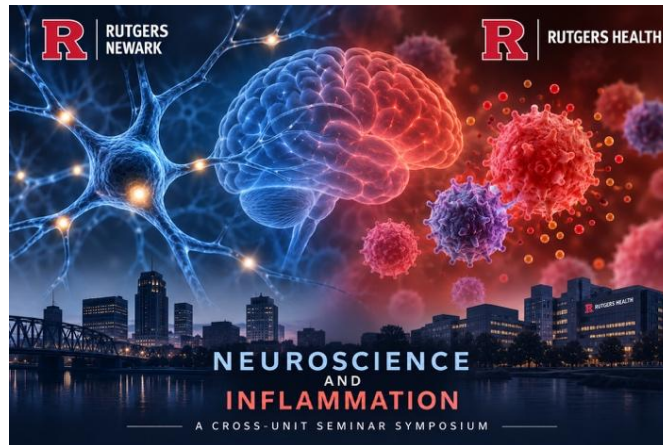


Cross-Unit Research Seminar Series

#1: Bridging the Mind and the Immune System



We are pleased to announce the launch of a new Cross-Unit Research Seminar Series. This first collaborative initiative brings together pioneering minds from Rutgers University–Newark and Rutgers Health to explore the complex intersections of neurobiology, immunology, and disease pathology.

Join us for a morning of rapid-fire talks, cutting-edge data sharing, and cross-campus networking featuring 9 distinguished faculty investigators working at the forefront of neuroinflammation research.

October 6, 2026

9:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Aidekman Seminar Room 103
Center for **M**olecular & **B**ehavioral **N**euroscience
Rutgers University-Newark, 197 University Ave, Newark, NJ 07102

ZOOM

<https://rutgers.zoom.us/j/4041419937?pwd=dFBXMDJHUVNsTjVhMGtKUzg2bG4vdz09>

Meeting ID: 404 141 9937

Passcode: 112835

[Please register here.](#)

Coffee and refreshments will be served during the seminar.

Meeting Schedule

9:00 AM: Arriving, coffee and breakfast

9:30 AM – 9:35 AM | Welcome & Opening Remarks

Brief introduction to the cross-unit initiative –William Gause, Ph.D.

9:35 AM – 10:35 AM | Session I: Cellular Mechanisms of Neuroinflammation

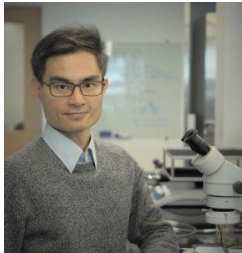
9:35 AM – 9:50 AM: Decoding microbe-neuron crosstalk in health and disease.



Liwen Deng, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor and Chancellor Scholar
Center for Immunity & Inflammation
Department of Anesthesiology
Rutgers Health – New Jersey Medical School

9:50 AM – 10:05 AM: Astrocyte endolysosomes as a hub for processing lipid signals



Ching-On Wong, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor
Department of Biological Sciences
Rutgers University – Newark

10:05 AM – 10:20 AM: Investigating the mechanistic triggers of helminth-mediated neuroinflammation



Mark C. Siracusa, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Chancellor Scholar
Center for Immunity & Inflammation
Department of Medicine
Rutgers Health – New Jersey Medical School

10:20 AM – 10:35 AM: Gatekeeping mRNA fate: RNP granules in neuronal development and repair



Pabitra K. Sahoo, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Department of Biological Sciences
Rutgers University – Newark

10:35 AM – 10:50 AM: Programming DNA and RNA Nanostructures from Assembly to Function



Fei Zhang, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Department of Chemistry
Rutgers University – Newark

10:50 AM – 11:00 AM | Coffee Break

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM | Session II: Translational Neuroimmunology & Disease Models

11:00 AM – 11:15 AM: Consequences of Stress and Disease Across Decision-Making, Neuromodulatory, and Neuroimmune Systems



Elizabeth Holly, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Center for Molecular and Behavioral Neuroscience
Rutgers University – Newark

11:15 AM – 11:30 AM: Host-Microbe Interactions in Regulating Inflammation



Mengze Lyu, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Division of Medical Oncology
Departments of Medicine and Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
Robert Wood Johnson Medical School
Institute for Infectious and Inflammatory Diseases
Rutgers University

11:30 AM – 11:45 AM: Cerebrovascular Inflammation in Cerebral Amyloid Angiopathy



Hyung Jin Ahn, Ph.D.

Associate Professor
Department of Pharmacology, Physiology & Neuroscience
The Brain Health Institute
Rutgers Health – New Jersey Medical School

11:45 AM – 12:00 PM: Genital referred pain in response to "slipped-disc"-induced nerve root inflammation



Barry R. Komisaruk, Ph.D.

Distinguished Professor, Psychology
Rutgers University – Newark

12:00 PM | Closing