

# The Friedman Brain Institute

## 2025 FBI Research Scholars

On behalf of the Philanthropic Leadership Council of The Friedman Brain Institute, we are pleased to announce the 2025 recipients of The FBI Research Scholars Awards.

### Fascitelli Research Scholar Award



**Yun Soung Kim, PhD**  
Assistant Professor,  
Diagnostic, Molecular &  
Interventional Radiology and  
BioMedical Engineering &  
Imaging Institute



**Maria de las Mercedes  
Perez-Rodriguez,  
MD, PhD**  
Associate Professor, Psychiatry



**Ankit Parekh, PhD**  
Assistant Professor, Medicine, Pulmonary,  
Critical Care & Sleep Medicine and Artificial  
Intelligence & Human Health

### **Assessing Perinatal Sleep's Role in Postpartum Mental Health and Maternal Caregiving Behaviors with a Multifunctional Forehead Patch**

We leverage an innovative wearable EEG-based forehead patch to study sleep and circadian rhythms in the perinatal period, a critical window for maternal mental health. Sleep disruption increases risk for perinatal mood and anxiety disorders (PMADs), which affect 1 in 4 women and can have long-term impacts in the offspring. Unlike traditional polysomnography, this patch enables at-home, high-resolution monitoring. We will correlate sleep patterns with mental health symptoms, inflammatory biomarkers, infant outcomes and maternal-infant caregiving, providing critical feasibility data. This study establishes a novel framework for early PMAD detection, informing future large-scale interventions to improve maternal health and offspring outcomes.



Icahn  
School of  
Medicine at  
Mount  
Sinai