



## **2026 Annual Symposium Leon Levy Scholarships in Neuroscience\***

May 7, 2026, New York City

\*Times (all ET) and titles are subject to change

- 8:30 AM Breakfast and Check-In
- 9:00 AM Welcome Remarks  
Representatives from the Leon Levy Foundation and the New York  
Academy of Sciences

### **Session 1: 2025 Cohort Leon Levy Scholar Presentations\***

- 9:10 AM Chairperson: Speaker to Be Announced
- 9:15 AM *Neural Control of Subnuclear Structure*  
**Matthew Eroglu, PhD**, Columbia University
- 9:25 AM *Sensory Bases of Social Recognition in the Naked Mole-Rat*  
**Yuki Haba, PhD**, Columbia University
- 9:35AM *Dopamine D1–D2 Signaling Controls Motivated Behavior and Associative  
Learning*  
**Veronika Kondev, PhD**, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
- 9:45 AM *Cortico-Striatal Bottlenecks as a Unifying Principle for Dorsolateral Striatum  
Function*  
**Sreejan Kumar, PhD**, Columbia University
- 9:55 AM *Title to Be Announced*  
**Francesco Limone, PhD**, NYU Grossman School of Medicine

## **10:05 AM Coffee Break**

### **Session 2: 2025 Cohort Leon Levy Scholar Presentations (continued)\***

10:35 AM *Mechanistic Exploration of an Enigmatic Steroid Hormone in Parental Care*  
**Yuta Mabuchi, PhD**, Columbia University

10:45 AM *Claiming Space Under Pressure: How Stress Shapes Territorial Aggression*  
**Eyal Rozenfeld**, NYU Langone Health

10:55 AM *A Thalamic Gatekeeper of Prefrontal Circuit Balance*  
**Ece Sakalar, PhD**, New York University

11:05 AM *Basal Ganglia Control of a Natural Motor Skill*  
**Keshav B. Suresh, PhD**, Columbia University

11:15 AM *The Spread of Parkinson's Disease Pathology from Defined Neural Populations*  
**Aryeh Zolin, MD, PhD**, Weill Cornell Medicine

### **Session 3: Keynote Presentation**

11:25 AM Chairperson: Speaker to Be Announced

11:30 AM *The Cerebellum in Neurodevelopmental Disease*  
**Mary E. Hatten, PhD**, Rockefeller University

## **12:15 PM Networking Lunch / Poster Viewing**

### **Session 4: 2024 Cohort Leon Levy Scholar Poster Presentations**

12:15 PM Poster Session 1

*Title to Be Announced*

**Tiphaine Bailly, PhD**, Rockefeller University

*Peptidergic Modulation of Dentate Gyrus Inhibitory Circuits*

**Ernesto Griego, PhD**, Albert Einstein College of Medicine

12:45 PM Poster Session 2

*Inflammatory Memory Alters Behavior and Sensation in Chronic Skin Disease*

**Jack Major, PhD**, NYU Langone Health

*Title to Be Announced*

**Brigid Maloney, PhD**, The Rockefeller University

1:15 PM Poster Session 3

*Effects of Psilocybin on the Human Brain*

**Broc Pagni, PhD**, New York University Langone Health

*Amygdalar Computations for Decision-Making*

**Adithya Rajagopalan, PhD**, New York University

*Thalamocortical Circuits Supporting Working Memory*

**Genelle Rankin, PhD**, The Rockefeller University

### **Session 5: 2023 Cohort Leon Levy Scholar Presentations\***

1:45 PM Chairperson: Speaker to Be Announced

1:50 PM *Ancestral Teachings: How Fear Learning Alters Noradrenaline Across Generations*

**Thiago Arzua, PhD**, Columbia University

2:00 PM *The Role of the Plasma Contact System in Disease*

**Ana Badimon, PhD**, The Rockefeller University

2:10 PM *Molecular Basis of Behavioral Diversity in a Sibling Species Trio*

**Cynthia Chai, PhD**, Columbia University

2:20 PM *From Molecules to Meaning: Circuit Transformations in the Olfactory System*

**Jonathan Gill, PhD**, NYU Langone Health

**2:30 PM Coffee Break**

### **Session 6: 2023 Cohort Leon Levy Scholar Presentations (continued)\***

3:00 PM *From Colliculus to Connection: Visual Circuits and Social Behavior*

**Kelvin Q. Laracuate, MD PhD**, NYU Langone Health

3:10 PM *The Autism Risk Gene GIGYF1 Supports Astrocyte Metabolism Critical to Synapse Function and Animal Behavior*

**Pablo Lituma, PhD**, Weill Cornell Medicine

3:20 PM *Neocortical Long-Range Inhibition Promotes Cortical Synchrony and Sleep*  
**Geoffrey Terral, PhD**, Albert Einstein College of Medicine

3:30 PM *The Effect of Hunger on Value-Based Decision-Making*  
**Shai Berman, PhD**, Columbia University

### **Session 7: Conclusion**

3:40 PM 2023 Cohort Graduation

4:00 PM Closing Remarks  
Speaker to Be Announced, New York Academy of Sciences

4:10 PM Networking Reception

5:00 PM Symposium Ends

\* 8 min talks (+ 2 min Q&A )

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