

Enhancing Neuroscientific Discovery Through Diverse Communities

Thursday, March 25, 2021

SOCIETY *for*
NEUROSCIENCE



CELEBRATING
50 YEARS
1969–2019

Welcome

Welcome to the “Enhancing Neuroscientific Discovery Through Diverse Communities 2021” virtual event, developed by the Neuroscience Scholars Program (NSP). As a part of a multifaceted approach to increase connectivity during these difficult times, SfN is hosting this virtual conference for NSP Scholars, NSP Alumni, and members of other NSP partner programs including BRAINS, D-SPAN, MINDS, and SPINES.

Dr. Lisa Savage discusses systemic injustices in academia and how individuals at various levels can make a difference during the opening session of the event. Dr. Savage is an NSP Alumna, Chair & Professor of the Psychology & Behavioral Neuroscience Department at Binghamton University, and Co-Director of the Bridges to the Baccalaureate Program. Following the keynote, attendees will come together in various breakout rooms to discuss community building, ability and access, balancing career and personal life, advocacy, social responsibility, racial injustice.

The NSP exemplifies SfN’s mission to provide educational resources, networking opportunities, and career development tools for neuroscientists from diverse backgrounds. More than 1,000 NSP Alumni have completed their training and are making significant contributions to the field.

Connecting early-, mid-, and late-career scientists is key to expanding the reach and impact of SfN’s programming throughout the year. We hope you enjoy this meeting and use this opportunity to engage with colleagues, share experiences, and develop new relationships.

Gina Poe and Julio J. Ramirez

Co-Directors, Neuroscience Scholars Program

Speakers and Facilitators

Lisa Savage, PhD

Gina Poe, PhD

Julio Ramirez, PhD

Karina Alviña, PhD

Sherilynn Black, PhD

Joyanna Gamble-George, PhD

Claire Horner-Devine, PhD

Michelle Jones-London, PhD

Carmen Maldonado-Vlaar, PhD

Marguerite Matthews, PhD

Sheri Mizumori, PhD

Laura O’Dell, PhD

Dominique Pritchett, PhD

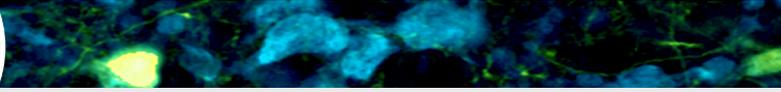
Kaliris Salas-Ramirez, PhD

Lauren Ullrich, PhD

Joyce Yen, PhD

Agenda / Thursday, March 25

2–2:10 p.m.	Welcome and Introductions Speakers: Gina Poe, Phd and Julio Ramirez, Phd
2:10–2:30 p.m.	Keynote Address: Addressing Systemic Injustice Speaker: Lisa Savage, Phd
2:30–2:40 p.m.	Keynote Q&A
2:40–2:50 p.m.	Breakout room process explanation and transition to breakout sessions Speakers: SfN staff
2:50–3:50 p.m.	Breakout Sessions: Concurrent
	Session 1: Creating Community Facilitators: Joyanna Gamble-George, Phd, Claire Horner-Devine, Phd, & Michelle Jones-London, Phd
	Session 2: Ability & Access Facilitators: Carmen Maldonado-Vlaar, Phd & Lauren Ullrich, Phd
	Session 3: Balancing Career & Personal Life Facilitators: Karina Alvina, Phd & Dominique Pritchett, Phd
	Session 4: Advocacy & Action Facilitators: Kaliris Salas-Ramirez, Phd & Joyce Yen, Phd
	Session 5: Social Responsibility Facilitators: Laura O'Dell, Phd & Sheri Mizumori, Phd
	Session 6: Racial Injustice Facilitators: Sherilynn Black, Phd & Marguerite Matthews, Phd
3:50–3:55 p.m.	Break
3:55–4:00 p.m.	Transition to Closing Session
4–4:15 p.m.	Lessons Learned/Wrap Up Speakers: Gina Poe, Phd and Julio Ramirez, Phd
4:00–5:00 p.m.	40th Anniversary Celebration Social Networking Hour (Optional)



Carmen S. Maldonado-Vlaar, PhD

Carmen S. Maldonado-Vlaar, PhD, is a professor in the department of Biology at the University of Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras Campus (UPR-RP) whose research combines molecular, behavioral, and neuroanatomical approaches to study cocaine addiction, anxiety and depression. After earning her B.S. degree in Biology and Psychology from the University of Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras Campus, she received her PhD in 1995 at Northeastern University under the mentorship of the late Dr. Ann E. Kelley. She did post-doctoral training in the laboratory of Dr. George F. Koob at the Scripps Research Institute. In 1999, she was appointed as an assistant professor in the Department of Biology and since then she has been successful researcher, professor and mentor. She investigates the neurochemical and molecular substrates of cocaine dependence and other neuropsychiatric disorders and hopes to discover potential cellular

targets for treatments. In addition to her research, Maldonado-Vlaar has devoted countless hours to mentoring diverse female neuroscientists at all levels, from undergraduate students to faculty members. She has mentored more than 100 undergraduate students in her laboratory, all of whom were Latinx and more than 70 percent women. Two-thirds of the graduate students trained in her lab have been Latinas and her mentorship has had a huge impact on Puerto Rican women pursuing neuroscience research. She is a popular and sought-after mentor thanks to her combination of demanding scientific rigor while understanding and relating to the challenges faced by female, minority students. In October 2020, she received the Bernice Grafstein Award for Outstanding Accomplishments in Mentoring from the Society for Neuroscience.



Claire Horner-Devine, PhD

Claire Horner-Devine, PhD, helps clients create and translate their vision for a future of excellence into reality and infuse inclusive and equitable practices throughout their work and organizations. Her national programs (BRAINS, LATTICE, WEBS and WFAB) designed to accelerate the careers of women, researchers with disabilities, and researchers from racial and ethnic groups that are historically marginalized in STEM have been called “sanctuaries” and have garnered over \$3.2 M in federal support. Claire earned her B.A with high honors from Princeton University and her PhD in Biological Sciences from Stanford University. She worked as a faculty member at the University of Washington for almost a decade and is an ICF certified executive coach with training from the NeuroLeadership Institute. She served as a Diversity Officer for the National Postdoctoral Association. Her scholarship has been published in a wide range of peer reviewed journals in the sciences and social sciences, including, Science, Nature, CBE-Life Sciences Education, Neuron, and Race Ethnicity and Education.



Dominique Pritchett, PhD

Dominique Pritchett is largely interested in understanding the neural mechanism that underlie simple associative learning behaviors. In particular, he and his laboratory focus on the cerebellum, where much is understood about how mechanisms of synaptic plasticity contribute to the association of a stimulus with a behavioral response. The goal of their continuing research is to understand how the cerebellar circuit contributes to associative behaviors more generally by exploring the functional connections between the cerebellum and the neocortex and the basal ganglia.



Gina Poe, PhD

Gina Poe is a neuroscientist and full professor in the department of Integrative Biology and Physiology, and the Department of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences at the University of California, Los Angeles and is on the executive committee to UCLA's Brain Research Institute. Dr. Poe's lab research is dedicated to the study of the role of sleep for learning and memory consolidation, including the mechanisms that fail that process in mental disorders. At UCLA Dr. Poe serves as director of the Brain Research Institute's Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (BRI-SURE) and the Center for Opportunities to Maximize Participation, Access, and Student Success (COMPASS - Life Sciences). She also serves as the co-director of the Maximizing Access to Research Careers (MARC) program. She is Course Director of the Summer Program in Neuroscience Excellence and Success (SPINES) at the Marine Biological Laboratory and is co-director of the Neuroscience Scholars Program (NSP) through the Society for Neuroscience. Dr. Poe graduated with a BA in Human Biology from Stanford University then entered the UCLA Neuroscience Interdepartmental

Program (NSIDP). As a postdoc, she received an NIH minority postdoctoral supplement, and at her first faculty position at Washington State University was the inaugural Director of the Undergraduate Neuroscience major and selected as a Women of Color for her roles as historian to the African-American faculty and staff and for science and college outreach activities to inner-city schools in the greater Washington State. She then moved to the University of Michigan Medical School where she was promoted to Associate professor with tenure and served on the faculty Senate and the Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs. She has been a mentor to postdoctoral, PhD graduate, Masters, PREP, BP Endure, and UROP undergraduate students in her laboratory through the years, and has been the keynote speaker to FEMMES, a program to encourage middle school girls to go into STEM fields. She has served on the training committee and on the Board of Directors of the Sleep Research Society diversity and continues to serve on the diversity and professional development committees of the Society of Neuroscience.



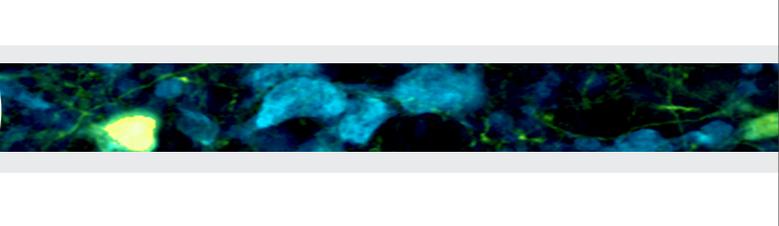
Joyce Yen, PhD

Dr. Joyce Yen is the Director for the UW ADVANCE Center for Institutional Change and serves as a BRAINS Co-Principal Investigator and Co-Director. Dr. Yen has been PI or co-investigator on twelve successful proposals that have brought over \$6.5 million in funding to advance women faculty in science, engineering, and mathematics; to address faculty professional development more generally; and to diversify engineering and create a more inclusive climate in engineering. As BRAINS Program Coordinator, Dr. Yen drives the integration of the different project components for maximum synergism and guides and shapes the overall project efforts.



Joyonna Gamble-George, PhD

Joyonna Gamble-George, PhD, is a former Early Career Policy Ambassador (ECPA) and Alumna of the Neuroscience Scholars Program for SfN. Through the AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellowship at the NIH, she has served as a science advisor for doctors, psychologists, nurses, and other scientists. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry and Biology with Honors in Mathematics from Xavier University of Louisiana, a Master of Health Administration from the University of South Florida College of Public Health, and a PhD in Neuroscience from Vanderbilt University. She completed postdoctoral training at the University of Florida, where her research focused on the effects of methamphetamine on bidirectional neuron-microglia communication in the human brain and animal models of HIV-1 infection.



Julio J. Ramirez, PhD

Julio J. Ramirez obtained his B.S. in psychology from Fairfield University in 1977 and his PhD in psychology from Clark University in 1983. He taught at the College of St. Benedict at St. John's University from 1981 to 1985. He did his postdoctoral work in neuroscience at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology from 1985 to 1986. Presently, he is the R. Stuart Dickson Professor and Director of the Neuroscience Program at Davidson College, where he has been since 1986. His research interests include the recovery of function after central nervous system injury, with an emphasis on determining the functional significance of hippocampal neuroplasticity. His research has been supported by the National Science Foundation, the National Institute of Mental Health, and the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. He teaches undergraduate courses in neuroscience and psychology. In 2004, the National Science Foundation gave him the Director's Award for Distinguished Teaching Scholars. In 2011, he received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics,

and Engineering Mentoring from President Barack Obama in recognition of his national leadership in mentoring undergraduate students and junior faculty from underrepresented groups in the sciences. In 2015, he was awarded the Bernice Grafstein Award for Outstanding Accomplishments in Mentoring from the Society for Neuroscience. He is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He was the founding president of the Faculty for Undergraduate Neuroscience, a national organization dedicated to promoting undergraduate education in neuroscience. At the Society for Neuroscience, Dr. Ramirez is the Treasurer Elect and a co-Director of the Neuroscience Scholars Program.



Kaliris Y. Salas-Ramirez, PhD

Kaliris Y. Salas-Ramirez is a distinguished medical lecturer at the CUNY School of Medicine in New York City. Her research focus is understanding sex specific interventions for cognitive decline resulting from drug exposure during different stages of development. Her passion is mentoring and elevating students from underrepresented groups and diversifying the research and health enterprise. She has been funded by NCI, NIDA and NINDS as well as NYS grants to do this work and published in multiple peer-reviewed journals. Originally from Puerto Rico, Dr. Salas has lived in NYC for 11 yrs, where she is raising her two sons while fighting for educational equity from prek to higher ed with the hopes of living in an anti-racist community. She is current president of CEC4, and is on the steering/ advisory committees of Parents for Responsive Equitable Safe Schools (PRESS NYC), NYC Opt Out and Black Lives Matter (BLM) at Schools NYC.



Karina Alviña, PhD

Dr. Alviña is a Research Assistant Professor of Neuroscience at the University of Florida College of Medicine. She received her PhD in Biological Sciences-Physiology in 2008 from the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile in Santiago, Chile. She went on to complete her first Postdoctoral Fellowship (2009-2011) at Columbia University in New York, NY and a second Postdoctoral Fellowship (2012-2016) at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in The Bronx, NY. Dr. Alviña's work focuses on various aspects of fundamental cellular physiology in the brain. In particular, she studies how specific areas involved in learning and memory are influenced by environmental factors such as stress, exercise and dietary habits, and neurodegenerative conditions such as Alzheimer's disease.



Laura O'Dell, PhD

Dr. Laura O'Dell is a professor of psychology at the University of Texas at El Paso. Her research program is focused on the neural mechanisms that mediate addiction to drugs of abuse. Dr. O'Dell's laboratory combines neurochemical and molecular approaches with behavioral models in order to provide a better understanding of the neural basis of addiction. Dr. O'Dell received her BS in Psychology from Texas A&M University and continued on to Arizona State University, where she received her MS and PhD in Behavioral Neuroscience.



Lauren Ullrich, PhD

As Program Director, Office of Programs to Enhance Neuroscience Diversity, Lauren Ullrich helps coordinate NINDS's diversity activities, which span the pipeline from neuroscience education outreach (grades K-12) to funding opportunities and mentoring networks across critical career transition points. She received her PhD and MS in Neuroscience from Georgetown University, researching memory in early Alzheimer's disease for her thesis and also published on teaching, pedagogy, and professional development in science. She received her B.A. from Swarthmore College in psychobiology. Prior to coming to NINDS as a AAAS Science & Technology Fellow, Lauren worked for the Society for Neuroscience in a range of policy and programmatic areas, including government and public affairs; scientific rigor and reproducibility; workforce and training; and animals in research.



Lisa M. Savage, PhD

Lisa M. Savage, professor and Chair of Psychology at Binghamton University, State University of New York, is a member of the Ojibwa Nation. She received her PhD from the University of Minnesota and did her postdoctoral fellowship at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in San Diego, CA. Beyond her NIAAA funded research program (NADIA and DEARC) that investigates alcohol-related brain and behavioral dysfunction, she has been committed to training the next generation of underrepresented students (PI on SUNY Upstate Bridges Program).



Marguerite Matthews, PhD

Marguerite Matthews, PhD is a scientific program manager in the Office of Programs to Enhance Neuroscience Workforce Diversity at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), supporting diversity initiatives for the training and career development of early career researchers underrepresented in the biomedical sciences.



Michelle Jones-London, PhD

Dr. Michelle D. Jones-London serves as Chief, Office of Programs to Enhance Neuroscience Workforce Diversity (OPEN-WD). In this position, she plays a critical role in guiding the Institute's diversity efforts and chairs the NINDS Diversity Working Group. Dr. Jones-London directs the diversity training and workforce development programs at NINDS and provides oversight for the Institute's diversity outreach initiatives. Dr. Jones-London earned her PhD in Neuroscience from the Department of Neuroscience and Anatomy at Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine. She then received postdoctoral training as a research fellow at University of Pennsylvania in the Department of Psychiatry.



Sheri Mizumori, PhD

Dr. Sheri Mizumori is Professor of Psychology at the University of Washington and serves as the BRAINS Director and Principal Investigator. As BRAINS Program Director, Dr. Mizumori advises the Project Coordinator and serve on the Program's Internal Advisory Board. She also serves as liaison with the UW Neurosciences Institute and the UW Psychology Department Diversity Sciences research group, as well as the Society for Neuroscience, and the Association for Psychological Science.

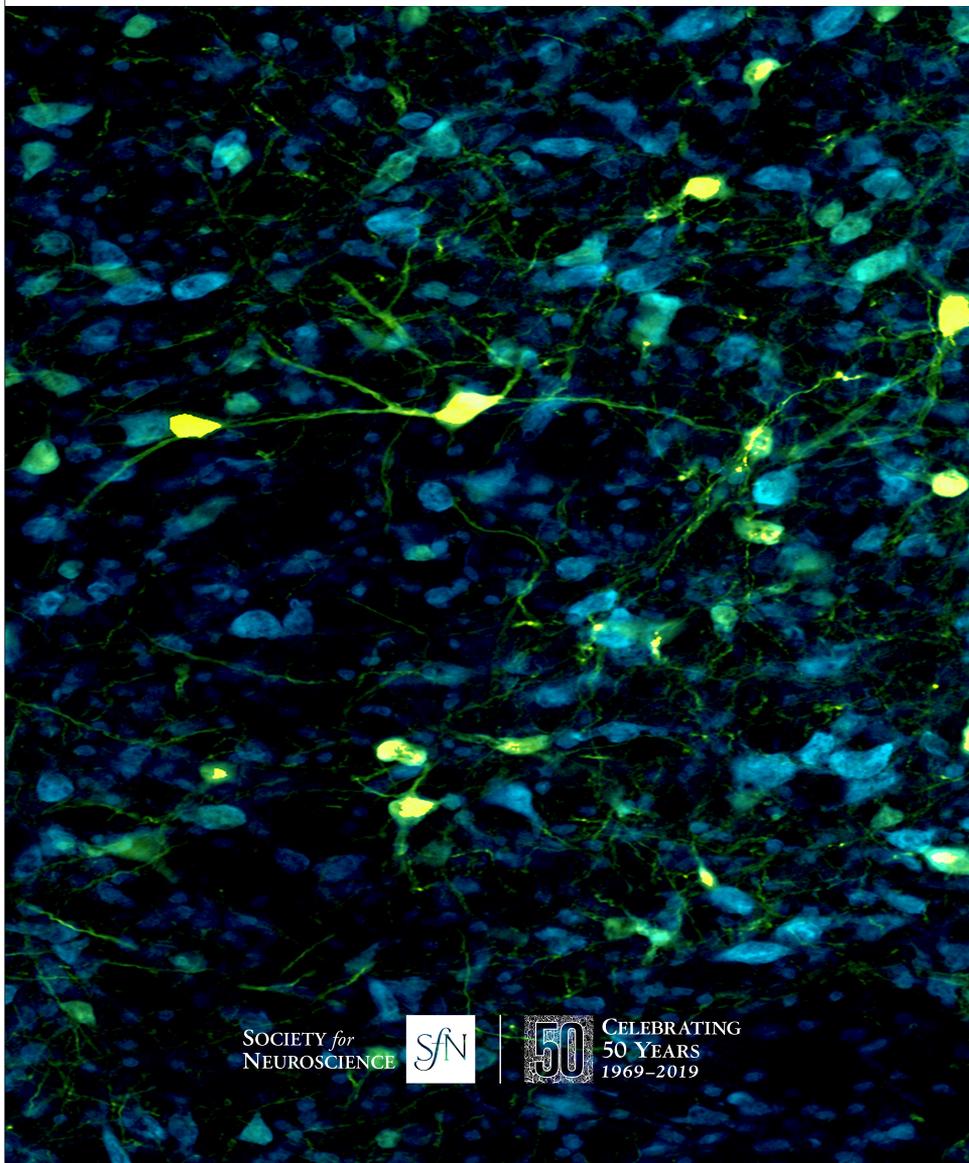


Sherilynn Black, PhD

Sherilynn Black is the Associate Vice Provost for Faculty Advancement, providing leadership in many areas of faculty advancement including support for pre-tenure and mid-career faculty, professional development for non-tenure system faculty, and mentoring. She also leads initiatives to increase diversity among the faculty ranks.

Dr. Black is an Assistant Professor of the Practice of Medical Education and engages in social neuroscience research on the effectiveness of interventions designed to promote diversity in academia. Dr. Black earned her BS in Psychology and Biology with highest honors at UNC-Chapel Hill as a Morehead-Cain Scholar. She earned her PhD in Neurobiology at Duke University and completed additional studies in the School of Education at UNC-Chapel Hill.

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