



SCHOOL OF  
**MEDICINE &  
DENTISTRY**  
UNIVERSITY of ROCHESTER

**Neuroscience Graduate Program**

*A Year of Continued Science + Learning During a Pandemic*

*In This Issue*

Introducing Our Newest  
Class - Selected Out of  
Over 170 Applicants!

Return of The  
Neuroscience Retreat -  
In Person!

New Faculty Joining the  
NGP, Updates on  
Awards and Life

**URMC NEUROSCIENCE**

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<https://www.urmc.rochester.edu/education/graduate/phd/neurosciences.aspx>



## Our Holistic Approach to Admissions Yields Excellent Candidates

With NGP Admissions Committee Chair Farran Briggs, PhD at the helm, the admissions committee worked hard to implement holistic admissions practices with increased transparency. This included gaining valuable insight from our current cohort. We would like to thank our student admissions committee: Greg Reilly, Lelo Shamambo, Caitlin Sharp, Mike DuHain, Tori Popov, and Alexis Fiedler, and to our faculty admissions committee: Chris Holt, Marissa Sobolewski, Adam Snyder, Gail Johnson, John Olschowka, Liz Romanski, Madalina Tivarus, and Julian Meeks, for all their hard work.

*cont'd p. 6*

# You're invited!

3<sup>rd</sup> Annual  
**University of Rochester**  
**Neuroscience Graduate Program Social** at SfN

Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup> • 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm  
Sally's Fish House & Bar • 1 Market Place  
Manchester Grand Hyatt • San Diego

Join University of Rochester Neuroscience faculty, alumni,  
and students for an evening of networking and celebration.

Everyone interested in learning more about the Program or  
Institute is welcome to attend.

For more information, please contact [victoria\\_dagostino@urmc.rochester.edu](mailto:victoria_dagostino@urmc.rochester.edu).

Sponsored by  **UR** MEDICINE | **DEL MONTE**  
INSTITUTE FOR NEUROSCIENCE



*Please join us as we honor our 2022  
NGP Alumni Award recipient*



## *What's In Our 2022 Issue...*

- **Notes from the NGP Director**
- **Notes from the NGP Admissions Committee Chair**
- **Notes from the Neuroscience Chair**
- **Class of 2022 Admissions**
- **Student Fellowships and Grants Support**
- **New NGP Faculty**
- **2022 Neuroscience Retreat**
- **Our Newest PhD Recipients**
- **Student and Alumni Publications**
- **Alumni List**

### Contact Us

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<https://www.urmc.rochester.edu/education/graduate/phd/neurosciences.aspx>





# Neuroscience Graduate Program 2022

## *Notes From the NGP Director*

Dear students, faculty, alumni, staff, and friends,

Well, here we are another year later, and a few months past my first full year as Director of the Neuroscience Graduate Program (NGP). While it has certainly been a long year, it has also been a successful and prosperous year and I, as well as all of those in the trenches with me, have learned much. Last Fall, we continued to trudge our way through the perils of the pandemic, but by Spring, longer periods of reprieve, silver linings, and hope lifted our morale and gave us hope about returning to the basics. There were more and more frequent reminders of how things were before COVID and some suggestions that a return to normalcy was just around the corner. As time marched on, our daily virtual classrooms and meetings finally gave way to more hybrid and in-person interactions. While we had to relearn how to navigate those spaces again, there was less uncertainty. During this entire time, our amazing students gave heart, mind, and soul to make things work and our faculty also worked hard to keep up with the constantly-evolving academic landscape. As always, I am indebted to all the staff, students, and faculty, for their flexibility, dedication, taking on more tasks than they could get done, and for always showing up, particularly during those “all hands on deck” moments – there were a few. There is much to celebrate and I want to express my gratitude to all those that pushed to elevate our program and keep it on track.



Thanks to Farran Briggs, in her continued role as our Admissions Chair, and for the hard work of our admissions committee for their once again fantastic recruitment efforts. Nearly 200 students applied for entry into our program for Fall 2022. This committee, through many, many hours of review and discussions had the challenging task of selecting our newest cohort from an incredibly-talented and competitive applicant pool. Our incoming 2022 NGP class is represented by ten unique and spectacular students who all showed up mid-August, two weeks before classes, ready for our NGP Boot Camp and chomping at the bit to get things started. The excitement was quite palpable and that we were able to host Boot Camp in person again this year was a welcomed return. Thanks to the Boot Camp Committee (Amy Bucklaew, Catalina Guzman, Linh Le, Luke Shaw, and Sarah Yablonski) and all the NGP students who pitched in to make this opening bid successful for our new students – it was one of the first opportunities for them to feel like they are really part of the NGP community. Our second and third year students were and are in the throes of completing their Part I and Part II qualifying exams and at least five of our senior students hope to defend their dissertation research work in the next year. Six students (four 1st years) and one of our NGP Postdoctoral fellows recently snagged NINE awards and/or scholarships at the recent GEPA awards held in the URMCA Flaum Atrium. It was quite satisfying to hear the NGP acknowledged so many times. Thanks to our students for doing what you do and shining brightly for all those around to see.

In the months before our new students arrived, nine of our senior students triumphantly completed the requirements for their PhD and begin their journeys towards a host of exciting and new opportunities. Our MSTP students, Uday Chockanathan, Keshov Sharma, Fara Zakusilo, and Karl Foley all returned to medical school here at URMCA for additional years of medical training. Alexandra McHale-Matthews started a new position as a Postdoctoral Associate in Arianna Maffe’s Laboratory at Stony Brook University. Emily Warner Crosier is now a scientist at Sanofi - Genomic Medicine Unit in Waltham, Massachusetts. Neal Shah is now a scientist at PTC Therapeutics in New Jersey. Shraddha Shah is accepted a postdoctoral position in the lab of Sameer Sheth at Baylor College of Medicine. Last but not least, Yunpeng Pang started his career as a Research Scientist for Curia

*cont'd p. 5*

# Neuroscience Graduate Program 2022

## *Continued Notes From the NGP Director*

in Buffalo, NY. They will all be missed, but we wish them many well-deserved successes in their new roles. Hopefully, they like so many of our alumni, will reflect fondly upon their time here and inspire emerging neuroscientists everywhere to consider calling NGP home. They are certainly welcomed back anytime they want to visit.

Our students and faculty have also been working hard to make the NGP and the University of Rochester a more diverse and inclusive environment. The continued commitment over the last year can be seen by looking at the accomplishments of the URMN Neuroscience Diversity Committee (NDC) including their Pipeline, NEURO CITY, NeURoEast, and NeURoYES initiatives. I should note that several other exciting initiatives are in the works, so stay tuned. Our NGP students also lead by example through their active roles in the NDC, Alliance for Diversity in Science and Engineering and the Student Solidarity Organization. While many challenges still exist and work is ongoing, I am inspired by what we can accomplish when we work together with the goal in mind that diversity makes us stronger.

The NGP continues to grow in many ways. We are in the third year of our T32 which will continue to support the training for four of our students. We also welcomed six new faculty into the program this year (see page 10-11) with several others in the pipeline. We are quickly approaching the impressive count of 100 faculty in the NGP roster. To learn more about all the exciting research here in the NGP and support our amazing students, consider joining us for the student seminar series held every Monday at 4pm. Special thanks to Greg Reilly, Yanya Ding, Andrew Wojtovich, and Benjamin Suarez-Jimenez for keeping our student seminar up and running, to Gail Johnson and Lauren Hablitz for organizing our Fall Journal Clubs, and many faculty who teach in our courses. Thanks are also in order for our retreat committee for organizing our first post-pandemic, in-person Neuroscience Retreat at the Memorial Art Gallery in April. Thanks to the Neuroscience Office Staff (Pam LaDuke, Amara DiFrancesco, Tori D'Agostino, Laura Kunst, and Kathleen Jensen) for keeping me and frankly most of us out of the deep end – I appreciate everything you do. Last but certainly not least, the true reach of our program is captured in our Alumni Directory at the end of this newsletter. We are proud to call all of you family and enjoy hearing from you, so please continue to help us update this directory. While I have acknowledged a few people in this newsletter, there are so many more whose efforts deserve recognition. So, in closing, I want to thank each and every member of our NGP community for all that you do. I look forward to working with you in the year ahead.

Warm Regards,  
Chris Holt, PhD



*Director Chris Holt racing recent NGP grad Dr. Karl Foley  
at our Graduate Student Appreciation Event*

# Neuroscience Graduate Program 2022

## *Notes From the NGP Admissions Committee Chair*

In spite of yet another challenging admissions season in which recruitment was entirely virtual, we could not be more thrilled about our incoming class of NGP students in 2022. We also welcomed our new NGP coordinator, Amara DiFrancesco, and continued to implement more holistic admissions practices, with increased transparency and involvement of our current graduate students. So, lots of changes! I would like to first thank all of our current students and faculty on the admissions committee – without all of you, we could never recruit such an outstanding class of new scholars. Thank you to our current students on the committee: Greg Reilly, Lelo Shamambo, Caitlin Sharp, Mike DuHain, Tori Popov, and Alexis Fiedler, and to the faculty admissions committee: Chris Holt, Marissa Sobolewski, Adam Snyder, Gail Johnson, John Olschowka, Liz Romanski, Madalina Tivarus, and Julian Meeks. Special thanks to Amara for learning on the fly and successfully coordinating two virtual recruitment weekends.



NGP continues to lead graduate programs across the institution at attracting and recruiting the best applicants and our incoming NGP 2022 class really showcases this trend. We received and reviewed 175 applications and interviewed 22 applicants, of which 10 will be joining the NGP this August. Our incoming class is once again incredibly diverse. They come from all over the world, their scientific interests are wide-ranging, and they each have unique and diverse background and experiences bringing them to graduate school. We can't wait to welcome our incoming NGP first year class to URMC and to finally meet all of you in person! If we have learned one thing from multiple years of pandemic-era graduate education, it is that the NGP's commitment to student-focused graduate education is unwavering in the face of challenges.

Going forward, the NGP admissions committee will continue to hone our holistic approach toward admissions. We will be reaching out to students and faculty in the coming months in order to operationalize these approaches going forward. We welcome your feedback! Please reach out to us with any suggestions you have to continue our track record of successful admissions.

Farran Briggs, PhD  
NGP Admissions Committee Chair



# Neuroscience Graduate Program 2022

## *Notes From the Neuroscience Chair*

It has been another note-worthy year for the Del Monte Institute for Neuroscience and the Department of Neuroscience. Our researchers continue to push the boundaries of neuroscience. Over the past year we have congratulated nine newly-minted PhD's from our graduate program. This August we welcomed eight PhD students and two MD/PhD student into the Neuroscience Graduate Program.

NGP is now one of the biggest graduate programs at the University! This past year our enrollment now tops at 55 students and I expect this number to grow for the upcoming 2023 admission. I am so pleased to be associated with such a fantastic program.



We welcomed our newest Neuroscience faculty member – Dr. Nathan A. Smith, MS ('10), PhD (13) who has made an academic homecoming. He was one of the first Black graduate of Neuroscience Graduate Program and one of the founding members of the Del Monte Institute of Neuroscience Diversity Commission. Along with his new faculty appt, Dr. Smith is also the associate dean for Equity and Inclusion at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry. Dr. Smith found it vital to recruit to part of this movement and make meaningful changes to equitability and diversity in science. We are thrilled to have him back!

The Neuroscience Diversity Commission continues to make boundless strides in providing access and supporting the research pipeline for Black and Latino students. Our youngest trainees wrapped up a successful second year of the NEUROEAST program – the students from East High in Rochester gave final presentations in early June. As that program concluded, 10 undergraduate students from City College of New York entered neuroscience labs across the University for the second summer of NEURO CITY. We are immensely proud of the impact these programs are having on the inclusivity and divert of lab access.

We are absolutely delighted to have you here with us and look forward to your vigorous participation in our exciting new programs in the years ahead.

In Science.

John Foxe, PhD

Kilian J. and Caroline F. Schmitt Chair in Neuroscience



# Neuroscience Graduate Program 2022

## Incoming Class of 2022

*After two virtual interview weekends, over 150 prospective student interviews with 5 faculty members per interviewed student via Zoom, and five in person prospective student visits, we are exceptionally proud to introduce our class of 8 PhD candidates and 2 MD/PhD student! Get to know them below!*



**Abigail Alpers** - Abigail Alpers received a B.S. in Behavioral Neuroscience with honors from Western Washington University. During her time there she worked in the lab of Dr. Janet Finlay investigating a potential genetic model of cognitive symptoms of schizophrenia in mice. After undergrad, Abi worked in the Translational NeuroEngineering lab of Dr. Alik Widge at the University of Minnesota investigating closed loop neurostimulation for memory disorders and circuit dynamics of cognitive flexibility in rats. She hopes to continue working towards understanding psychiatric disorders while at Rochester.

**Dominic Bunn** - Dominic Bunn graduated from the University of Rochester in 2020 with a B.S. in Biological Sciences: Neuroscience, with minors in Psychology and Philosophy. During his undergraduate career, he worked in Dr. Feng Vankee Lin's Lab collecting data on the effects of anaerobic exercise and cognitive training on people with mild cognitive impairment. After leaving undergrad, Dominic spent two years at Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) earning his M.S. in Pathology with a special interest in neurodegeneration. During his time at CWRU, he worked in Dr. Shu Chen's Lab investigating the potential application of the Real Time Quaking Induced Conversion assay using skin punch biopsies as a diagnostic tool for Parkinson's Disease. At URMC, Dominic plans to continue to explore and expand his knowledge on the underlying biological mechanisms of neurodegeneration, with a particular interest in Alzheimer's Disease.



**Andrea Campbell** -Andrea Campbell graduated with honors from Queens College of The City University of New York with a B.A. in Neuroscience, a B.A. in Psychology, and a B.A./M.A. in Philosophy. As an undergrad, she conducted research in the lab of Dr. Timothy Short, where she studied the biochemical and physiological functions as well as the intracellular signaling of cryptochrome genes in the model organism *Ceratopteris richardii*. Additionally, Andrea has conducted research in Dr. Detlev Boisons lab under senior researcher Dr. Hoda Gebril. There she studied the fundamental function, mechanisms, and biochemistry of Adenosine Kinase (A.D.K.) as a novel therapeutic approach for treating traumatic brain injury and other neurological conditions. While Andrea has a strong interest in studying neurodegenerative diseases at URMC, she plans to further her knowledge in other areas of neuroscience.



# Neuroscience Graduate Program 2022

## *Continued Incoming Class of 2022*



**Michael Lim** - Michael Lim graduated from the University of Rochester in 2022 with a B.S. in Biological Sciences. While at the University of Rochester, he worked in the lab of Dr. Maiken Nedergaard and that of Dr. Harris Gelbard. In the Nedergaard lab, he contributed to a project studying the effects of hydrocephalus on sleep in mice. In the Gelbard lab, he was involved in multiple projects investigating Alzheimer's disease. Throughout both these experiences, he gained valuable insights into the world of science. In the Neuroscience Graduate Program, Michael would like to pivot to finding out about how complex behaviors arise from the nervous system.

**Tanique McDonald** - Tanique McDonald graduated from Emory University with a B.S. in Neuroscience and Behavioral Biology and a minor in French Studies. As an undergraduate, she participated in the Center for Visual Science Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship at the University of Rochester where she worked in Dr. Farran Briggs' lab researching attention modulation of multi-unit neuronal activity within the early visual system of macaque monkeys. Upon graduating, Tanique continued to work in the Briggs lab as a lab technician before becoming a Post-Baccalaureate Research Education Program (PREP) fellow at the University of Rochester. As a PREP fellow, Tanique continued to study vision, using functional ultrasound imaging to visualize orientation domains in the primary visual cortex of macaques. At URM, Tanique plans to continue to research the neural networks that constitute vision and their contribution to cognitive function in order to help shape the flourishing discourse guiding development of visual therapies and treatment technologies.



**Erin Murray** - Erin Murray graduated from Lafayette College with a BS in neuroscience in 2019. As an undergraduate she worked with Dr. Lisa Gabel, optimizing a virtual maze task in hopes of using it as a pre-screening tool for children at-risk for dyslexia. Additionally, her honors thesis project focused on profiling DNA methylation of a dyslexia candidate gene in three-generations of family with developmental dyslexia. She spent a summer at the Mayo Clinic in a lab investigating experimental therapeutics that target the mitochondria in transgenic mouse models of Alzheimer's Disease. Upon graduating, she began a postbaccalaureate fellowship at the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism in Dr. Veronica Alvarez's Laboratory on the Neurobiology of Compulsive Behavior. Her main project examined the role of dopamine D2 receptors expressed in specific neuronal subpopulations within the basal ganglia in response to cocaine and cocaine taking behavior. At URM, she hopes to explore the cellular and molecular mechanisms involved in the development of aberrant neural circuitry found in developmental disorders and psychiatric illnesses.

*cont'd p. 10*

# Neuroscience Graduate Program 2022

## *Continued Incoming Class of 2022*



**Mariah Marrero** - Mariah Marrero graduated from Barnard College where she received her B.A. in Neuroscience. During her time at Barnard, she conducted research on human speech perception using sinewave-speech (a form of synthesized speech) under the direction of Dr. Robert E. Remez. She also assisted Dr. Arezou Heshmati in developing educational tools to inform and help adolescents with insomnia. Her most recent work focused on developing therapies for rare neurodegenerative diseases (Niemann-Pick-C disease, Sandhoff disease, Salla disease) using primary neocortical cultures from mouse models within the Kennedy Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Center. Her research interest is to assess and better understand perceptual and cognitive differences in individuals with schizophrenia and to develop cognitive behavioral therapy for those living with the disease.

**Margaux Masten** – Margaux Masten is an MD/PhD student who is joining the NGP after her first year of medical school. She graduated from University of Rochester in 2020 with a degree in Epidemiology. During undergrad and her gap year she worked on characterizing the natural history of Batten disease. She is interested in brain development and pediatric rare genetic diseases. Clinically she is interested palliative care, neurogenetics, and intensive care. When not at school she enjoys spending time with her two dogs, Friday and Winston, reading, taking nature walks, and trying new foods.



**Daulton Myers** – Daulton Myers recently graduated from Syracuse University with a B.S. in biochemistry and a B.S. in neuroscience. While working on his undergraduate degrees, he joined the laboratories of Dr. Donna Korol and Dr. Paul Gold. Under their mentorship, he conducted research investigating the role of estrogens such as 17 $\beta$ -estradiol in the regulation of brain metabolism in young adult, ovariectomized female rats. His undergraduate research also focused on the role of estrogens in the modulation of hippocampus-sensitive and striatum-sensitive learning and memory. At URMC, Daulton hopes to further explore neurobiological mechanisms underlying learning and memory. Additionally, he would like to study neuroplasticity and the underlying mechanisms of neurodegeneration in neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's disease.

*cont'd p. 11*



# Neuroscience Graduate Program 2022

## *Continued Incoming Class of 2022*



**Jeeyun Kim** - Jee Kim graduated from the University of California, Berkeley with a B.A. in Molecular and Cell Biology (Emphasis on Neurobiology). After graduating from college, she worked in the lab of Dr. Kathleen Poston at Stanford University, where she mainly studied the cognitive and behavioral symptoms of Parkinson's disease on/off dopaminergic medications using structural and functional neuroimaging tools. Since then, Jee has been at URMC for two years as part of the MD/PhD program and is planning on continuing research to study the underlying pathophysiology associated with the clinical symptoms of various neurological illnesses, with a particular focus on neurodegenerative diseases.

## *Student Fellowships & Awards*

### **2022 GEPA Awards**

Andrea Campbell: URSMD Meliora Scholarship

Michael Lim: Merritt and Marjorie Cleveland Fellowship

Mariah Marrero: Irving L. Spar Fellowship Award & Provost's Fellowship

Tanique McDonald: J. Newell Stannard Scholarship Award & Provost's Fellowship

Emily Przysinda: Outstanding Student Mentor Award

Brian Redmond: Graduate Student Award for Excellence in Equity & Inclusion

Rianne Stowell, NGP Alum: Outstanding Postdoc Mentor Award

### **Student Fellowships**

MaKenna Cealie - Effects of Developmental Ethanol Exposure on Cerebellar Microglia and Purkinje Cells (6/1/2022-5/31/2025)

Johanna Fritzingler - Physiological and Computational-Modeling Studies of Timbre Encoding in the Inferior Colliculus (9/1/2022-8/31/2025)

Allison Murphy - Structure and function of corticogeniculate feedback (9/14/2021-9/13/2023)

Mark Stoessel - Dynamics of and Function Cerebellar Microglia (10/1/2020-9/30/2023)

Emily Przysinda - Neurophysiology of social processing and underlying perceptual deficits in schizophrenia (1/1/2022-3/31/2026)





## *New NGP Faculty*



Archan Ganguly, PhD

Dr. Ganguly's research program aims to identify molecular regulators of long-range trafficking of protein cargoes to distinct sub-domains of polarized cells, such as neurons. Polarized trafficking of newly synthesized proteins is an evolutionarily conserved phenomenon necessary for a wide range of cellular functions such as, cell division, cell migration, and tissue patterning. In neuronal cells, synaptic proteins need to be transported from the neuronal cell soma to the synapse to maintain synaptic strength and homeostasis. Our work using in vivo proteomics, genetic labeling and manipulation, along with high-resolution imaging, aims to determine the cellular machinery essential for the transport and synaptic targeting of proteins. We also aim to establish if these mechanisms are disrupted in neurodevelopmental and neurodegenerative disorders.



Jennetta Hammond, PhD

My research interests are focused on uncovering neuro-immune mechanisms driving synapse and neuron turnover as well as microglia dysregulation throughout the lifespan. Most of my current projects focus on regulation of the complement pathway in the CNS. I have identified and begun characterizing novel complement inhibitory proteins that are specifically expressed in neurons, namely the Sez6 family and SrpX2. These complement inhibitors may serve as protective factors to preserve neurons and neuronal connections during critical windows in brain development when complement is engaged to prune away excess connections. These same complement inhibitors also appear to play a protective role in aging and are likely very important in pathological conditions with heightened inflammation and complement activation like multiple sclerosis.



Sam MacKenzie, MD, PhD

Dr. Mackenzie is a physician-scientist with clinical and research interests in pediatric neuromuscular disorders. His overall research goals involve bringing novel gene-based therapies to patients with rare conditions through a variety of basic and translational approaches. He recently received NIH-NINDS funding to study RNA-targeted oligonucleotides in murine models of myotonic dystrophy, currently serves as a sub-investigator on a phase III clinical trial for microdystrophin gene therapy for boys with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, and is among the nation's leading experts in TANGO2-related disorder, a rare disease caused by biallelic variants in the TANGO2 gene.

## *New NGP Faculty*



Nathan Smith, MS, PhD

Projects in my laboratory focus on “Neuro-Glia” interactions. My research explores the understudied and novel mechanisms by which neuromodulators mediate the interactions between neurons, astrocytes, and microglia in both normal and disease states. By studying how neuromodulators mediate the unique interactions between these three cell types, we will elucidate their coordinated functions in the normal, healthy brain and how disruptions of neuronal-glia crosstalk will contribute to disease processes such as ADHD, epilepsy, and insulin resistance. To that end, we hope these studies will provide valuable insight on the role of glia in pathophysiology, which is under-recognized in developmental disorders, with the hope of revealing pathways suitable for manipulation to alter disease progression in the central nervous system. To accomplish these goals, we employ a combination of transgenic animals, electrophysiology, pharmacology, behavioral assays, and 2-Photon Ca<sup>2+</sup> imaging in acute slices and awake behaving animals.



Lars Ross, PhD

In a general sense I am interested in brain mechanisms underlying human communication. Most of my work has been in the field of multisensory integration investigating the effects of the combined exposure to visual and auditory information on speech perception. I am interested in translational aspects of these mechanisms and have applied my research approaches to gain insight into their neurotypical development and function in psychiatric developmental disorders such as ASD. I have used a broad range of methodologies including structural and functional MRI, behavioral measures as well as electrophysiology and electrical brain stimulation (tDCS).



Michael Telias, PhD

Our lab is focused on understanding the molecular and physiological mechanisms that underlie pathological remodeling of the inner retina during and after degenerative blindness. Our goal is to improve vision in retinitis pigmentosa and age-related macular degeneration patients, by blocking or reversing remodeling.



# Neuroscience Graduate Program 2022

## 2022 Neuroscience Retreat



Photo: Golgi-Cox stain of a mouse's hippocampus. Courtesy of Garrick Sabnis

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE & DENTISTRY  
UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER  
Neuroscience Graduate Program

**NEUROSCIENCE RETREAT**  
2022

Join us **in person** or **virtually** at the Memorial Art Gallery for a day full of exciting science, great food, and some human-to-human interaction!

**29 APRIL 2022**  
**8:30 AM - 6:00 PM**

Memorial Art Gallery, 500 University Ave,  
Rochester, NY 14607

**Lorenz Studer, M.D. (Keynote)**  
Director, Center for Stem Cell Biology, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

**Marissa Sobolewski, Ph.D.**  
Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental Medicine

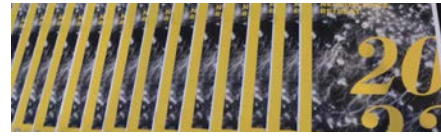
**Rianne Stowell, Ph.D.**  
Post-doctoral Fellow, Department of Neuroscience

**Udaysankar Chockanathan, M.S.**  
M.D., Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Neuroscience

**REGISTRATION**  
LIMITED SPACE: RSVP AT  
[HTTPS://REDCAP.LINK/NEUROSCIENCE2022](https://redcap.link/neuroscience2022)

Contact Amara DiFrancesco for any questions at [Amara\\_DiFrancesco@umc.rochester.edu](mailto:Amara_DiFrancesco@umc.rochester.edu)

Poster/Program Design: PhD Candidate Lia Calcines Rodriguez



After a long hiatus brought on by COVID-19, the Neuroscience Department was overjoyed to return to the Memorial Art Gallery in person and host our annual retreat for 120 students, faculty, featuring a phenomenal Keynote Speaker:

**Dr. Lorenz Studer, MD**  
Director for the Center for Stem Cell Biology  
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Krishnan Padmanabhan, PhD  
acted as the MC and Faculty  
Advisor for the NGP Retreat  
Committee



A special thank you to the 2022 NGP Retreat Committee for putting together such a successful event!

Mark Stoessel (Co-Chair)  
Silei Zhu (Co-Chair)  
Makenna Cealie  
Jingyi Yang  
Lia Calcines Rodriguez  
Amara DiFrancesco



2022 NGP Retreat Committee

- Makenna Cealie
- Linh Le
- Lia Calcines Rodriguez
- Mark Stoessel (co-Chair)
- Jingyi Yang
- Silei Zhu (co-Chair)
- Amara DiFrancesco (NGP Coordinator)

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# Neuroscience Graduate Program 2022

## 2022 Neuroscience Retreat



### **Student Speaker: Uday Chockanathan, PhD**

Uday joined the MD-PhD program at the University of Rochester and in 2017, joined the lab of Dr. Krishnan Padmanabhan, where he studied hippocampal population coding in mouse models of Alzheimer disease. Going forward, he plans to pursue residency training in neurology, with the long-term goal of using insights from neural circuits to treat and manage patients with neurologic and psychiatric illnesses.

### **Post-Doctoral Fellow Speaker: Rianne Stowell, PhD**

As a postdoctoral fellow in Dr. Kuan Wang's lab, Dr. Rianne Stowell is currently investigating both the microglial and neuronal mechanisms which permit and regulate adolescent mesocortical dopaminergic plasticity.



### **Faculty Speaker: Marissa Sobolewski, PhD**

Dr. Marissa Sobolewski is an Assistant Professor of Environmental Medicine at the University of Rochester. Her research is committed to understanding the basis of sex differences in neurotoxicology and on pregnancy as a critical window for long-term maternal health and behavior.

### **Keynote Speaker: Lorenz P. Studer, MD**

He is widely recognized for his work on the directed differentiation of human pluripotent stem cells into the diverse lineages of the central and peripheral nervous system. His group has also been among the first to realize the potential of patient-specific stem cell in modeling neurodevelopment and neurodegenerative disorders and developed some of the first strategies to measure and manipulate cellular age in pluripotent-derived lineages. Finally, he has pioneered the application of pluripotent stem cells in regenerative medicine such as the treatment of Parkinson's disease (PD).



### **2022 Peter Shrager Award Winner: William (Bill) O'Neill, Ph.D.**



### **2022 Doty Award Winner: Humberto Mestre, MD, PhD**



*cont'd p. 16*



# Neuroscience Graduate Program 2022

## 2022 Neuroscience Retreat





# Neuroscience Graduate Program 2022

## *Congratulations To Our Newest PhD Recipients*



Shraddha Shah  
Defense: July 6, 2022  
Title: Linking attentional modulation to neuronal feature-selectivity in macaque V1  
Currently: Postdoc, lab of Sameer Sheth, Baylor College of Medicine



Uday Chockanathan  
Defense: April 19, 2022  
Title: Variations in neuronal population activity across behaviors, brain regions, and disease  
Currently: Returned to Medical School at the University of Rochester



Fara Tolibzoda Zakusilo  
Defense: May 25, 2022  
Title: Protective mechanisms in Naked Mole Rat CNS: roles of extracellular matrix and astroglia  
Currently: Returned to Medical School at the University of Rochester (MSTP)



Alexandra McHale  
Defense: March 9, 2022  
Title: The ins and outs of the primate amygdala: connectivity gradients, development, and early life stress  
Currently: Postdoctoral Associate in Arianna Maffe's Laboratory, Stony Brook University.



Neal Shah  
Defense: May 9, 2022  
Title: c-Cbl Inhibition in Glioblastoma Multiforme: A Pathway Analysis  
Currently: Scientist at PTC Therapeutics, New Jersey



Emily Warner Crosier  
Defense: February 28, 2022  
Title: Linking olfaction and locomotion in mice  
Currently: Scientist at Sanofi - Genomic Medicine Unit, Waltham, Massachusetts



Karl Foley  
Defense: April 26, 2022  
Title: Protein phosphatase 1 isoforms differentially regulate synaptic transmission and plasticity  
Currently: Returned to Medical School at the University of Rochester (MSTP)



Yunpeng Pang  
Defense: February 15, 2022  
Title: Redox-Fyn-c-Cbl (RFC) pathway regulates O-2A/OPC cell cycle exit and differentiation by thyroid hormone and negative regulation of the RFC pathway during early OPC development  
Currently: Research Scientist for Curia, Buffalo, NY



Keshov Sharma  
Defense: April 21, 2022  
Title: Amygdala-Prefrontal Circuits Implicated in Expression Perception  
Currently: Returned to Medical School at the University of Rochester (MSTP)



# Neuroscience Graduate Program 2022

## *Student and Alumni Publications*

- Wakim KM**, Freedman EG, Tivarus ME, Christensen Z, Molholm S, Foxe JJ (2022 Oct. 15) Effects of Human Immunodeficiency Virus Infection and Former Cocaine Dependence on Neuroanatomical Measures and Neurocognitive Performance. *Neuroscience* 15;502:77-90.
- Foley K**, Altimimi H, Hou H, Zhang Y, **McKee C**, Papasergi-Scott MM, Yang H, Mayer A, Ward N, MacLean DM, Nairn AC, Stellwagen D, Xia H. (2022 Oct 6) Protein phosphatase-1 inhibitor-2 promotes PP1 $\gamma$  positive regulation of synaptic transmission. *Front Synaptic Neurosci* 14:1021832.
- McKee C**, Shrager P, Mazumder AG, Ganguly A, Mayer A, **Foley K**, Ward N, Youngman M, Hou H, Xia H. (2022 Oct 6) *Mol Neurobiol.* 10.1007/s12035-022-03040-w. Online ahead of print. PMID: 36198882.
- Plá V, Bork P, Harnpramukkul A, Olveda G, Ladrón-de-Guevara A, **Giannetto MJ**, Hussain R, Wang W, Kelley DH, Hablitz LM, Nedergaard M (2022 Sep 13). A real-time in vivo clearance assay for quantification of glymphatic efflux.; *Cell reports*; Vol 40(11), pp. 111320.
- Hogestyn JM**, Salois G, Xie L, Apa C, Youngyunpipatkul J, Pröschel C, Mayer-Pröschel M (2022 Aug 30). Expression of the human herpesvirus 6A latency-associated transcript U94A impairs cytoskeletal functions in human neural cells.; *Molecular and cellular neurosciences.*
- Giannetto MJ**, Hablitz LM (2022 Aug 11). Reading to the end(foot): translational readthrough of AQP4 increases amyloid- $\beta$  clearance.; *Brain : a journal of neurology.*
- Toffolo KK**, Freedman EG, Foxe JJ (2022 Aug 11). Evoking the N400 Event-Related Potential (ERP) Component Using a Publicly Available Novel Set of Sentences with Semantically Incongruent or Congruent Eggplants (Endings).; *Neuroscience.*
- Diehl MM**, Plakke BA, Albuquerque ER, Romanski LM (2022 Aug 1) Representation of Expression and Identity by Ventral Prefrontal Neurons. *Neuroscience* 496:243-260.
- Marola OJ, **Yablonski SER**, Shrager PG, Nickells RW, Libby RT (2022 Jul 22). BclXL (Bcl211) gene therapy lessens retinal ganglion cell soma loss but not axonal degeneration after acute axonal injury.; *Cell death discovery*; Vol 8(1), pp. 331.
- Mestre H**, Verma N, Greene TD, Lin LA, Ladrón-de-Guevara A, Sweeney AM, Liu G, Thomas VK, Galloway CA, de Mesy Bentley KL, Nedergaard M, Mehta RI. (2022 Jul 6) Periarteriolar spaces modulate cerebrospinal fluid transport into brain and demonstrate altered morphology in aging and Alzheimer's disease. *Nat Commun* 13:3897.
- Lowery RL**, Majewska AK (2022 July 5) Synapse-specific plasticity relies on neuroimmune interactions. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* 119:e2207817119.
- Karahmet B**, Le L, **Mendes MS**, Majewska AK, O'Banion MK (2022 Jul 04). Repopulated microglia induce expression of Cxcl13 with differential changes in Tau phosphorylation but do not impact amyloid pathology.; *Journal of neuroinflammation*; Vol 19(1).
- Kwon S, **Fahrenthold BK**, **Cavanaugh MR**, Huxlin KR, Mitchell JF (2022 Jun 22). Perceptual restoration fails to recover unconscious processing for smooth eye movements after occipital stroke.; *eLife*; Vol 11.
- Lowery RL**, Latchney SE, Peer RP, Lamantia CE, Lordy KA, Opanashuk LA, McCall M, Majewska AK (2022 Mar) Gestational and lactational exposure to 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin primes cortical microglia to tissue injury. *Brain Behav Immun* 101:288-303.

# Neuroscience Graduate Program 2022

## *Continued Student and Alumni Publications*

**Syc-Mazurek SB**, Yang HS, Marola OJ, Howell GR, Libby RT (2022, Mar 16) Transcriptional control of retinal ganglion cell death after axonal injury. *Cell Death Dis* 13:244.

**Chockanathan U**, Padmanabhan K (2022 Mar 04). From synapses to circuits and back: bridging levels of understanding in animal models of Alzheimer disease.; *The European journal of neuroscience*.

**Owlett LD, Karaahmet B, Le L**, Belcher EK, **Dionisio-Santos D**, Olschowka JA, Elliott MR, O'Banion MK (2022 Feb 07). Gas6 induces inflammation and reduces plaque burden but worsens behavior in a sex-dependent manner in the APP/PS1 model of Alzheimer's disease.; *Journal of neuroinflammation*; Vol 19(1).

**Wakim KM**, Freedman EG, Tivarus ME, Heinecke A, Foxe JJ (2022, Feb 1) Assessing combinatorial effects of HIV infection and former cocaine dependence on cognitive control processes: A functional neuroimaging study of response inhibition. *Neuropharmacology* 203:108815.

**Winkler EA**, Kim CN, Ross JM, Garcia JH, Gil E, Oh I, Chen LQ, Wu D, Catapano JS, Raygor K, Narsinh K, Kim H, Weinsheimer S, Cooke DL, Walcott BP, Lawton MT, Gupta N, Zlokovic BV, Chang EF, Abula AA, Lim DA, Nowakowski TJ (2022 Jan 27). A single-cell atlas of the normal and malformed human brain vasculature.; *Science (New York, N.Y.)*.

**Cavanaugh MR**, Tadin D, Carrasco M, Huxlin KR (2022). Benefits of Endogenous Spatial Attention During Visual Double-Training in Cortically-Blinded Fields.; *Frontiers in neuroscience*; Vol 16.

**CMcHale AC**, Cho YT, Fudge JL (2021 Dec 21). Cortical granularity shapes the organization of afferent paths to the amygdala and its striatal targets in nonhuman primate.; *The Journal of neuroscience : the official journal of the Society for Neuroscience*.

Lee C, **Sinha AK**, Henry K, Walbaum AW, Crooks PA, Holt JC (2021 Dec). Characterizing the Access of Cholinergic Antagonists to Efferent Synapses in the Inner Ear. *Front Neurosci* 15:754585.

Huan Y, Gill JP, **Fritzingier JB**, Patel PR, Richie JM, Della Valle E, Weiland JD, Chestek CA, Chiel HJ (2021 Nov 26). Carbon fiber electrodes for intracellular recording and stimulation.; *Journal of neural engineering*.

**Whitelaw BS**, Tanny S, Johnston CJ, Majewska AK, O'Banion MK, Marples B (2021 Nov 15) In Vivo Imaging of the Microglial Landscape After Whole Brain Radiation Therapy. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys* 111:1066-1071.

Elahi A, Emerson J, **Rudlong J**, Keillor JW, **Salois G**, Visca A, Girardi P, Johnson GVW, Pröschel C (2021 Oct 29). Deletion or Inhibition of Astrocytic Transglutaminase 2 Promotes Functional Recovery after Spinal Cord Injury.; *Cells*; Vol 10(11).

Barbot A, Das A, Melnick MD, **Cavanaugh MR**, Merriam EP, Heeger DJ, Huxlin KR (2021 Oct 20). Spared perilesional V1 activity underlies training-induced recovery of luminance detection sensitivity in cortically-blind patients.; *Nature communications*; Vol 12(1).

**Adusei M**, Hasse JM, Briggs F (2021 Oct 12). Morphological evidence for multiple distinct channels of corticogeniculate feedback originating in mid-level extrastriate visual areas of the ferret.; *Brain structure & function*.

**Zakusilo FT**, Gelbard HA, Seluanov A, Kerry O'Banion M, Gorbunova V (2021 Oct 08). Matters of size: Roles of hyaluronan in CNS aging and disease.; *Ageing research reviews*.

**Foley KFW**, Barnett D, Cory-Slechta DA, Xia H (2021 Aug 31). Early Low-Level Arsenic Exposure Impacts Post-Synaptic Hippocampal Function in Juvenile Mice.; *Toxics*; Vol 9(9).

**Chockanathan U**, Padmanabhan K (2021 Aug 25). Divergence in Population Coding for Space between Dorsal and Ventral CA1.; *eNeuro*.

# Neuroscience Graduate Program 2022

## *Alumni*

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Keshov	Sharma	Medical Student, Medicine, University of Rochester
Uday	Chockanathan	Medical Student, Medicine, University of Rochester
Fara	Tolibzoda Zakusilo	Medical Student, Medicine, University of Rochester
Karl	Foley	Medical Student, Medicine, University of Rochester
Alexandra	McHale	Postdoctoral Associate, Arianna Maffe's Laboratory, Stony Brook University
Emily	Warner-Crosier	Scientist at Sanofi - Genomic Medicine Unit in Waltham, Massachusetts
Neal	Shah	Scientist, PTC Therapeutics in New Jersey
Yunpeng	Pang	Research Scientist, Curia in Buffalo, NY
Shraddha	Shah	Postdoctoral fellow, Lab of Sameer Sheth, Baylor College of Medicine
Kamy	Wakim	Postdoctoral Fellow, Molholm Lab Albert Einstein College of Medicine
Holly	Beaulac	Postdoctoral Fellow, Munnamalai Lab, Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor, Maine
Humberto	Mestre	Clinical residency in adult neurology, University of Pennsylvania
Lockwood	Colin	Postdoctoral Fellow, Duffy Lab, Penn State
Kathleen	Miller-Rhodes	Scientific Communication Associate, Eli Lilly
Monique	Mendes	Postdoctoral Fellow in Dr. Mark Schnitzer's lab, Stanford University, California
Joshua	Hinkle	Postdoctoral Fellow, NIH NIDA, Baltimore
Patrick	Miller-Rhodes	Science Marketing Writer, Biofluent Communications
Alejandra	Rodriguez	Medical Student, Medicine, University of Rochester
Samantha	Swanson (Abbott)	High School Science Teacher, Rochester Prep High School
John	Wilson	Clinical Residency, ENT, URMC
Jessica	Hogestyn	Scientist, Sanofi, Massachusetts
Aimee	Morris	Clinical Residency, Neurology, Washington University School of Medicine
Rianne	Stowell	Postdoctoral Fellow, Wang Lab, Neuroscience, University of Rochester
Dawling	Dionisio-Santos	Clinical Residency, Neurology, URMC
Aleta	Steevens	Masonic Cancer Center, University of Minnesota
Rebecca	Rausch	Director of Translational Research, EyeCRO, Ann Arbor, Michigan
Heather	Natola	Educator and Volunteer Coordinator, The Raptor Trust, New Jersey
John	O'Donnell	Postdoc at Washington University Saint Louis, Neurology Department looking at imaging of Parkinson



# Neuroscience Graduate Program 2022

## *Alumni*

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Matt	Cavanaugh	Postdoc with Dr. Krystel Huxlin, Ophthalmology M&D, University of Rochester
Laura	Yunes-Medina	Senior Publications Manager, AbbVie, San Francisco
Xiaowei	Wang	Postdoctoral Associate, University of California San Francisco
Evan	McConnell	Clinical Residency, Diagnostic Radiology, URM
Nguyen	Mai	Medical Student, Medicine, University of Rochester
Stephanie	Syc-Mazurek	Internist, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN
Berkeley	Farenthold	Postdoctoral Fellow, Ophthalmology, University of Rochester
Kelli	Fagan	Data Scientist, BCBS
Julianne	Feola	Director, Clinical Operations, GT Biopharma, Inc., Minneapolis-St.Paul
Shiona	Biswas	Postdoctoral Associate, Ophthalmology M&D, University of Rochester
Jennifer	Stripay	Leader of Scientific Communications, St. Jude's Children Hospital
Ryan	Dawes	Associate Director Business Development, Intellia Therapeutics, Inc., Boston, Massachusetts
Rebecca	Lowery	Research Assistant Professor, Majewska Lab, Neuroscience, University of Rochester
Brianna	Sleezer	Medical Writer/Data Analyst
Christina	Cloninger	Humans Factor Engineer, Veranex, Minneapolis, MN
Grayson	Sipe	Research Scientist, Brain & Cognitive Science, MIT
Fatima	Rivera-Escalera	Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Microbiology, Immunology, and Cancer Biology, University of Virginia
Adam	Pallus	Senior Data Scientist, Indeed.com
Wei	Sun	Postdoctoral Fellow, NIMH
Adrienne	Chesser	Resident Physician, United Hospital and Family Medicine Clinic, St. Paul MN
Susanne	Pritchard Pallo	Senior Communications Associate, Director of Communications for the University of Rochester CTSI
Revathi	Balasubramanian	Ophthalmology Associate Research Scientist at Columbia University Medical Center
Helen	Wei	Department of Surgery, General Surgery Residency Program, Rutgers New Jersey Medical School
Imran	Punekar	Pain Management Fellow, NYU Langone Health
Irina	Statnikova	Resident, Psychiatry, University of Rochester

# Neuroscience Graduate Program 2022

## *Alumni*

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Michele	Saul	Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Rochester; Visiting Assistant Professor, St. John Fisher
Simantini	Ghosh	Assistant Professor of Psychology, Ashoka University, India
Kimberly	Fernandes	Director, Medical Writing at CALYX, Rochester, NY
Danielle	DeCampo	Fellowship, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Anasuya	Das	Director of AI, NLP, Covera Health
Nathan	Smith	Associate Professor in Neuroscience, Associate Dean of Equity and Inclusion for Research and Research Education, URM
Daniel	Marker	Assistant Professor of Pathology, University of Pittsburgh
Veena	Ganeshan	Senior lab Engineer, BME, Rochester, NY
Danny	Rogers	Assistant Professor, Child Neurology, University of New Mexico
Philip	Rappold	Assistant Professor, Urology, University of Rochester
Sarah	Allen (McConnell)	Assistant Professor, Neuroscience, University of Rochester
Maria	Diehl	Assistant Professor in Psychological Sciences at Kansas State University
Michael	Wu	Anesthesiologist, Alameda Health System, San Francisco Bay Area
Katherine	Selzler	Associate Director, Medical Affairs Lundbeck, Indianapolis, Indiana
Ethan	Winkler	Research Associate WOS, Neurological Surgery, UCSF Weill Institute for Neurosciences
Youngsun	Cho	Assistant Professor, Psychiatry, Yale School of Medicine
Sally	Duarte	Postdoctoral Research Associate, Florida International University
Crystal	McClain	Scientist and Artist, Alpine, CA
Zhuoxun	Chen	Student, University of Maryland School of Dentistry
Cory	Hussar	Executive Medical Director, Open Health Communications, NYC, NY
Kathleen	McAvoy	Senior Research Scientist, Arvinas, New Haven, Connecticut
Michael	Jacob	Physician Scientist, Psychiatry, UCSF
Susan	Fong (Lee)	Assistant Professor, Pediatrics and Neurology, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center
Steve	Raiker	Research Scientist II, Alexion Pharmaceuticals, Inc., New Haven, Connecticut
Arnulfo	Torres-Pena	Medical Writer at Freelancer, /Medical Communications
Michael	Moravan	Radiation Oncologist, SSM Health, St. Louis, MO
Sarah	Bliss-Matousek	Managing Principal, Day Health Strategies, Spokane, WA



# Neuroscience Graduate Program 2022

## *Alumni*

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
William	Mowrey	Bioinformatics Scientist, Alexion Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Boston, MA
Marina	Dobрева (Stoilova)	Bulgaria
Deborah	Ryan	Adjunct Professor, University of New England, Portland, Maine
Michael	Pesavento	Director of Flow, Take 3 Presents, San Francisco, CA
I-Chen	Yu	Assistant Research Professor at Indiana University School of Medicine
Lynette	Desouza	Post-doctoral Fellow, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research; in 2013 was a stay at home mom
Yuriy	Edwards (Shapovalov)	Medical Director, U.S. Medical Affairs, Neurology, Rare Disease Alexion Pharmaceuticals, Boston, MA
Bernard	Gee	Associate Professor, Dept. of Psychology, Western Connecticut State University
Qi	Cui	Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology Penn Medicine, University of Pennsylvania Health System, PA
Sarita	Kishore	Ophthalmologist, Boise Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Idaho
Carolyn	Tyler	Director, McQuade Center for Strategic Research and Development, Otsuka America Pharmaceutical, Inc.
Aaron	Cecala	Associate Professor of Physiology, Elizabethtown College
Ditte	Lovatt	Associate Principal Scientist, Merck
Kyung Hwa	Lee	Post-doctoral Fellow, City College of New York, Itzhak Mano lab
Laurie	Robak	Assistant Professor, Molecular and Human Genetics, Baylor College of Medicine, One Baylor Plaza
Onanong (Annie)	Chivatakarn	Principal Scientist, Tessera Therapeutics, Cambridge, MA
Yanan	Guo	Director of Pharmacology, R&D at Biocytogen, Beijing, China
Verginia	Cuzon (Carlson)	Associate Professor, Oregon Health & Science University Beaverton, OR
Grace	Vangeison (Johnston)	Chief Commercial Officer & Co-Founder, Fortis Life Sciences, Boston, Massachusetts
Irah	King	Associate Professor, McGill University, Department of Microbiology and Immunology
Glenn	Schneider	Otolaryngology Specialist, URMC
Nancy Ann	Oberheim Bush	Neurooncologist, Assistant Professor, UCSF
Allison	Stickles	Internalist Hospitalist, University of Cincinnati and Cincinnati Children's Hospital, University of Cincinnati Academic Health Center

# Neuroscience Graduate Program 2022

## *Alumni*

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Meghan	Riley	Assistant Director Compliance & Regulatory Affairs, IRB, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Yasser	Elshatory	Owner, Ophthalmology Elshatory Retina Associates, PLLC Plano, Texas
Erin	Johnson (Venkatesh)	Research Technologist, Boston Children's Hospital, MA
Xiaoyan	Lin	Associate Director WuXi AppTec , Shanghai City, China
Pushkar	Joshi	Chief Strategy & Science Officer at One Mind, San Francisco, CA
Ling	Pan	Research Scientist, Picower Institute for Learning & Memory
Karthik	Venkatesh	Director, R&D Governance, MA
Matthew	Bellizzi	Assistant Professor, Departments of Neurology & Neuroscience, URMC
Beth-Ann	Shanker	Colon & Rectal Surgery, Trinity Health, Ann Arbor, MI
Solomon	Shaftel	Ophthalmology: Oculoplastic Surgeon, Kaiser Permanente, CA
Xiaohai	Wang	Senior Research Biologist, Dept of Neuropharmacology, Merck Research Laboratories, Philadelphia, PA
Jason	Hamilton	Executive Director, Technical Operations at Legend Biotech Co., NY
Daniel	Zaksas	Chief Medical Officer at Fishawack Health, PA
Ziye	Sui	VP at Lepu Medical Technology (Beijing) Co., Ltd.
Charles	Wuertzer	Faculty, Monroe Community College, Rochester, NY
Roberto	Fernandez-Romero	Medical Director, The Pat Summitt Clinic at The University of Tennessee Medical Center, TN
Jill	Weimer	Chief Science Officer at Amicus Therapeutics & Senior Director of Therapeutic Development at Sanford Research, SD
Kuei-Cheng	Lim	Neurologist, St. Luke's University Health Network, PA
Chiayu	Chiu	CINV-Max Planck Tandem Research Group Leader at Centro Interdisciplinario de Neurociencia de Valparaiso
Min	Zhu	New England Neurological Associates, PC. Massachusetts
Zhiyong	Yang	Assistant Professor, Ruiz Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Science at McGovern Medical School
(Kitty) Chia-Wen	Wu	VP, Head of BD & Strategy, Pipeline & Portfolio Planning at Genentech, San Francisco, CA
Zhenhua	Wu	Founder, President and CEO at Exegensis Bio Inc.
Renee	Miller	Professor, Brain and Cognitive Sciences, University of Rochester, NY



# Neuroscience Graduate Program 2022

## *Alumni*

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Rebecca	Sappington	Associate Professor & Vice Chair for Research, Department of Neurobiology and Anatomy, Wake Forest School of Medicine, NC
Michael	Froehler	Associate Professor, Neurology, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Tennessee
Michael	Hanna	Assistant Professor of Practice at University of Texas at San Antonio, TX
Luisa	Scott	Research Associate, Department of Neuroscience, Waggoner Center for Alcohol & Addiction Research, The University of Texas at Austin
Patricia	Sheridan	Associate Director, Biological Development at Metabolon, Inc.
Seth	Perry	Associate Professor of Dean's Office- College of Medicine & of Neurobiology & Physiology at Upstate Medical University, NY
Adnan	Siddiqui	Professor and Vice Chairman, Department of Neurosurgery (UBNS) at the State University of New York at Buffalo's Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences
Brandon	Harvey	Chief, Molecular Mechanisms of Cellular Stress and Inflammation Section & Director, Transgenic Rat Project & Deputy Associate Director of Technology at National Institute on Drug Abuse
Andrew	Custer	Director, Legal at Merck
David	Logan	Principal Computational Scientist at Pfizer, MA
Marc	Dubin	Associate Professor, Clinical Psychiatry & Research in Neuroscience at Weill Cornell Medicine
Mary	Maida	THE MEDINGEN GROUP, LLC; Clerisy Corp.; Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Neuroscience, University of Rochester
Deon	Harvey (Sanchez)	Librarian; Director and Manager at Harvey Family, Baltimore County Public Library, MA
Mona	Thiruchelvam	Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental and Occupational Medicine, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School
Elizabeth	Perry (Kriszenski)	Senior Lecturer, Biomedical Sciences Program, RIT, NY
Tina	Huang	Holistic Brain Health Practitioner, Holistic Brain Health, WA
Jay	Nierenberg	Research Scientist, The Nathan S. Kline Institute for Psychiatric Research, New York State Office for Mental Health
Randall	Hayes	Author & Cartoonist, Substack, NC & Lecturer at University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Nikolaus	McFarland	Assistant Professor of Neurology; Chief of Movement Disorder Division; Director of UF HDSA Center of Excellence, University of Florida Health
Bonnie	Ward	

# Neuroscience Graduate Program 2022

## *Alumni*

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Michael	Kaplan	
Anna	Yermakova Allen	
William	Page	Research Assistant Professor, Department of Neurology, Memory Care, University of Rochester Medical Center
Russell	Ferland Jr.	Professor & Vice Chair, Neuroscience and Experimental Therapeutics, Albany Medical College, NY
Tim	Mhyre	Learning Manager, Office of Sponsored Programs, University of Washington
Jess	DiGiorgianni	Counselor, LCMHC, Jess DiGiorgianni Psychotherapy and Counseling Services, LLC, VT
Sheila	Kelley	Sheila Phelps Kelley MD, PhD, Family Doctor, Webster, NY
Scott	Ng-Evans	Research Engineer, University of Washington
Stephanos	Kyrkanides	Adjunct Professor, Department of Neuroscience, University of Rochester, NY
Tracy	Callahan	STEM Education Consultant, Freelance, MA
Michael	Gordon	Lecturer, Communication Sciences, College of Nursing and Health Sciences, The University of Vermont
Caroline	Wolfe (Little)	Psychiatrist, California Department of State Hospitals
Deborah	New	Owner and Orthodontist at New Smiles Orthodontics; Clinical Assistant Professor EIOH at the University of Rochester, NY
Jay	McLaughlin	Professor, Pharmacodynamics, University of Florida College of Pharmacy
James	Greene	Associate Professor, Department of Neurology, Emory University School of Medicine
Alice	Roberts	Dermatopathology Laboratory Director/ Assistant Professor at EVMS Dermatology Department; Dermatopathologist, Richfield Dermpath Diagnostics
Derek	Choi-Lundberg	Senior Lecturer in Human Anatomy, University of Tasmania, Australia
Mark	Basham	Associate Professor, Regis University, Department of Psychology
Xiaofeng	Qi	Software Engineer, Indiana University
Gary	Samoriski	Head, Due Diligence, Sanofi, MA
Wu	Zhou	Professor, Department of Otolaryngology and Communicative Sciences, University Of Mississippi Medical Center School Of Medicine
Kumi	Nagamoto-Combs	Assistant Professor Biomedical Sciences, University of North Dakota
Jay	Gibson	Assistant Prof., Southwestern Medical Center, Dept. Of Neuroscience, Dallas, TX



# Neuroscience Graduate Program 2022

## *Alumni*

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
San	Ouyang	
Stephen	Breneman	Associate Professor, Department of Anesthesiology & Perioperative Medicine, University of Rochester
James	Way-Young Chen	Associate Professor, Neurology, UCLA
Kevin	Kinney	Professor, Biology, Depauw University, IN
Michael	Burek	
Daniel	Selski	Assist. Prof., Central Washington University, Dept. Of Biological Sciences, Science Building, Ellensburg, WA
Diane	Lawrence	Program Official in the Division of AIDS, NIAID, National Institutes of Health, Washington, DC
Joseph	Colombo	Medical Director and Executive Vice-President at Ansar, Inc., PA
Tsung-i	Peng	Assistant Professor, Department of of Neurology, Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Taiwan
Willard	Wilson	Scientific Review Officer, Division of Translational and Clinical Sciences, NIH
Margaret	Veruki	Professor, Department of Biomedicine, University of Bergen, Norway
Sandra	Aamodt	Grant Editor & Speaker, SandraAamodt.com; Book Author
Eileen	Lynd-Balta	Associate Provost and Professor, St. John Fisher University, NY
Thomas	Wengenack	Neurology, May Clinic
Laura	Sim-Selley	Professor, Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, Virginia Commonwealth University
Susan	Sullivan	Retired. Former Senior VP of Clinical Operations at Upstate NY Transplant Services, Buffalo, NY
Christine	Checkosky	Empire Visionworks Cicero Marketplace, NY
Stephen	Gucker	Director- Business Development for North America, TT Consultants, DC
Dana	Selley	Professor, Pharmacology and Toxicology, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA
Tracy	Romano	Executive Vice President, Research and Zoological Operations, Mystic Aquarium
Claire	Gavin	Retired. Former Water Testing Director at Clean Up Sound and Harbors, Connecticut
Farida	Sohrabji	Regents Professor & Department Head, Department of Neuroscience and Experimental Therapeutics and Director, Women's Health in Neuroscience Program at Texas A&M University

# Neuroscience Graduate Program 2022

## *Alumni*

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Danru	Zhang	
David	Berlove	Chief Consultant, Berlove Pharmacology Consulting, Boston, MA
Lucinda	Hemmick	Teaching Science, Longwood High School in Middle Island, NY
Kurt	Ackerman	Associate Professor of Psychiatry, University of Pittsburgh
Mark	Fitzsimmons	Consultant & Chief Bottle Washer, OR
Rajesh	Miranda	Professor, Department of Neuroscience and Experimental Therapeutics, Interdisciplinary Program in Neuroscience, ATM Health, TX
Guoying	Bing	Professor, Neuroscience, University of Kentucky College of Medicine
John	Kruse	Neuroscientist, Psychiatrist, Author, CA
Sonia	Carlson	Former faculty at University of Kentucky
Harold	Lesser	Neurology, Rochester General Hospital, NY
Rick (Frederick)	Monsma	Senior Vice President, Scientific Operations, The New York Stem Cell Fdn.
James	Herman	Associate Director for UC Gardner Neuroscience Institute, Department Chair, & Flor van Maanen Endowed Chair, Department of Pharmacology & Systems Physiology, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine
Lazaros	Triarhou	Professor, Aristotelian University Faculty of Philosophy, Greece
Webster	Pilcher	The Ernest & Thelma Del Monte Distinguished Professor of Neuromedicine and Chairman of Neurosurgery at the University of Rochester Medical Center in Rochester, NY
James	Reese	Retired, Former FDA Health Science Administrator
Ronaldo	Riso	
David	Amaral	UC Davis Distinguished Professor, Beneto Foundation Chair and Research Director of The M.I.N.D. Institute, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Center for Neuroscience, and the California National Primate Research Center; Director, NIH Autism Center of Excellence; Director, Autism BrainNet; Editor-in-Chief of Autism Research
Robert	Stoughton	Former: Research Administrator, Montgomery County Human Services & Planning Development Department, University of Dayton
Michael	Levine	Exec Vc And Provost, Chancellor's Office, Chancellor's Office, Professor-in-Residence, Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences, UCLA, CA
Justin	Brucker	Board Certified radiologist, University Health, WI
Fred	Kim	





Program Information



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