

The Brain Conferences

Principles of the Adaptive Mind

Towards an integrated understanding of the dynamics of mental health and stress resilience as adaptation to uncertainty across multiple nested timescales of evolution, development, and learning

27 – 31 October 2025
Crete, Greece

PROGRAMME

Monday, 27 October 2025	
From 14:00	<i>Arrival and registration</i>
14:50-15:00	Welcome address from the Conference Chairs (10')
<i>Afternoon Session: <u>Evolution and development of plasticity</u> Moderator: TBC</i>	
15:00-15:35	Willem Frankenhuys , University of Amsterdam, Netherlands The evolution and development of plasticity (25' + 10' Q&A)
15:35-16:10	Judith Burkart , University of Zurich, Switzerland Title TBC (25' + 10' Q&A)
16:10-16:45	Alexandra Rosati , University of Michigan, United States The evolution and development of complex cognition across primates (25' + 10' Q&A)
16:45-17:00	Coffee Break (15')
17:00-17:35	Rogier Kievit , Radboudumc, Netherlands Title TBC (25' + 10' Q&A)
17:35-18:10	Yuko Munakata , University of California Davis, United States Changing Perspectives on Executive Function (25' + 10' Q&A)
18:10-19:00	Welcome drink & speed dating (50')

19:00-21:30	Dinner (2h30')
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Tuesday, 28 October 2025	
<i>Morning Session 1: <u>Human systems for stress resilience</u></i> <i>Moderator: TBC</i>	
09:00-09:35	Erno Hermans , Radboudumc, Netherlands Title TBC (25' + 10' Q&A)
09:35-10:10	Raffael Kalisch , Leibniz Institute for Resilience, Germany Sources of resilience (25' + 10' Q&A)
10:10-10:25	Short talk 1 (10' + 5' Q&A)
10:25-10:50	Group Picture & Coffee Break (25')
<i>Morning Session 2: <u>Cortico-striatal circuits for flexible control</u></i> <i>Moderator: TBC</i>	
10:50-11:25	Trevor Robbins , University of Cambridge, United Kingdom Title TBC (25' + 10' Q&A)
11:25-12:00	Randy O'Reilly , University of California Davis, United States The role of goal-driven motivational systems in adaptive behaviour: A systems-neuroscience model (25' + 10' Q&A)
12:00-12:15	Short talk 2 (10' + 5' Q&A)
12:15-12:30	Short talk 3 (10' + 5' Q&A)
12:30-14:00	Lunch (1h30')
<i>Afternoon Session: <u>Chemical neuromodulation and uncertainty</u></i> <i>Moderator: TBC</i>	
14:00-14:35	Matt Nassar , Brown University, United States Title TBC (25' + 10' Q&A)
14:35-15:10	Jeremiah Cohen , Allen Institute for Neural Dynamics, United States Title TBC (25' + 10' Q&A)

15:10-15:25	Short talk 4 (10' + 5' Q&A)
15:25-15:45	European Journal of Neuroscience (TBC) (15' + 5' Q&A)
15:45-16:15	Coffee Break (30')
16:15-16:45	Poster Spotlights I * (11 presentations, 2' each) (30')
16:45-19:15	Drinks & Poster Session I (2h30')
19:15-21:15	Dinner (2h00')

Wednesday, 29 October 2025	
<i>Morning Session: <u>Computational Priors for Adaptive Learning</u> Moderator: TBC</i>	
09:00-9:35	Marc Guitart-Masip , Karolinska Institutet, Sweden Bayesian priors in active avoidance and helplessness (25' + 10' Q&A)
9:35-10:10	Fred Callaway , New York University and Harvard University, United States Title TBC (25' + 10' Q&A)
10:10-10:45	Rebecca Lawson , University of Cambridge, United Kingdom Title TBC (25' + 10' Q&A)
10:45-14:45	<i>Lunch & social programme or free time – TBC (4h00')</i>
<i>Afternoon Session: <u>Adaptive Plasticity for Stress resilience</u> Moderator: TBC</i>	
14:45-15:20	TBC (25' + 10' Q&A)
15:20-15:55	Marloes Henckens , Radboudumc, Netherlands Charting the neural correlates of individual variability in stress susceptibility across time and space (25' + 10' Q&A)

15:55-16:15	Coffee Break (20')
16:15-16:50	Annegret Falkner , Princeton Neuroscience Institute, United States Title TBC (25' + 10' Q&A)
16:50-17:05	Short Talk 5 (10' + 5' Q&A)
17:05-17:35	Poster Spotlights II * (11 presentations, 2' each) (30')
17:35-19:35	Drinks & Poster Session II (2h')
19:45-21:45	Dinner (2h00')

Thursday, 30 October 2025	
<i>Morning Session 1: <u>Adaptive plasticity in neurodevelopment</u></i> <i>Moderator: TBC</i>	
09:00-09:35	Laurel Gabard-Durnam , Northeastern University, United States Translational neuroplasticity mechanisms in development (25' + 10' Q&A)
09:35-10:10	Tallie Z. Baram , University of California Irvine, United States Title TBC (25' + 10' Q&A)
10:10-10:25	Short talk 6 (10' + 5' Q&A)
10:25-10:45	Coffee Break (20')
<i>Morning Session 2: <u>Molecules for adapting genes (epigenetics)</u></i> <i>Moderator: TBC</i>	
10:45-11:20	Barbara Franke , Radboud University, Netherlands Title TBC (25' + 10' Q&A)
11:20-11:55	Isabelle Mansuy , University of Zurich and ETH Zurich, Switzerland Title TBC (25' + 10' Q&A)
11:55-12:10	Ana Pombo , Max Delbrück Centre for Molecular Medicine, Germany Title TBC (25' + 10' Q&A)
12:10-12:25	Short talk 7 (10' + 5' Q&A)

12:25-14:00	Lunch (1h35')
<i>Afternoon Session: <u>Adaptation across nested timescales</u></i> <i>Moderator: TBC</i>	
14:00-14:15	Short talk 7 (10' + 5' Q&A)
14:15-14:30	Short talk 8 (10' + 5' Q&A)
14:30-14:45	Short talk 9 (10' + 5' Q&A)
14:45-15:20	Christopher Kuzawa , Harvard University, United States Title TBC (25' + 10' Q&A)
15:20-15:40	Coffee Break (20')
15:40-16:40	Debate (1hr00') about redefining mental health as adaptation to uncertainty across nested timescales (TBC)
16:40-17:00	Closing Remarks (20')
17:00-19:00	<i>Free time (1h50')</i>
19:00-21:30	Farewell Dinner (2h30')

Friday, 31 October 2025
Breakfast & departure

Poster Spotlights I *

Thursday, 30 October 2025

16:15-16:45

11 presentations, 2' each: TBC

Poster Spotlights II **

Friday, 31 October 2025

17:15-17:45

11 presentations, 2' each: TBC