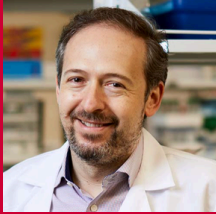


RUTGERS BRAIN HEALTH INSTITUTE PLENARY SEMINAR SERIES - FALL 2026

September 17



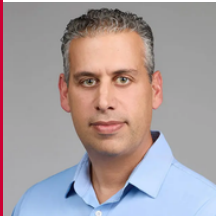
Jonathan Kipnis, PhD

BJC Investigator, Alan A. and Edith L. Wolff Distinguished Professor of Pathology and Immunology, Washington University in St. Louis

Dr. Kipnis focuses on the complex interactions between the immune system and the central nervous system to elucidate the cellular and molecular mechanisms underlying these interactions in neurodegenerative, neurodevelopmental, and mental disorders as well as in physiology (including healthy aging). [Learn more](#)

Hosted by Mi-Hyeon Jang, PhD & Max Tischfield, PhD (Neurosurgery/RWJMS)

October 1



Scott J Russo, PhD

Professor of Neuroscience, Director of the Center for Affective Neuroscience and the Brain Body Research Center, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Dr. Russo's lab studies the neural and immunological mechanisms of neuropsychiatric disorders such as depression and anxiety to understand how the brain and body adapts to stress to control pathological behaviors in depression and anxiety. [Learn more](#)

Hosted by Yong Kim, PhD (Neurosurgery/RWJMS)

November 19



Alain Dagher, MD, PhD

Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, McGill University

Dr. Dagher specializes in movement disorders and functional brain imaging. His research aims at understanding the function of the basal ganglia, with a particular emphasis on appetitive behaviours. This involves studying how we learn about rewards and punishments, and become motivated to engage in reward-seeking behaviour. [Learn more](#)

Hosted by Travis Baker, PhD (CMBN, Rutgers-Newark)

December 10



Lin Tian, PhD

Scientific Director, Max Planck Florida Institute

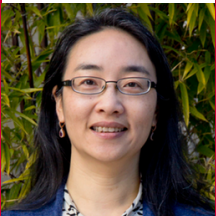
Dr. Tian's lab focuses on technological innovation and interdisciplinary collaboration to uncover the connection between brain function and behavior in healthy and diseased states, such as neurological and psychiatric disorders. [Learn more](#)

Hosted by Miriam Bocarsly, PhD (Pharmacology, Physiology and Neuroscience/NJMS)



RUTGERS BRAIN HEALTH INSTITUTE PLENARY SEMINAR SERIES - SPRING 2027

February 4



Guo-Li Ming, MD, PhD

Perelman Professor of Neuroscience, Associate Director of the Institute of Regenerative Medicine, University of Pennsylvania

Research in Dr. Ming's laboratory centers on understanding molecular mechanisms underlying neurodevelopment and how its dysregulation may contribute to developmental neurological disorders. The lab uses a combination of experimental approaches to study neural development. [Learn more](#)

Hosted by Mi-Hyeon Jang, PhD (Neurosurgery/RWJMS)

March 5



David Ginty, PhD

Edward R. and Anne G. Lefler Professor of Neurobiology and Department Chair, Department of Neurobiology, Harvard Medical School

Investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute

Using a range of advanced tools, the Ginty Lab maps how signals from the skin travel through the nervous system to encode touch perception. These circuits allow us to differentiate among textures, temperatures, and pressure levels. [Learn more](#)

Hosted by Mi-Hyeon Jang, PhD & Victoria Abraira, PhD (Neurosurgery/RWJMS)

April 22



Malu G. Tansey, PhD

James A. Caplin, M.D. Professor of Alzheimer's Research, Professor of Neurology, Adjunct Professor of Microbiology & Immunology, Indiana University School of Medicine

Dr. Tansey's lab focuses on the role of inflammation and immune system responses in brain health and neurodegenerative disease, with particular focus on central-peripheral neuroimmune crosstalk and the gut-brain axis. The long-term goal of the lab is to develop better therapies to prevent and/or delay these diseases. [Learn more](#)

Hosted by Pingyue Pan, PhD (NCB/RWJMS)

May 6



Ryohei Yasuda, PhD

Scientific Director, Max Planck Florida Institute

Dr. Yasuda's research focuses on synaptic plasticity, the ability of synapses to change their connection strength. This process is thought to underlie learning and memory. Cascades of biochemical reactions in dendritic spines, tiny (~0.1 femtoliter) postsynaptic compartments emanating from dendritic surfaces, trigger diverse forms of synaptic plasticity. [Learn more](#)

Hosted by Huaye Zhang, PhD (Neuroscience and Cell Biology/ RWJMS)