

The Friedman Brain Institute

2023 FBI Research Scholars

On behalf of the Philanthropic Leadership Council of The Friedman Brain Institute, we are pleased to announce the 2023 recipients of The FBI Research Scholars Awards.

Ram Sundaram and Preethi Krishna Research Scholar Award



Ki A Goosens, PhD

Associate Professor, Psychiatry



Mone Zaidi, MD, PhD, MBA

Professor, Medicine, Pharmacological Sciences and Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine

A Novel Role for Follicle-Stimulating Hormone in Alzheimer's Disease and comorbid health conditions in Down Syndrome

Down Syndrome (DS) is the most common chromosomal disorder in humans; roughly 1 in 700 babies is born with DS. People with DS have a greater prevalence of many health conditions, including bone frailty, obesity, and Alzheimer's disease. Because people with DS have extra copies of many genes, it is often assumed that each health condition arises from extra copies of different genes. However, people with DS have elevated levels of follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH), a hormone classically linked to fertility and our recent work shows that FSH regulates far more than fertility. Our published work links elevated FSH to lower bone mineral density, increased deposition of adipose tissue, and greater accumulation of Alzheimer's pathology in the brain. We will examine whether blocking FSH signaling normalizes these three disparate health issues in a mouse model of DS, thus exploring a new target for health problems associated with DS.



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