

On October 31, 2014 the fifth annual Meeting of the Minds Symposium, entitled “Parkinson’s Disease and Deep Brain Stimulation Therapies: Practice and Theory”, took place at the Charles B. Wang Center at Stony Brook University. The symposium was sponsored by Stony Brook University Neurosciences Institute with support from the founding departments, the hospital, and the Hartman Center for Parkinson’s Disease Research. The symposium attracted more than 200 physicians, nurses, researchers, students and other healthcare professionals with an interest in the neurosciences.



Ali Rezai, MD, delivers keynote.

[Ali Rezai, MD](#), a world-renowned deep brain stimulation (DBS) and movement disorder expert from The Ohio State University, delivered the keynote address, “Neuromodulation: Current and Future Applications.” He explained how the use of DBS is considered when a patient has progressed to non-responsive Parkinson’s disease and presented findings from some of his latest DBS research. In his review of neuronal stimulation as a therapy, Dr. Rezai showed that in addition to its use in patients with Parkinson’s disease, it is now used or being considered for a multitude of conditions including peripheral pain, seizures, and incontinence, among others. The keys to making DBS work have been advances in: brain center circuit connectivity, resolution of brain imaging, construction and guidance of electrodes, and in vivo electrophysiological monitoring, which together allow placement of electrodes with sub-millimeter accuracy into appropriate brain centers.



From L to R; back row: John Lutterbie, PhD, Lorne Mendell, PhD and Craig Evinger, PhD. Front row: Mary Kritzer, PhD, Ali Rezai, MD, Guy Schwartz, MD, and J. Andre Melendez, PhD.

The symposium also featured six other experts in the field of Parkinson's disease and movement disorders (see above). [Guy Schwartz, MD](#), who recently joined Stony Brook Medicine as Director of the Movement Disorders Section, Department of Neurology, provided "An Update on Parkinson's Disease Treatment". He summarized Parkinson's disease symptoms and drug treatments, and addressed the genetic and environmental causes of the disease. He also summarized research findings that indicate CoQ10 and ibuprofen therapy as potential agents, in addition to levodopa, to help patients with Parkinson's disease.

Adding a touch of drama to the symposium, [John Lutterbie, PhD](#), Professor, Department of Theatre Arts at Stony Brook University, opened his presentation, "Theatre Training as Effective Therapy in Parkinson's Disease: Preliminary Findings" by introducing theatre arts student, Margarite Espada, who performed a theatre training exercise for the audience, using her body to express the emotions of fear and anger. Then second-year Stony Brook University School of Medicine student researchers addressed the audience about their research into the use of theatre training, vs. traditional physical therapy training, to improve the quality of life for patients with Parkinson's disease.





From L to R: Dennis Choi, MD, PhD, Lorna Role, PhD, Ramin Parsey, MD, PhD, Raphael Davis, MD, and Kenneth Kaushansky, MD (Dean, Stony Brook University School of Medicine).

The fifth annual “Meeting of the Minds” was hosted by [Dennis Choi](#), MD, PhD, Director, Stony Brook University Neurosciences Institute, Professor and Chair, Department of Neurology, Stony Brook Medicine. The morning session moderator was [Lorna Role](#), PhD, Co-Director, Stony Brook University Neurosciences Institute, Professor and Chair, Department of Neurology & Behavior, Stony Brook Medicine. The afternoon session moderator was [Ramin Parsey](#), MD, PhD, Co-Director, Stony Brook University Neurosciences Institute; Professor and Chair, Department of Psychiatry, Stony Brook Medicine. [Raphael Davis](#), MD is a Co-Director of Stony Brook University Neurosciences Institute, and Professor and Chair, Department of Neurosurgery, Stony Brook Medicine.



Dennis Choi, MD, PhD, gives the closing remarks.

The mission of Meeting of the Minds is to assemble investigators, clinicians, donors, and the public to increase collaborative investigations and trials, understanding, and support in the areas highlighted by the meeting.