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.

Ram Sundaram and Preethi Krishna Research Scholar Award

Yael Jacob, PhD
Assistant Professor, Psychiatry

Laurel Morris, PhD
Adjunct Associate Professor, Psychiatry

FISHER: A Novel Digital Intervention to Improve Symptoms Related to Depression

People with Major Depressive Disorder (MDD) often show stronger "negative bias" and a reduced "positive bias" when interpreting their environment. We developed a novel digital intervention (an online game - FISHER) designed to help people notice and interpret more positive information in their environment by changing activity in the amygdala, a brain region involved in learning about positive experiences and balancing negative and positive bias. In this project, we will use brain imaging to examine whether our new intervention can modify amygdala activity and improve emotional processing in individuals with MDD.

Icahn School of Medicine at **Mount Sinai**