dr. Seth Hays received his undergraduate degree in biomedical engineering from the University of Texas at Austin. During his time there, he worked in the laboratory of Theresa Jones and developed an interest in stroke recovery research. He went on to receive his Ph.D. from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center under the guidance of Dr. Jay Gibson and Dr. Kimberly Huber. His dissertation focused on the molecular mechanisms of network dysfunction in a mouse model of Fragile X syndrome. From there, he conducted his postdoctoral research, which was directed at applying targeted plasticity therapy in animal models of disease, under the direction of Dr. Michael Kilgard and Dr. Robert Rennaker. Dr. Hays is currently an assistant professor in the Department of Bioengineering at the University of Texas at Dallas. His recent research is focused on developing vagus nerve stimulation (VNS) therapy to improve recovery of motor function after stroke, traumatic brain injury, and spinal cord injury, and elucidating the mechanisms engaged by VNS to support recovery.