

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.

Richard and Susan Friedman Research Scholar Award



Roberto Gulli, PhD

Assistant Professor,
Psychiatry



Ignacio Saez, PhD

Associate Professor,
Neuroscience, Neurosurgery
& Neurology



Fedor Panov, MD

Associate Professor,
Neurosurgery

High-density human electrophysiology: towards a cellular-level understanding of human cognition

Human cognition depends on the flexible acquisition and deployment of abstract rules, yet we lack a cellular-resolution map of the circuits that support this capacity. We will combine high-density Neuropixels recordings with intracranial electrophysiology in awake neurosurgical patients to directly measure thousands of human hippocampal neurons after learning. Building on primate work showing dynamic shifts in representational geometry from prefrontal cortex to hippocampus, we test whether rapid human rule learning produces geometric neuronal reorganization and whether self-reported strategies map onto distinct population codes. This interdisciplinary effort will bridge non-human primate and human neuroscience, enabling a next-generation cellular understanding of human cognition.



Icahn
School of
Medicine at
Mount
Sinai