

5TH ANNUAL

Meeting of the Minds Symposium

Friday, October 31 • 8:30 am to 4 pm

Keynote Speaker



Ali R. Rezai, MD Dr. Rezai is Associate Dean of Neuroscience and the Director/CEO of the Comprehensive Brain and Spine Center at The Ohio State University. He is a board-certified neurosurgeon and renowned expert in the application of brain stimulation to treat movement disorders such as Parkinson's disease, dystonia, or tremor, as well as other conditions such as depression, obsessive compulsive disorder and chronic pain. He earned his medical degree from University of Southern California and completed neurosurgical training at New York University, University of Toronto and Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden. He has been the director of the Center for Functional and Restorative Neurosurgery at New York University Medical Center, and the director of the Center for Neurological Restoration, as well as the Jane and Lee Seidman Chair in Functional Neurosurgery at the Cleveland Clinic. He was named one of the best doctors in America in Castle and Connolly's *Guide to America's Top Doctors for 2001-2014*. Dr. Rezai is a Past President of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons, the North American Neuromodulation Society and the American Society of Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery (ASSFN). He is also the recipient of the Bottrell Neurosurgical Award and the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) William Sweet Investigator Award.

Other Speakers



Guy Schwartz, MD Dr. Schwartz is a board-certified neurologist, and Assistant Professor and Director of the Movement Disorders Section in the Department of Neurology at Stony Brook Medicine. His research interests include deep brain stimulation and botulinum toxin treatment for movement disorders, including Parkinson's disease, dystonia, essential tremor and Tourette's syndrome, as well as exploring the mechanism of and treatment for visual hallucinations in Parkinson's disease. He presented "Ictal Visual Hallucinations in Parkinson's disease" at this year's 18th International Congress of Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders in Stockholm, Sweden, describing a potentially novel treatment for this condition. He received his medical degree from Sackler School of Medicine in Tel Aviv, and performed his neurology residency and fellowship at Long Island Jewish Hospital and North Shore University Hospital, respectively.



John Lutterbie, PhD Dr. Lutterbie is a Professor in the Department of Theatre Arts at Stony Brook University. His research interests are exploring the value of neuroscience as it applies to understanding the nature of theatre and performance as a dynamic system. His most recent book, *Toward a General Theory of Acting: Cognitive Science and Performance* (Palgrave-Macmillan), focuses on the application of research approaches to the art of the actor. Dr. Lutterbie uses his understanding of the brain and complex systems to develop a theory of time-based aesthetics to explore the function of art as an instrument of change in everyday life. He received a Master of Fine Arts in directing from the University of Texas at Austin and a PhD in theatre history and criticism from the University of Washington in Seattle. He is the founder and co-director of the Center for Embodied Cognition, an interdisciplinary research center that uses the arts as the focal point for understanding cognition, the body and intersubjective relationships. He has published widely. His first book is titled *Hearing Voices: Modern Drama and the Problem of Subjectivity* (University of Michigan Press).



Craig Evinger, PhD Dr. Evinger is a Professor in the Department of Neurobiology and Behavior at Stony Brook Medicine. His research interests focus on Parkinson's disease (PD) and dystonia. Using the trigeminal blink reflex model system, he utilizes animal models to dissect the mechanisms and circuits underlying the disparate motor disturbances seen in these conditions. Dr. Evinger has shown that the blink reflex is similarly aberrant in patients with PD and in PD animal models, and that deep brain stimulation at different frequencies can modify the blink reflex. Dr. Evinger received a PhD in physiology and biophysics from University of Washington, and completed a fellowship at New York University before joining the faculty at Stony Brook. He is also a member of several foundation advisory boards and study sections.



Lorne Mendell, PhD Dr. Mendell is a Distinguished Professor in the Department of Neurobiology and Behavior at Stony Brook Medicine. His PhD training and much of his early work was in neurophysiology at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and led to the discovery of the "windup" phenomenon in the spinal cord. His fellowship at Harvard Medical School led to the procedure of spike triggered averaging. His current research has taken him to issues related to plasticity of spinal connections during high frequency activity and after peripheral nerve or spinal cord injury. He has been externally funded continuously throughout his career, and has been a member of two spinal cord injury research consortia, including an international consortium sponsored by the Christopher and Dana Reeve International Research Foundation. Dr. Mendell has received numerous awards, serves on several boards of directors, is a past chairman of the Neurobiology department at Stony Brook Medicine and is a past president of the Society for Neuroscience.



J. Andres Melendez, PhD Dr. Melendez is the Empire Innovation Professor of Nanobioscience at the SUNY College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering, and SUNY Albany. He earned his PhD in molecular biology from SUNY Albany, and completed fellowships at Georgetown University and Albany Medical College, where he studied the inflammatory processes that accompany oxygen toxicity and post-partum uterine involution. In 1997 he was one of the first recipients of the NCI Mentored Career Development Award to Promote Diversity. He rose through the ranks at Albany Medical College where he developed a program directed at understanding the free radical signals relevant to metastatic disease progression, aging and infectious diseases, and has remained continuously funded by both private and federal funding agencies. In 2011, he was recruited to his current SUNY positions, where he continues to work on free radical signaling and the development of next generation nanoparticle-based therapeutic vehicles for the diagnosis and treatment of degenerative diseases. He is a council member of the Society for Free Radical Biology and Medicine and serves on the editorial board of its journal, *Free Radical Biology & Medicine*. Dr. Melendez has received numerous awards and has served on many review and advisory boards for the government, academic institutions, scientific societies and companies.



Mary Kritzer, PhD Dr. Kritzer is a Professor in the Department of Neurobiology and Behavior at Stony Brook Medicine. Her lab explores the influence of estrogen and androgen on the physiology and function of dopamine-dependent processes in prefrontal cortex and other brain centers that are at risk in schizophrenia, autism, attention deficit disorder and Parkinson's disease. Current work utilizes single-unit and population electrophysiological measurements in subthalamic nucleus and cerebral cortex to characterize interactions between hormone effects, lesions and L-Dopa therapy. Dr. Kritzer received her PhD in neuroanatomy from Yale University, and completed fellowships at Yale and University of Oxford. She is on the board of the Cody Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities, and is the Neurobiology graduate program director for Stony Brook.