

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.

Scherr Family Foundation Research Scholar Award



Graham J Britton, PhD

Instructor, Genetics and Genomic Sciences



Stephanie K Tankou, MD, PhD

Assistant Professor, Neurology

Identifying pro- and anti-encephalitogenic strains from human multiple sclerosis-associated microbiotas

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is an incurable disease affecting the brain and spine and the most common cause of serious disability in young people.

The human gut is home to trillions of microbes collectively referred to as the gut microbiota. Perturbations in the composition of the gut microbiota is one of several factors that contribute to MS. We are using mice to investigate how gut derived bacteria from MS patients cause inflammation leading to MS. We are also studying the gut microbiota of healthy people to identify gut bacteria that can dampen the inflammatory immune response causing MS.

Our research will expand our understanding of how gut bacteria contribute to MS and could lead to the development of new drugs for the prevention and treatment of MS.



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