

**The Friedman Brain Institute and the
Neuroscience Graduate Program presents**

The 16th Annual

Neuroscience Retreat

APRIL 26th, 2024

Retreat Organizers

Xiaoting Wu, PhD

Joseph M Castellano, PhD

Image by Claire Pettengill



**Icahn
School of
Medicine at
Mount
Sinai**

Neuroscience Retreat

AGENDA

8:30 – 9:00 am

Registration
(South Hall Lobby)

9:00 – 9:05 am

Introduction
(Assembly Hall)

Joseph M Castellano, PhD and Xiaoting (Ting) Wu, PhD

9:05 – 9:20 am

Welcome Remarks

Eric J. Nestler, MD, PhD on Friedman Brain Institute

9:20 – 9:35 am

Paul J. Kenny, PhD on Nash Family Department of Neuroscience

9:35 – 9:45 am

George Huntley, PhD on Graduate Student Program

9:45 – 10:15 am

Keynote Speaker I

Helen Mayberg, MD – “What is Well? An Evolving Transdisciplinary Perspective from Studies of DBS for Depression”

10:15 – 10:35 am

Raffle
BREAK – Coffee

10:35 – 10:55 am

Evan Schaffer, PhD (Faculty Speaker) – “Stable geometry is inevitable in drifting neural representations”

10:55 – 11:15 am

Alberto Corona, PhD (Postdoc Speaker) – “Stress-sensing microglia and habenular function”

Anina Lund (Student Speaker) – “Establishing the Molecular Foundation of Brain Anatomy in Living Individuals”

11:20 am – 12:20 pm

Poster Session I (Scavenger hunt)
(South Hall)

12:20 – 1:15 pm

LUNCH

1:20 – 1:50 pm

Keynote Speaker II

(Assembly Hall)

Brian Kim, MD, MTR, FAAD – “Sensing Inflammation at the Barrier”

1:50 – 2:10 pm

Georgia Panagiotakos, PhD (Faculty Speaker) – “O Ca(2+)ptain! My Ca(2+)ptain! Ion channels, activity dependent calcium signaling and neuraldifferentiation programs”

2:10 – 2:25 pm

Break

2:25 – 3:25 pm

Poster Session II (Scavenger hunt)
(South Hall)

3:25 – 3:45 pm

Ashley Cunningham (Student Speaker) – “Cell-Type specific roles for H3 serotonylation in the developing brain”

Mate Kiss, PhD (Postdoc Speaker) – “Insufficient sleep compromises adequate central nervous system drainage and instigates autoantibody production in brain-draining cervical lymph nodes”

3:45 – 4:00 pm

Break (raffle 2)

4:00 – 4:20 pm

Watit Sontising, PhD (Postdoc Speaker) – “Spatial metabolism in temporal lobe epilepsy”

Paloma Bravo (Student Speaker) – “Microglia contribution to sexual dimorphism and remodeling of the developing brain”

4:20 – 4:40 pm

Angela Radulescu, PhD (Faculty Speaker) – “Reinforcement learning as a model of cognitive and affective dynamics in mental health”

4:40 – 5:00 pm

Storytelling
(Assembly Hall)

Camille Casiño (Psychiatry)
Jacqueline Overton (Neuroscience)
Xuran Wang (Psychiatry)

5:00 – 5:30 pm

Ceremony
(South Hall)

5:00 – 6:00 pm

Networking / Social reception
with live music by Dianne R. Carr (Pianist) and Amelia McNiven (Violinist)

NEUROSCIENCE GRADUATE TRAINING PROGRAM

Another year has rolled past. A year full of accomplishments and activities and student-accolades. And a year of chaos and disorder in the world. I'm going to focus on the former. I will highlight a few things that we can all be proud of.

First, Admissions. We have 22 new students who will be joining us this fall. Another in a line of very large classes, though we can handle it. As Eric pointed out to me, it's "*better than the alternative*". Very true. I'm proud that we seem to really kill it each year. Of course, this reflects the supreme dedication of so many students, faculty and staff—people who took the time to screen applications, to interview, to mingle, to dine, to setup, to cleanup, to engage, to reach out, to follow up, to encourage. I am so appreciative of all of your efforts.

Second, training grants. Many students over the past year continued our exemplary track record of successfully competing for individual grant funding, including NIH fellowships (F30/31 NRSA's and F99/K00 (D-SPAN) career-transition awards), and private foundation awards. Congratulations to all of you! At the programmatic level, a special congratulations to Scott Russo and Hiro Morishita on the awarding of their new T32 training grant "*Training Program in Social Neuroscience Research*", funding both later-stage predoctoral and postdoctoral trainees. Two of our additional T32 grants— Joe Castellano's and Patrick Hof's "*Research Training in the Neuroscience of Aging*" and my "*Training Program in Neuroscience*" are both up for competitive renewals this May. Fingers crossed, but we're in great shape, no worries here.

Third, curriculum. Let's start with biostatistics. It's well-known how fraught first-year biostatistics has been here historically. That is why I am particularly proud of the efforts of Edoardo "Dado" Marcora, Angela Radulescu and Erin Rich who, with significant input and valuable perspective from Joe Zaki, designed a new, Neuroscience-student focused first-year biostats course called "*Modern Statistics for Modern Biology*", launched for the first time this spring (along with teaching assistants Christina Maher, Alie Fink and Qixiu Fu). With this course as a solid grounding in statistical principles, the ultimate goal (underway) is to complement this first-year course with a suite of 2nd year Advanced Electives that would further skills through specialized applications and topics. Stay tuned. Next, Core courses. There will be some shuffling of Core course directors, as Betsy Cropper (Core 1) and Pete Rudebeck (Core 3) step down. I want to thank both for making these such great courses.

Finally, congrats to the many PhD and MSTP Neuroscience students who defended their thesis over the past year.

George W Huntley



**WI-FI
Access**



**Retreat 2024
Website**



Retreat Pamphlet



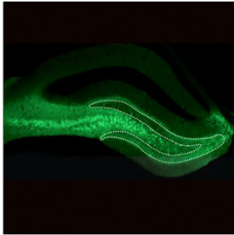
**Art of the Brain
Scavenger Hunt**



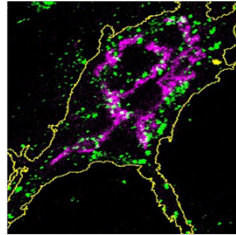
Abstracts

Art of the Brain Scavenger Hunt

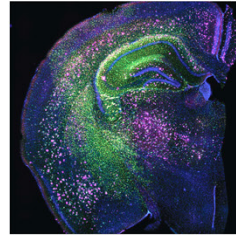
Match the images with the corresponding poster located in the South Hall.
The first person to submit the correct answers wins a framed Art of the Brain image.



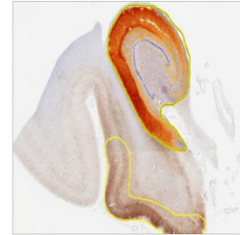
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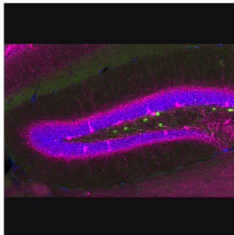
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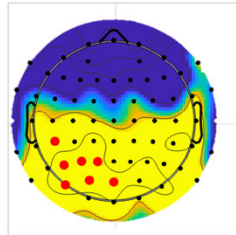
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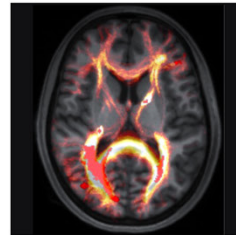
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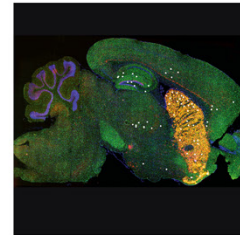
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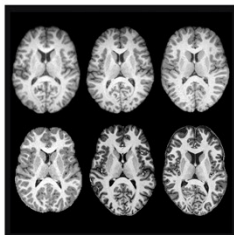
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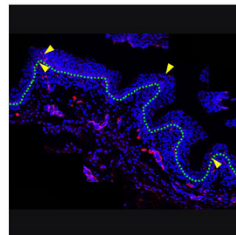
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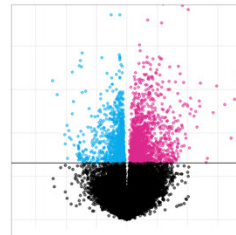
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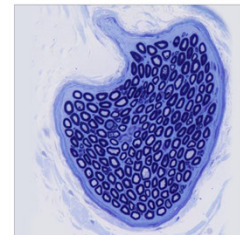
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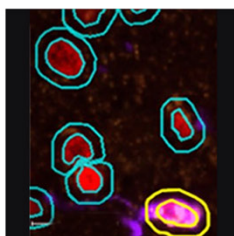
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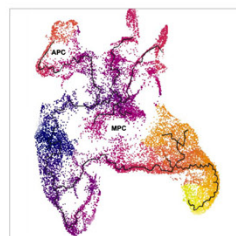
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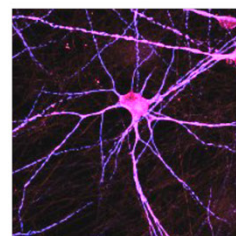
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We hope
you will
join us in
2025 for the
Seventeenth
Annual
Neuroscience
Retreat