

# 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.

### Jane Martin and Stuart Katz Research Scholar Award



**Evan Schaffer, PhD**

Assistant Professor, Neuroscience

#### **Identifying mechanisms for stable memory and generalization: New Insights Into Alzheimer's Disease.**

The failure to accurately generalize, or to apply learned associations to new contexts, is a prominent feature of Alzheimer's Disease pathology. The ability to generalize critically depends on the neural representation of similar stimuli being similar. Our goal is to build a mathematical understanding of when this similarity criterion is guaranteed to be true in healthy brains and what neural insults could cause it to fail in disease. A better understanding of how insults to the hippocampal network result in deficits in the ability to generalize will lay the foundation for new treatments and diagnostic tools for dementias.



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