



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
Prof. Nicholas B. Dirks, The New York Academy of Sciences

9:03 AM Leon Levy Foundation Remarks
Shelby White, Leon Levy Foundation

9:06 AM Symposium Overview
Barbara Knappmeyer, PhD, The New York Academy of Sciences

Session 1: 2025 Cohort Leon Levy Scholar Presentations*

9:10 AM Chairperson: Jordan Smoller, MD, Harvard Medical School, Massachusetts General Hospital

9:15 AM *Neural Control of Subnuclear Structure*
Matthew Eroglu, PhD, Columbia University

9:25 AM *Behavioral and Neural Coding of Social Hierarchy in Naked Mole-Rats*
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 *Understanding Neuron-Astrocyte Interaction in Disease*
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 *Inhibitory Control in Prefrontal-Thalamic Circuits*
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 *How Parkinson's Disease Pathology Spreads Through the Brain*
Aryeh Zolin, MD, PhD, Weill Cornell Medicine

Session 3: Keynote Presentation

11:25 AM Chairperson: **Amita Sehgal, PhD**, University of Pennsylvania

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

12:15 PM Networking Lunch / Poster Viewing / Alumni Connection

12:15 – Alumni Lunch

1:15 PM **Adriana Di Martino, MD**, Child Mind Institute

Georgios Voloudakis, MD, PhD, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Session 4: 2024 Cohort Leon Levy Scholar Poster Presentations

12:15 PM Poster Session 1

Genetically Engineering the Pheromone Glands of Ants to Study Chemical Communication in Insect Colonies

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

Uncovering the Neurogenetics of Advanced Mammalian Vocal Learning
Brigid Maloney, PhD, The Rockefeller University

1:15 PM Poster Session 3

Safety and Efficacy of Psilocybin-Assisted Therapy for Alcohol Use Disorder: Open-Label Extension of a Phase II Randomized Controlled Trial
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: Carlos Brody, PhD, Princeton University

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. Laracuente, 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
- 4:05 PM Closing Remarks
Barbara Knappmeyer, PhD, New York Academy of Sciences
- 4:10 PM Networking Reception
- 5:00 PM Symposium Ends

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