1969–2019

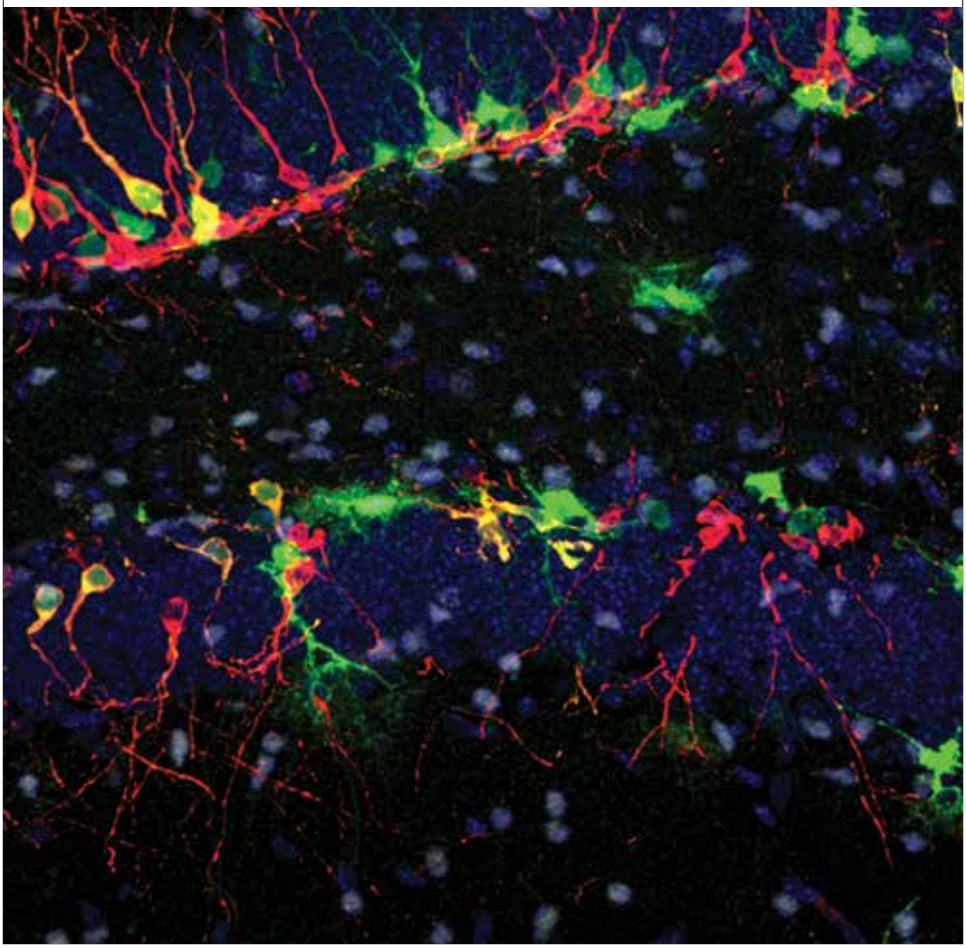
SOCIETY for NEUROSCIENCE

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

Preparing the Next Generation of Neuroscience Leaders

Thursday, July 11 / Friday July 12

Washington, DC



Welcome to the “Preparing the Next Generation of Neuroscience Leaders 2019” conference. For the next two days, scholars and alumni of SfN’s Neuroscience Scholars Program (NSP) will come together to discuss leadership foundations, personal and scientific promotions, and grant writing skills, while creating additional opportunities for professional development, networking, and community building.

The NSP exemplifies SfN’s mission to provide educational resources, networking opportunities, and career development tools for neuroscientists from diverse backgrounds. More than 800 NSP alumni have completed their training and are making significant contributions to the field.

During the opening session of the conference, “From the Bench to the C-Suite: Lessons in Leadership,” Joanne Berger-Sweeney discusses the critical role that leadership plays with power dynamics, conflict resolution, time management, community engagement, and communication principles around promotion. The remaining conference sessions focus on leadership fundamentals, creating a professional profile, grant writing, and finding funding opportunities.

Connecting early-, mid-, and late-career scientists in-person is key to expanding the reach and impact of SfN’s programming throughout the year. We hope you enjoy this meeting and use the next two days and beyond to engage with colleagues, share experiences, and develop new abilities to enhance your leadership skills to prepare and serve in the next generation of neuroscientists.

Gina Poe and Julio J. Ramirez
Co-Directors, Neuroscience Scholars Program

AGENDA / THURSDAY, JULY 11	
12–12:30 p.m.	**Registration and Lunch**
12:30–12:45 p.m.	**Welcome and Introductions** Gina Poe and Julio Ramirez Neuroscience Scholars Program Co-Directors
12:45–1:15 p.m.	**From the Bench to the C-Suite: Lessons in Leadership** Speaker: Joanne Berger-Sweeney
1:15–2:15 p.m.	**Leadership Fundamentals** Moderator: Gina Poe Speakers: Kevin Jones / Marguerite Matthews / Gonzalo Torres
2:15–2:25 p.m.	**Break**
2:25–3:25 p.m.	**Leadership Fundamentals Table Discussions**
3:25–3:35 p.m.	**Break**
3:35–4:35 p.m.	**Promoting Yourself, Promoting Your Science** Moderator: Julio Ramirez Speakers: Eric James / Bianca Jones-Marlin / Kaliris Y. Salas-Ramirez
4:35–4:45 p.m.	**Break**
4:45–5:45 p.m.	**Promoting Yourself, Promoting Your Science Table Discussions**
5:45–6 p.m.	**First Day Summary and What to Expect from Day 2** Gina Poe and Julio Ramirez Neuroscience Scholars Program Co-Directors

AGENDA / FRIDAY, JULY 12	
8–8:30 a.m.	**Breakfast**
8:30–9:50 a.m.	**Funding Opportunities: NIH and NSF** Neeraj Agarwal / *National Eye Institute* Anita Bechtholt / *National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism* James Deschler / *National Science Foundation* Kenneth D. Gibbs, Jr. / *National Institute of General Medical Sciences* Michelle Jones-London / *National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke* Sanoj K. Suneja / *National Institute on Aging* Lauren Ullrich / *National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke* Ashlee Van't Veer / *National Institute of Mental Health*
9:50–10 a.m.	**Break**
10 a.m.–noon	**Grant Writing Session** Speakers: Dominik Biezonski and Victoria Luine
Noon–12:30 p.m.	**Track 1: Lunch** Location: National Ballroom, Section A
Noon–1 p.m.	**Track 2: Lunch** Location: Grand Ballroom
12:30–3 p.m.	**Grant Writing Coaching Groups (pre-registration required)** Location: National Ballroom, Section B Coaches: Anne Etgen / Melissa Harrington / Victoria Luine / Brandi Mattson
1–2 p.m.	**Track 2: Scientific Rigor in Grant Review** Location: Grand Ballroom Speaker: Devon Crawford
2–3 p.m.	**Track 2: Center for Scientific Review** Location: Grand Ballroom Speaker: Christine Piggee
3–3:15 p.m.	**Closing Remarks** Location: Grand Ballroom Gina Poe and Julio Ramirez Neuroscience Scholars Program Co-Directors
3:15–3:30 p.m.	**NSP Photo**

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. 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 a councilor and a co-director of the Neuroscience Scholars Program.

Gina Poe, PhD

Gina Poe is a neuroscientist and professor in Integrative Biology and Physiology at UCLA. Dr. Poe studies the role of sleep for learning and memory consolidation, and mechanisms that fail that process. Her research has been funded by the NIMH since 2000. 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) at UCLA and co-directs the Maximizing Access to Research Careers (MARC) program. Nationally, she directs the Summer Program in Neuroscience Excellence and Success (SPINES) at the Marine Biological Laboratory and co-directs the Neuroscience Scholars Program (NSP) through the Society for Neuroscience. Dr. Poe earned her PhD in neuroscience and basic sleep funded by the NIMH. She was a Howard Hughes Medical Institute predoctoral fellowship, an NSF minority graduate fellowship, and was student representative to the Neuroscience executive committee and the Sleep Research Society. In her first faculty position at Washington State University she 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 moved to the University of Michigan where she was promoted to Associate professor and served on the Faculty Senate and the Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs. She has mentored 6 postdoctoral, 6 PhD, 3 Masters, over 60 undergraduate students in her laboratory. She has been the keynote speaker to FEMMES, encouraging middle school girls to go into STEM fields. She has served on the Board of Directors of the Sleep Research Society and continues to serve on the professional development committee of the Society of Neuroscience.

Joanne Berger-Sweeney, PhD

Joanne Berger-Sweeney, the 22nd president of Trinity College, is a distinguished neuroscientist, professor, administrator, and champion for innovation and entrepreneurship. Before beginning her tenure at Trinity in 2014, she served as dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at Tufts University. Prior to Tufts, Berger-Sweeney was at Wellesley College, where she served for 19 years as a faculty member and associate dean. She earned her undergraduate degree in psychobiology from Wellesley College and her M.P.H. in environmental health sciences from the University of California, Berkeley, and she completed her postdoctoral training at the National Institute of Health (INSERM) in Paris, France. While working on her Ph.D. in neurotoxicology from the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, she did the proof of concept work on Razadyne, which went on to be the second-most-used Alzheimer's drug in the world. Her honors include being named a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (2018) and receiving a Lifetime Mentoring Award from the Society for Neuroscience (2006).

Kevin Jones, PhD

Kevin S. Jones is an assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacology at the University of Michigan Medical School. His research interests include the neurophysiology and neuropharmacology of mental health disorders. He holds a PhD in neuropharmacology from Duke University and has more than 20 years of experience in neurobiological research. His current work focuses on discovering new medicines for the treating of post-traumatic stress disorder, major depression, and schizophrenia. His work has appeared in many journals including Neuron, The Journal of Neuroscience, and the International Journal of Comparative Psychology. His past and current affiliations include the Instituto Ramón y Cajal in Madrid, Spain; Johns Hopkins University Medical School; College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific; University of Cincinnati; Pomona College; and Charles Drew University Medical School. He is a member of the Society for Neuroscience, a past president of the DC metro chapter of SfN and currently serves as the chair of the NSP Subcommittee of the SfN Professional Development Committee. He is a member of the Executive Committee of Neuropharmacology Division of the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics. In addition to managing his research team, Dr. Jones is also an award-winning instructor who enjoys teaching undergraduate and graduate students. In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with his family and coaching his sons football teams.

Marguerite Matthews, PhD

Marguerite Matthews, PhD is a health program specialist in the Office of Programs to Enhance Neuroscience Workforce Diversity at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS). As a program specialist, Dr. Matthews supports NINDS diversity efforts and manages various diversity programs that provide neuroscience research training and career development for students and early career neuroscientists. Prior to NINDS, she completed a 2-year AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellowship in the Office of the Director of the National Institutes of Health, where she examined trends in the biomedical research workforce to enhance programs and policies that impact early career researchers in all biomedical disciplines. Dr. Matthews received her BS in biochemistry from Spelman College and her PhD in neuroscience from the University of Pittsburgh. She completed her postdoctoral fellowship in behavioral neuroscience at the Oregon Health & Science University, where she also served as program director for the Youth Engaged in Science (YES!) outreach initiative and program director for the OHSU Fellowship for Diversity in Research Program. Dr. Matthews is a proud NSP alum, has served as an NSP Class Advisor, and is currently an NSP mentor.

Gonzalo Torres, PhD

Dr. Torres is currently Professor and Chair of the Department of Molecular, Cellular, and Biomedical Sciences at the CUNY School of Medicine. Before taking a Chair position, Dr. Torres was Professor in the Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, Assistant Dean of Diversity and Health Equity, director of diversity programs for the NIH-sponsored Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI), and director of Diversity for the Biomedical Sciences PhD graduate program at the University of Florida College of Medicine. In this capacity, Dr. Torres developed strategies to increase diversity in the Biomedical PhD program and as a result, under-represented student representation increased from 8% in 2015 to 30% in 2017. Dr. Torres received the Presidential Early Career Award under President Barak Obama, as well as several other honors, including the International Society for Neurochemistry Young Scientist Lecture Award (2004), the NARSAD Young Investigator Award (2006–2008), and the 2010 ASPET-ASTELLAS Award for Translational Pharmacology. In 2010, he was named an Emerging Scholar by the Diverse Issues in Higher Education Magazine. Dr. Torres has also demonstrated his commitment and interest in improving inclusion in both recruitment and retention in biological sciences through leadership roles at the national level, including serving as a member and Chair of Diversity Committees for both the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET) and SfN. He has helped to organize diversity committees that develop strategies for attracting more students of color to PhD programs in science and has been active in Career Opportunities in Research, SACNAS, and ABRCMS. His research program investigates the molecular actions of psychostimulants and has been funded by NIDA since 2000.

Eric James, PhD

Eric James is a former Neuroscience Scholars Program Fellow. He received his PhD in neuroscience from Brown University. There, in the lab of Dr. Carlos Aizenman, his research focused on the interplay of genetic and environmental factors that underlie neurodevelopmental disorders. In his postdoctoral training, with Dr. Eve Marder at Brandeis University, his research focused on how individual variability in intrinsic neuronal properties affect mechanisms of compensation and homeostasis. At present, Dr. James' career and research interests focus primarily on science education. He works in science education as a dean and science teacher and develops science curriculum for secondary school. He also teachers graduate and undergraduate neurophysiology as an adjunct professor

Bianca Jones Marlin, PhD

Dr. Bianca Jones Marlin is a neuroscientist and postdoctoral researcher at Columbia University in the laboratory of Nobel Laureate Dr. Richard Axel, where she investigates transgenerational epigenetic inheritance, or how traumatic experiences in parents affect the brain structure of their offspring. She holds a PhD in neuroscience from New York University, and dual bachelor degrees from St. John's University, in biology and adolescent education. As a graduate student, her research focused on the vital bond between parent and child, and studied the use of neurochemicals, such as the "love drug" oxytocin, as a treatment to strengthen fragile and broken parent-child relationships. Dr. Marlin's research has been featured in the Los Angeles Times, The Guardian, Scientific American, and Discover Magazine's "100 Top Stories of 2015." Dr. Marlin aims to utilize neurobiology and the science of learning to better inform both the scientific and educational community on how positive experiences dictate brain health, academic performance, and social well being.

Kaliris Y. Salas-Ramirez, PhD

Kaliris Y. Salas-Ramirez is at the CUNY School of Medicine as an Assistant Medical Professor. She conducts research on sex specific interventions for cognitive decline as a result of illicit or therapeutic drug exposure with an interest in developmental exposure to drugs, neural plasticity and efficacy of treatment. Her interest in adolescence specifically stems from her work as a graduate student studying the role of testosterone in the behavioral and neural maturation of the male brain during the transition from childhood to adulthood. Dr. Salas has been funded by the NIH and published multiple peer-reviewed papers on her work, along with several book chapters on sexual behavior, sex and gender. She is passionate about mentoring students at every level, high school, undergraduate, graduate and medical students, and help further their careers as investigators and service providers. As co-chair of the Inclusive Excellence Council at CSOM she has initiate conversations of equity and bias for students, faculty and staff supporting the school's mission to increase the number of underrepresented groups as physicians. She has served on the board of directors of the non-profit Future of Science to champion, engage and empower early career researchers with evidence-based resources to improve the careers. This June she received the Faculty Service Award from the CCNY Alumni Association for her extraordinary dedication to students and their success.

Neeraj Agarwal, PhD

Neeraj Agarwal earned his Ph.D. in Biochemistry from The Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, India. He had his postdoctoral trainings at the University of Southern California, the Yale School of Medicine, and UT Health Science Center at San Antonio, TX. Following this, he established his own laboratory as associate professor of cell biology and anatomy at the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth. His research focused upon the mechanisms of visual cell loss (apoptosis) using animal and cultured retinal cells as models for retinal degenerations and glaucoma. Currently, he is serving as Program Director for Translational research and Training, Career Development, and Diversity at the NEI/NIH Division of Extramural Science program. He is responsible for all fellowships, the institutional research training programs, the mentored career development programs, the loan repayment programs.

Anita Bechtholt, PhD

Dr. Anita Bechtholt joined the NIAAA Division of Neuroscience and Behavior as a Program Director in November 2012 and transitioned to the NIAAA Division of Treatment and Recovery Research in 2014. Dr. Bechtholt administers grants related to translation, neuroscience, biomarkers, technology, centers and training. Dr. Bechtholt earned her Ph.D. in Behavioral Neuroscience at Oregon Health & Science University in 2004. Her thesis work examined the role of opioid receptors in the conditioned rewarding and aversive properties of ethanol and was supported by an individual pre-doctoral National Research Service Award (NRSA) from NIAAA. Dr. Bechtholt's postdoctoral training in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania focused on understanding how antidepressants are effective, using a variety of behavioral, neurochemical, pharmacological, and genetic methods. This work was supported by a Young Investigator Award from the National Alliance for Research on Schizophrenia and Depression. Her independent research program in the Department of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School — McLean Hospital focused on understanding the role of glial cells in the treatments and causes of psychiatric disorders including anxiety, depression, schizophrenia, and alcoholism. This work was funded by NIAAA, the National Institute of Mental Health, a Young Investigator Award from the National Alliance for Research on Schizophrenia and Depression, a grant from ABMRF/The Foundation for Alcohol Research, an Eleanor and Miles Shore Harvard Medical School Fellowship, and funds from the Shervert Frazier Research Institute.

James Deshler, PhD

Dr. James Deshler received his Ph.D. from University of California at Los Angeles in Molecular Genetics and did his postdoctoral work at Harvard Medical School in Cell Biology. He was a faculty member in the Biology Department at Boston University for ten years where his research employed novel computational methods to study the genetic basis of cell polarity in vertebrate cells, such as neurons. From 2009–2013 he was the Director of the Developmental Neurobiology Program at the National Science Foundation and in 2013 moved to the position of Deputy Director for the Division of Biological Infrastructure, which supports training programs and the development of research tools for the Biological Sciences. Dr. Deshler plays a leadership role in shaping NSF's activities under the BRAIN Initiative including the establishment of an International Brain Initiative as well as oversight of the 'Next Generation Networks for Neuroscience" (NeuroNex) Program.

Kenneth D. Gibbs, Jr., PhD

Kenneth Gibbs, Jr., Ph.D. is director of the NIGMS Postdoctoral Research Associate Training (PRAT) Program, and is a program director in the Divisions of Training, Workforce Development, and Diversity, and Genetics and Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology. Gibbs was previously a program analyst in the Institute's Office of Program Planning, Analysis, and Evaluation. Before joining NIGMS, he was a cancer prevention fellow at the National Cancer Institute and an American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Science and Technology Policy Fellow at the National Science Foundation. Gibbs earned a B.S. in biochemistry and molecular biology from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, a Master of Public Health from Johns Hopkins University and a Ph.D. in immunology from Stanford University.

Michelle D. 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 joined NINDS as a Program Director in July, 2006. Dr. Jones-London earned her Ph.D. 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. Dr. Jones-London came to the NIH in July 2004 as an Emerging Leader Fellow; she performed duties across the Department of Health and Human Services including the Center for Scientific Review, FDA Office of Women's Health Science Program, and the Immediate Office of the Secretary, Intergovernmental/Tribal Affairs Office. Dr. Jones-London directs the diversity training and workforce development programs at NINDS which include Diversity and Re-Entry Supplements, Predoctoral Fellowships to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research (F31), Career Development Awards to Promote Diversity (K22 and K01) and Diversity Research Education Grants (R25) (including the Neuroscience Scholars Program with SfN). She also provides oversight for the Institute's diversity outreach initiatives at several other national scientific conferences. Her trans-NIH efforts include oversight for the NIH Blueprint ENDURE and DSPAN (F99/K00) programs, the BRAIN Initiative Diversity K99/R00, and former Project Scientist for the NIH National Research Mentoring Network (NRMN). Her research interests have focused on understanding monoaminergic neurotransmitter regulation and mechanisms of behavioral psychopharmacology in animal models of disorders such as ADHD, Tourette Syndrome, and depression.

Sanoj K. Suneja, PhD

Dr. Sanoj K. Suneja joined the National Institute on Aging (NIA) in 2006 as Research Program Analyst and currently serves the institute as Health Scientist Administrator and is Deputy Director in the Division of Extramural Activities at NIA. Dr. Suneja is responsible for extramural research grants referral and analyses in the NIA Division of Extramural Activities (DEA). As a Supervisory Scientist in his academic career at the Univ. Conn. Health Center (UCONN) from 1988–2006, he had researched on neuro-biochemical behavior of the auditory system after hearing damage for managing the goals of the NIH-funded research project(s). Before joining UCONN, Dr. Suneja was a Scientist with Government of India from 1986–1988. He received his Master (1982) and Doctorate (1986) degrees in Biochemistry from Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar, India. Dr. Suneja has published over 40 peer reviewed scientific research articles. Dr. Suneja has served as a reviewer for various scientific journals in neurosciences such as European Journal of Neuroscience, Neurochemical Research, Brain Research, and Ear and Hearing.

Lauren Ullrich, PhD

Lauren Ullrich, Ph.D., received her Ph.D. and M.S. 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 in the OPEN office, Dr. Ullrich 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. She is currently the program official for the NINDS Summer R25 program.

Ashlee Van't Veer, PhD

Dr. Ashlee Van't Veer leads the Office of Research Training and Career Development in the Division of Neuroscience and Basic Behavioral Science at the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). In this position, she supports research training at the predoctoral, postdoctoral, and early-stage investigator levels to ensure that a sufficient number of highly trained research investigators will be available to address basic research questions pertinent to mental health and mental illnesses. She also contributes to NIH-wide efforts related to research training and career development including the Blueprint for Neuroscience Research and the BRAIN initiative. Dr. Van't Veer received her BA in Cell Biology and Neuroscience from Rutgers University and her PhD in Neurobiology from Harvard Medical School. She received postdoctoral training as a research fellow at McLean Hospital focusing on the role of stress in the etiology and maintenance of mental illness. Prior to her position at the NIMH, she served as a program analyst at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke.

Dominik Biezonski, PhD

Dominik Biezonski is the Senior Scientific Grant Writer at the New York Genome Center (NYGC). His role encompasses securing research funding for the Center and its faculty through competitive federal and private sources. This includes identification of funding announcements and appropriate faculty, grantsmanship and experimental strategizing, primary writing and editing, budgeting, and orchestrating the final submission process. He obtained his BS in Psychology/Biology from Stony Brook University, and PhD in Neuroscience and Behavior from the University of Massachusetts. After post-doctoral work at Harvard University and Columbia University, he became an Assistant Professor in Psychiatry at Columbia before moving to The Rockefeller University and then NYGC to become a professional grant writer. Dom's research interests include understanding the etiology and pathophysiology of neurodegenerative and neuropsychiatric disorders, ranging from disease-specific genetics and neurocircuitry to behavior.

Victoria Luine, PhD

Victoria Luine is a distinguished professor emerita at Hunter College of CUNY and was previously a faculty member at the Rockefeller University. As a neuroendocrinologist, her research investigates the influence of gonadal and adrenal steroids on cognition and behavior as well as possible neurochemical and morphological underpinnings of the functional changes in rodent models over the lifespan. The influence of drugs and alcohol, endocrine disruptors, and other environmental agents on neural function is also investigated. She was the recipient of research grants from NIH, NSF and private foundations and the PI/PD of the Hunter College RISE and SCORE programs, which enhance progression of underrepresented minorities in education and research, respectively. She was the first recipient of the Bernice Grafstein Mentoring Award from the Society for Neuroscience.

Anne Etgen, PhD

Anne Etgen is professor emerita in the Departments of Neuroscience, Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Pediatrics, and Obstetrics and Gynecology and Women's Health at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Her research focused on determining the cellular and molecular mechanisms by which the ovarian steroid hormones regulate brain function. In addition to being an internationally recognized leader in the field of neuroendocrinology, she dedicated much of her career to fostering the recruitment and advancement of women and underrepresented minorities in science. She has an impressive record of mentoring female graduate students and postdoctoral fellows who went on to establish successful careers in research, academics, and the pharmaceutical industry. At the national level, she has worked on multiple programs aimed at promoting diversity and advancing women in neuroscience. She earned her PhD in 1979 from the University of California, Irvine.

Melissa Harrington, PhD

Melissa Harrington received a bachelor's degree in molecular biology from Purdue University, a PhD in Neuroscience from the Stanford University School of Medicine, and conducted post-doctoral in the biology department at Stanford. She began her faculty career in the biology department at Morehouse College in Atlanta, and was there for four years before relocating to Delaware to join the faculty in the Department of Biological Sciences at Delaware State University (DSU). At DSU she moved up through the faculty ranks to become a full professor and then Associate Vice President for Research and the director for the Delaware Institute of Science and Technology, the first research institute created at the University. Dr. Harrington is also the director of the NIH-funded Delaware Center for Neuroscience Research, a virtual center linking neuroscientists at Delaware State University and the University of Delaware. Dr. Harrington's main role as center director is to mentor and guide early-stage faculty at both institutions in establishing an independent research program that is competitive for external funding. Dr. Harrington's research program in neurophysiology has been continuously funded by grants from the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, and the Department of Defense since 1998. Her current research program focuses on understanding the development of motor neurons - the nerve cells that drive muscle contraction, as well as investigating the mechanism of motor neuron dysfunction in the disease spinal muscular atrophy.

Brandi Mattson, PhD

After obtaining my PhD in Behavioral and Neural Sciences at Rutgers University in 2002, I undertook traditional academic postdoctoral and junior faculty research positions at the NIH, Baylor College of Medicine and EPFL that examined subcortical and cortical microcircuits underlying reward, cognitive processes and autism. These experiences revealed my broader interest in science, so I pursued non-traditional positions in science to increase my breadth and knowledge. I served as an Associate Editor at Neuron and pursued research administration and grant management positions at MD Anderson Cancer Center and the Cornell-Weill Medical School/Houston Methodist Hospital Research Institute. In 2015, I joined my former colleagues in scientific publishing to expand the business portfolio for Life Science Editors. This global company of former top journal editors serves to help scientists in all areas of the life sciences publish their manuscripts and get their grants funded using the skills we learned in scientific publishing.

Devon Crawford, PhD

Dr. Devon C. Crawford is a Health Program Specialist at the NIH National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, where she primarily performs public education, portfolio analysis, and science program and policy activities. Her focus is on improving experimental rigor and transparency within the biomedical research community as well as supporting efforts within the trans-NIH and trans-agency Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative. She also strives to promote mentoring, diversity, and career development for trainees. She received her Ph.D. in Neuroscience from Washington University in St. Louis, conducted postdoctoral training at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, and was active in career development and public outreach efforts throughout her scientific training in synaptic physiology and neurobiology.

Christine Piggee, PhD

Christine Piggee is a scientific review officer for the Synapses, Cytoskeleton & Trafficking (SYN) study section in the Center for Scientific Review (CSR) at NIH. After earning a PhD in analytical chemistry at Northeastern University, Dr. Piggee did a postdoctoral fellowship in neurotoxicology at NIMH. She then served as International Program Manager at Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Society; associate editor for the News & Features section of the journal *Analytical Chemistry*; and a contract scientific review officer with the Molecular, Cellular & Developmental Neuroscience (MDCN), Cardiovascular and Respiratory Sciences (CVRS), and Vascular & Hematology (VH) Integrated Review Groups at CSR and with the Scientific Review Branch of NINDS.

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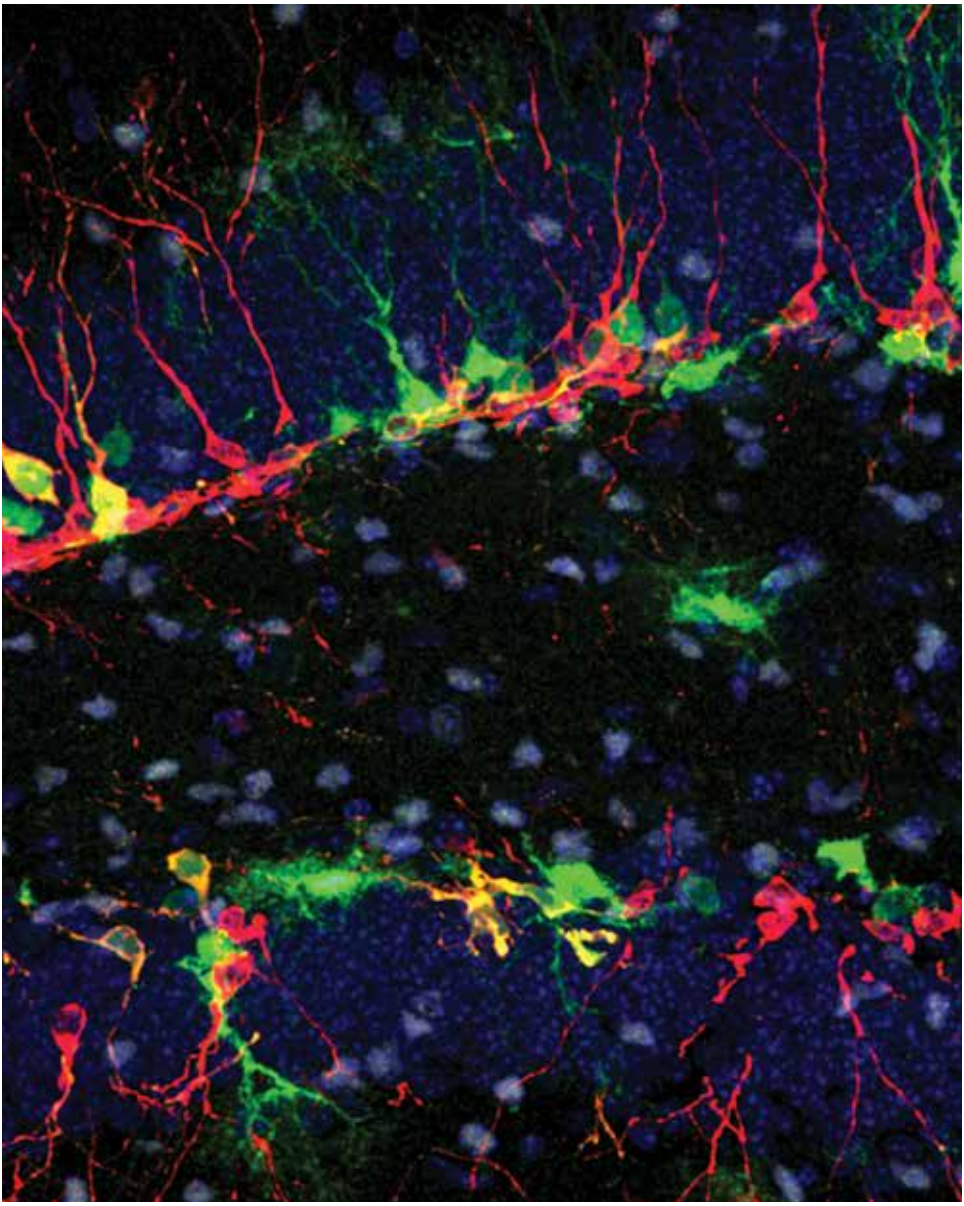

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1121 14th Street NW, Suite 1010
Washington, DC 20005
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