

# 2025 Rutgers Brain Health Institute (BHI) Postdoc Recruitment Event

**APRIL 21 - 23**

**Advance your career with exceptional  
postdoc training in neuroscience at Rutgers**



**Post-doc training opportunities in  
basic, translational, and clinical  
neuroscience research.**



**Candidates selected to attend the  
all-expenses-paid event at Rutgers.**



**Applications from talented and  
motivated PhD or MD/PhD students  
and current postdocs.**



**Highly competitive salary and  
benefits plus excellent mentoring  
and career development support.**

## Agenda

**Mon, April 21** (Rutgers University Inn)

4 PM	Arrive at Rutgers Inn, New Brunswick	Room check-in starts at 4 PM
6 - 8 PM	Dinner social at Rutgers Inn Conference Room B & the B/C Landing	Meet organizing committee and other candidates

**Tues, April 22** (Shuttle from Inn at ~7.45 AM to Busch Student Center in Piscataway)

8.00 - 8.30 AM	Continental Breakfast
8.45 - 8.55 AM	<b>Welcome and Introduction:</b> <b>Dr. Gary Aston-Jones, Director of BHI</b>
9.00 - 9.10 AM	<b>Rutgers Health Postdoc Affairs Resources:</b> <b>Dr. Janet Alder, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Rutgers Health</b>
9.15 - 9.25 AM	<b>Annie Ly</b> , University of Colorado-Boulder <i>Bed nucleus of the stria terminalis (BNST) neurons in feeding behavior</i>
9.30 - 9.40 AM	<b>Chary Batista</b> , University of Washington-Seattle <i>Strategies for Sensorimotor Recovery in Chronic Spinal Cord Injury</i>

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9.45 - 9.55 AM	<b>Dajung Jung</b> , Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx <i>Dentate granule and mossy cells exhibit distinct spatiotemporal responses to local change</i>
10.00 - 10.15 AM	Coffee/Tea break
10.15 - 10.25 AM	<b>Elizabeth Wright</b> , University of Arizona, Tucson <i>Unraveling the role of endosomal protein TMEM184B in neural development</i>
10.30 - 10.40 AM	<b>Gagana Karkada</b> , Drexel University <i>Finding the Sweet Spot: Optimizing Non-Thermal Plasma Dosage for Safe and Effective Medical Applications</i>
10.45 - 10.55 AM	<b>Jay English</b> , University of Massachusetts- Amherst <i>The Impact of Excitatory/Inhibitory Signaling Imbalance in Neurodevelopmental Disorders</i>
11.00 - 11.10 AM	<b>Lauren Carrica</b> , University of Illinois- Urbana Champaign <i>The effects of methamphetamine exposure in adolescence on later drug-taking behaviors</i>
11.15 - 11.25 AM	<b>Mofida Abdelmageed</b> , Penn State- College of Medicine <i>Mapping Cell-Type Specific Alterations of DNA Polymerase Kappa in Brain Aging and Neurodegeneration</i>
11.30 - 11.40 AM	<b>Molly Pruitt</b> , University of Maryland, Baltimore <i>The Effects of Delta-9 Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and Alcohol in the Primary Visual Cortex of Ferrets.</i>
12.00 - 1.00 PM	Lunch
1.00 - 1.15 PM	<b>Jaclyn Eisdorfer, PhD</b> <b>Chair of BHI Post-doc Alliance Working Group (PAWG)</b>
1.20 - 1.40 PM	<b>Morteza Abyadeh</b> , University of Virginia <i>Fingolimod: An FDA-Approved Drug Repurposed for Niemann-Pick Disease Type C and Aging</i>

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1.45 - 1.55 PM	<b>Nadav Amir</b> , Princeton University <i>States as goal directed concepts: an information theoretic approach to state representation learning</i>
2.00 - 2.10 PM	<b>Olivia Cox</b> , Vanderbilt University <i>Impact of the environment on neuroplasticity: Studies in stress signaling and circadian rhythms</i>
2.15 - 2.25 PM	<b>Samuel Vielee</b> , University of Louisville <i>From Whales to Worms: Environmental Neurotoxicology on the High Seas and at the Bench</i>
2.30 - 2.40 PM	<b>Shirelle Liu</b> , University of Minnesota <i>Resilience and Relapse: Gene Expression and Its Regulation in Rat Models of Three Stages of Opioid Use Disorder</i>
2.45 - 2.55 PM	<b>Sung-Mu Lee</b> , Purdue University <i>fMRI Studies on Visual Repetition and Attention</i>
3.00 - 3.10 PM	<b>Usman Ali</b> , Boston University <i>Emerging Paradigms in Alzheimer's Disease Research</i>
3.15 - 3.25 PM	<b>Victoria Vernail</b> , Penn State- College of Medicine <i>Angiotensin-(1-7) engages hypothalamic inhibitory pathways to lower blood pressure</i>
3.30 - 3.40 PM	<b>Wendy Aquino Nunez</b> , University of Kansas <i>Microtubule Dynamics in a C. elegans model of Tauopathies</i>
3.45 - 3.55 PM	<b>Yaohui Ding</b> , Duke University <i>Dimensionality of Fifteen Emotional States Decoded from Task fMRI Data</i>
4.00 - 5.00 PM	Refreshment and Networking
5.00 - 6.00 PM	Shuttle to the Rutgers Inn and then to dinner