

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.

Glickenhaus Research Scholar Award



Zheng (Herbert) Wu, PhD
Assistant Professor, Neuroscience



Sai Ma, PhD
Assistant Professor, Genetics & Genomic Sciences

Neural Activity-Dependent Regulation of Transcriptomic Landscape: A Novel Approach to Addiction

This project aims to uncover how the Fos family transcription factors mediate neural activity-dependent changes in gene expression, linking addiction-driven behaviors to molecular mechanisms. In the first aim, we will develop a novel technology to jointly measure Fos protein levels, DNA binding sites, and gene expression changes across approximately one million single cells in the premotor cortex. The second aim will pioneer a platform that spatially links neuronal activity, chromatin accessibility, and RNA profiles. Together, these advanced tools will elucidate how neural activity reshapes transcription, providing new insights and potential therapeutic targets for substance use disorders.



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Medicine at
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Sinai