# The Friedman Brain Institute
# 2026 FBI Research Scholars

On behalf of the Philanthropic Leadership Council of The Friedman Brain Institute, we are pleased to announce the 2026 recipients of The FBI Research Scholars Awards.

## Nash Family Research Scholar Award



**Tristan Shuman, PhD**
Associate Professor, Neuroscience

**Madeline Fields, MD**
Professor, Neurology

**Lara Marcuse, MD**
Professor, Neurology

**Ignacio Saez, PhD**
Associate Professor, Neuroscience, Neurosurgery & Neurology

### Towards a neuropsychiatric brain-computer interface: identifying and controlling pathological brain states in human epilepsy patients

Neuropsychiatric disorders such as epilepsy and major depression cause debilitating changes to behavior, but there is tremendous variability in symptoms from day to day that remains poorly understood. These fluctuations in symptoms must be reflected in changing neural activity patterns or "brain states" that can be identified and disrupted to treat these disorders. This project will use intracranial neural recordings in epilepsy patients to identify the precise patterns of brain activity that predict whether a patient will have seizures or show symptoms of depression. This work will develop the core features of a neuropsychiatric brain-computer interface to control the symptoms of neurological disorders.

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