

6th ANNUAL

Meeting of the Minds Symposium

Friday, October 30 • 8 am to 4:15 pm

Keynote Speaker



Joseph D. Buxbaum, PhD Dr. Buxbaum is the G. Harold and Leila Y. Mathers Professor of Psychiatry, Neuroscience, and Genetic and Genomic Sciences, and Vice Chair, Research, Department of Psychiatry, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. He is also Director of the Seaver Autism Center at Mount Sinai Hospital. Dr. Buxbaum's research focuses on using techniques of molecular genetics and neurobiology to identify, and ultimately characterize, genes that contribute to autism susceptibility. His laboratory has identified common and rare genetic variants that underlie autism spectrum disorders and has developed model systems in which novel therapeutics can be tested. In addition, Dr. Buxbaum has taken a lead in several international consortia, most recently the Autism Sequencing Consortium aimed at sequencing 20,000 exomes, dedicated to advancing research in autism spectrum disorders. Dr. Buxbaum is the author of more than 250 publications, and he is Co-Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Molecular Autism*.

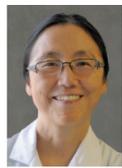
Other Speakers



James C. McPartland, PhD Dr. McPartland is an Associate Professor of Child Psychiatry and Psychology at Yale University Child Study Center. He graduated magna cum laude in psychology from Harvard University and received a doctoral degree in child clinical psychology from the University of Washington. He completed pre- and post-doctoral clinical fellowships focusing on autism and related disorders at Yale and is a licensed child psychologist and Director of the Yale Developmental Disabilities Clinic. Dr. McPartland's program of research investigates the brain bases of neurodevelopmental disabilities to develop biologically based tools for detection and treatment. He is the Principal Investigator of the Autism Biomarkers Consortium for Clinical Trials, a nationwide effort to identify biomarkers to support intervention research in autism spectrum disorders. His research is supported by the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH); National Institute of Child Health and Human Development; National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke; National Alliance for Research on Schizophrenia and Depression (NARSAD); the Autism Science Foundation; the Waterloo Foundation; Autism Speaks; the Patterson Trust; and the Simons Foundation. His contributions to the field have been recognized by a Behavioral Science Track Award for Rapid Transition and a Patient-Oriented Research Career Development Award from NIMH, the NARSAD Atherton Young Investigator Award, the International Society for Autism Research Young Investigator Award, and the American Psychological Association Division of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Sara S. Sparrow Early Career Research Award. Dr. McPartland has published 5 books and 80 scholarly works on autism and related topics. He is on the editorial board of the *Journal of Mental Health Research in Intellectual Disabilities* and is an Associate Editor for the *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*. He has served on the Executive Committee of the American Psychological Association's Division of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and currently serves on the board of the International Society for Autism Research.



Kenneth D. Gadow, PhD Dr. Gadow is a Professor of Psychiatry at Stony Brook Medicine. His career, which spans three decades, embraces a number of disciplines including: brain imaging, genetics, infectious disease, pediatrics, special education, psychology and psychiatry. His research has been supported by the National Institutes of Health over the past 25 years, and he has published scores of scientific papers and numerous books about child mental health. For the past 14 years, Dr. Gadow has served as the Director of Clinical Research at Stony Brook Medicine's Cody Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities. His first personal interactions with children who were labeled as having an autism spectrum disorder (ASD) were as a special education teacher. Since then, he has written extensively about ASD-related topics including: aggression, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, anxiety, assessment, depression, diagnosis, drug therapy, family history of psychopathology, gender differences, gene variants, obstetric complications, psychiatric co-morbidity, psychiatric symptom-induced impairment, schizophrenia spectrum disorder symptoms, screening instruments, season of birth, sleep disorders and tics/Tourette syndrome. His most recent areas of scientific interest include brain imaging studies of adults with ASD, mental health issues in HIV-infected children in Uganda, biopsychosocial models of psychiatric pathogenesis and the development of practical, cost-effective psychiatric assessment instruments for children, adolescents and adults.



Ellen Li, MD, PhD Dr. Li is Professor of Medicine, Chief of the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Professor of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, Stony Brook University School of Medicine. Dr. Li oversees the clinical, research and training of a Division that specializes in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases of the digestive tract and liver. She received her MD and PhD degrees in 1980 from the Washington University St. Louis Medical Scientist Training Program, partially funded by the Olin fellowship program. She did her residency training in internal medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, and then returned to St. Louis to complete her subspecialty training in gastroenterology. Dr. Li was a founding member and past president of the Academic Women's Network at Washington University. She was a Lucille B. Markey Scholar and a Burroughs Wellcome Fund Toxicology Scholar. She was also elected to the American Society for Clinical Investigation and the Association of American Physicians. Dr. Li was also the Director of the National Institutes of Health-sponsored Silvio Conte Digestive Diseases Research Core Center and was the driving force in developing the Biobanking core within this center. Dr. Li's major research interest is on defining the role of the gut microbiome in digestive diseases, particularly inflammatory bowel diseases, colon cancer and functional GI disorders (e.g. irritable bowel syndrome). Since coming to Stony Brook in 2009, Dr. Li launched an interdepartmental GI Biobanking Core and began studying the role of the gut microbiome in autism spectrum disorders, with the generous support of the Simons Foundation. The GI Biobanking Core provides an infrastructure that fosters interdepartmental collaborations between clinicians and basic scientists in conducting clinical translational research in digestive disorders. Dr. Li is the author of over 80 peer-reviewed articles and several chapters in the *Textbook of Gastroenterology*. She has also been recognized as a mentor to students and junior faculty, particularly those underrepresented in the study of medicine.



Howard I. Sirotkin, PhD Dr. Sirotkin is an Associate Professor in the Department of Neurobiology and Behavior at Stony Brook Medicine. He received his PhD in genetics from Albert Einstein College of Medicine and completed post-doctoral fellowships in developmental biology at NYU School of Medicine and Stanford University School of Medicine. Dr. Sirotkin's research focuses on regulation of neural gene expression and neurogenesis in zebrafish; genetic and epigenetic regulation of behavior; and modeling of neurological disorders. His laboratory is generating zebrafish models of autism spectrum disorders with the goal of employing them for high-throughput drug discovery. He has published more than 30 peer-reviewed articles and has served on a variety of National Institutes of Health grant review panels. Dr. Sirotkin has a strong interest in science education. He has directed Howard Hughes Medical Institute- and New York State Stem Cell Science-sponsored summer research institutes for undergraduates, served on the faculty of the Marine Biological Laboratory's Neural Systems and Behavior summer course, and is the director of Stony Brook University's Neuroscience master's program. He is also a Stony Brook University Fellow, and National Academies Education Fellow in the Life Sciences.



Matthew D. Lerner, PhD Dr. Lerner is an Assistant Professor of Psychology, Psychiatry and Pediatrics at Stony Brook University, where he directs the Social Competence and Treatment Lab. He received his PhD in clinical psychology from University of Virginia. He completed his internship in child clinical psychology at University of Chicago Medical Center, as well as fellowships in leadership education in neurodevelopmental and related disabilities at the University of Illinois – Chicago. He is the founding Director and current Research Director of the Spotlight Program at the Northeast Arc in Massachusetts, a year-round program for social competence and confidence development, serving more than 200 youth annually. Dr. Lerner's research focuses on understanding emergence and "real world" implications of social problems in children and adolescents (especially those with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and autism spectrum disorders), as well as development, evaluation and dissemination of novel, evidence-based approaches for ameliorating those problems. He has published more than 35 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters, and serves on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders* and *Journal of Behavior Therapy and Experimental Psychiatry*, and as Co-Chair of the Autism Spectrum and Developmental Disabilities Special Interest Group at the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies. Dr. Lerner has received grants and awards from organizations including the Medical Foundation, the American Psychological Association, the Association for Psychological Science, the Society of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Most recently, he received the Young Investigator Award from the International Society for Autism Research and was a Finalist for the Director's Early Independence Award at the National Institutes of Health.



Patricia Whitaker-Azmitia, PhD Dr. Whitaker-Azmitia is a Professor of Psychology and of Psychiatry at Stony Brook University. She also serves as Area Head for the Psychology program in Integrative Neuroscience. Dr. Whitaker-Azmitia studies the role of maternal environments in programming fetal brain development. A particular focus of her research is how susceptibility to autism may be increased using translational epidemiology techniques – that is taking factors known to be different in mothers who give birth to children with autism and testing the consequence of these different factors in animal models. This field of translational epidemiology is relatively new in human brain development, but vital to understanding how autism may arise. Dr. Whitaker-Azmitia is the author of more than 100 publications.