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48TH ANNUAL MEETING

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Program details are preliminary and subject to change.

PRESIDENTIAL SPECIAL LECTURES

The dArc Matter of Synaptic Communication
Vivian Budnik, PhD / University of Massachusetts Medical School / Saturday, Nov. 3, 5:15–6:30 p.m.

Recent advances in cell biology have uncovered new mechanisms by which synaptic partners in the nervous system communicate. These include the release and uptake of extracellular vesicles, such as exosomes and microvesicles, which carry proteins and RNAs. They also involve the use of mechanisms resembling those used by viruses during infection. The discovery of these mechanisms is offering new perspectives for our understanding of synapse development and plasticity. CME

Neurobiology of Social Behavior Circuits
Catherine Dulac, PhD / Harvard University, Howard Hughes Medical Institute / Sunday, Nov. 4, 5:15–6:30 p.m.

Social interactions are essential for animals to reproduce, defend their territory, and raise their young. This lecture will describe new data aimed at deciphering the identity and functioning principles of neural circuits underlying various social behaviors, with an emphasis on a particularly important form of social interaction: parental care. This lecture will discuss how these findings open new avenues to deconstruct the neural bases of maternal and paternal behaviors and may help to further understanding of variations in the neural control of parenting in different animal species. CME

From Nanoscale Dynamic Organization to Plasticity of Excitatory Synapses and Learning
Daniel Choquet, PhD / CNRS, University of Bordeaux / Monday, Nov. 5, 5:15–6:30 p.m.

Regulation of receptor trafficking has emerged as a key mechanism for activity-dependent plasticity of synaptic transmission, a process important for learning and memory. The advent of super-resolution microscopy and single-molecule tracking has helped to uncover the intimacy of synapse dynamic organization at the nanoscale. Using new tools for further understanding the link between receptor dynamics and synapse plasticity is unveiling some of the molecular mechanisms of learning in the healthy and diseased brain. CME

From Salvia Divinorum to LSD: Toward a Molecular Understanding of Psychoactive Drug Actions
Bryan L. Roth, MD, PhD / University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill / Tuesday, Nov. 6, 5:15–6:30 p.m.

How do psychoactive drugs as diverse as the potent hallucinogen LSD and the atypical antipsychotic drug clozapine exert their actions at the molecular level? This lecture will first show how research has illuminated the molecular targets responsible for the actions of psychoactive drugs. It will then illustrate how structural insight into psychoactive drug actions can be leveraged to create potentially safer and more effective medications for many neuropsychiatric disorders. CME