AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR NEUROCHEMISTRY

April 18–22, 2026 | Saint Charles, Missouri

PROGRAM BOOK

APRIL 18–22, 2026 | SAINT CHARLES, MISSOURI

St. Charles Convention Center

ASN American Society for Neurochemistry

The Latest in Molecular and Cellular Neurobiology in the Americas

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WELCOME LETTER

Dear ASN Members,

I am delighted to welcome you to the **56th Annual American Society for Neurochemistry Meeting (ASN 2026)** taking place in historic St. Charles, Missouri. I want to wish everyone safe travels and an exciting, rewarding ASN 2026 meeting.

ASN meetings are renowned for fostering interactions among early career scientists and senior scientists, as well as providing extensive opportunities for trainees to network with their peers and meet seasoned investigators.

The ASN 2026 planning committee, including the program committee, ASN officers, and Council, have worked hard to put together an exciting scientific program. We hope that each of you will thoroughly enjoy the meeting and take-home new ideas and make the most of the opportunity to establish new connections and collaborations.

Each of the 4 days of the ASN 2026 program will include an internationally renowned Plenary speaker, 2 symposia, and 6 colloquia.

There will also be 2 poster sessions during the meeting. We hope that you will enjoy hearing and discussing cutting-edge science with lots of opportunities to interact with your colleagues.

We are very grateful to the local host committee and the many sponsors of ASN 2026 for supporting and providing an exciting venue for the meeting. We are committed to fostering a safe environment where scientific ideas can be exchanged, and all attendees can interact and converse free from harassment and discrimination.

Throughout the meeting, there will be multiple social gatherings to help unite scientists with diverse expertise and backgrounds. We are happy that you have made it to St. Charles, and we hope you enjoy exciting science and lively discussions during this week!

Sincerely,
Wilma Friedman, PhD
ASN President, 2025-2027

ASN COMMITTEES

Planning Committee

Wilma Friedman, PhD
ASN President

Jeffrey Dupree
ASN 2026
Program Chair

Michael R. Nichols, PhD
Past ASN President &
2026 Local Chair

Joshua Burda, PhD
ASN Secretary

DiAnna Hynds, PhD
ASN Treasurer

Program Committee Members

Jeffrey Dupree
Virginia Commonwealth University
(ASN 2026 Program Committee Chair)

Doug Feinstein
University of Illinois

Anne Boullerne
University of Illinois

Sarah Lutz
University of Illinois Chicago

Andrew Steelman
University of Illinois Urbanna-Champaign

Travis Denton
Washinton State University

Stephen Crocker
University of Connecticut

Astrid Cardona
University of Texas San Antonio

DiAnna Hynd
Texas Women's University

Local Host Committee Members

Michael Nichols
University of Missouri-St. Louis (Local Host Committee Chair)

Erik Herzog
Washington University in St. Louis

Sarah Ackerman
Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine

Chris Arnatt
Saint Louis University

Daniela Salvemini
Saint Louis University School of Medicine

Shinghua Ding
University of Missouri-Columbia

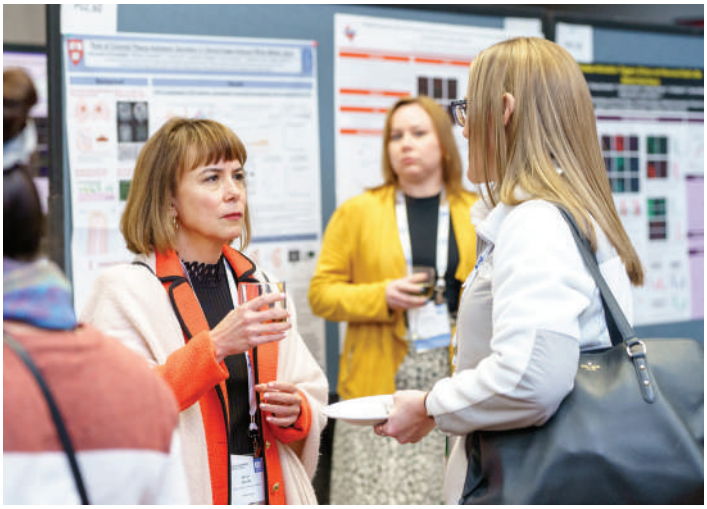
Zezong Gu
University of Missouri-Columbia

ABOUT ASN

About American Society for Neurochemistry (ASN)

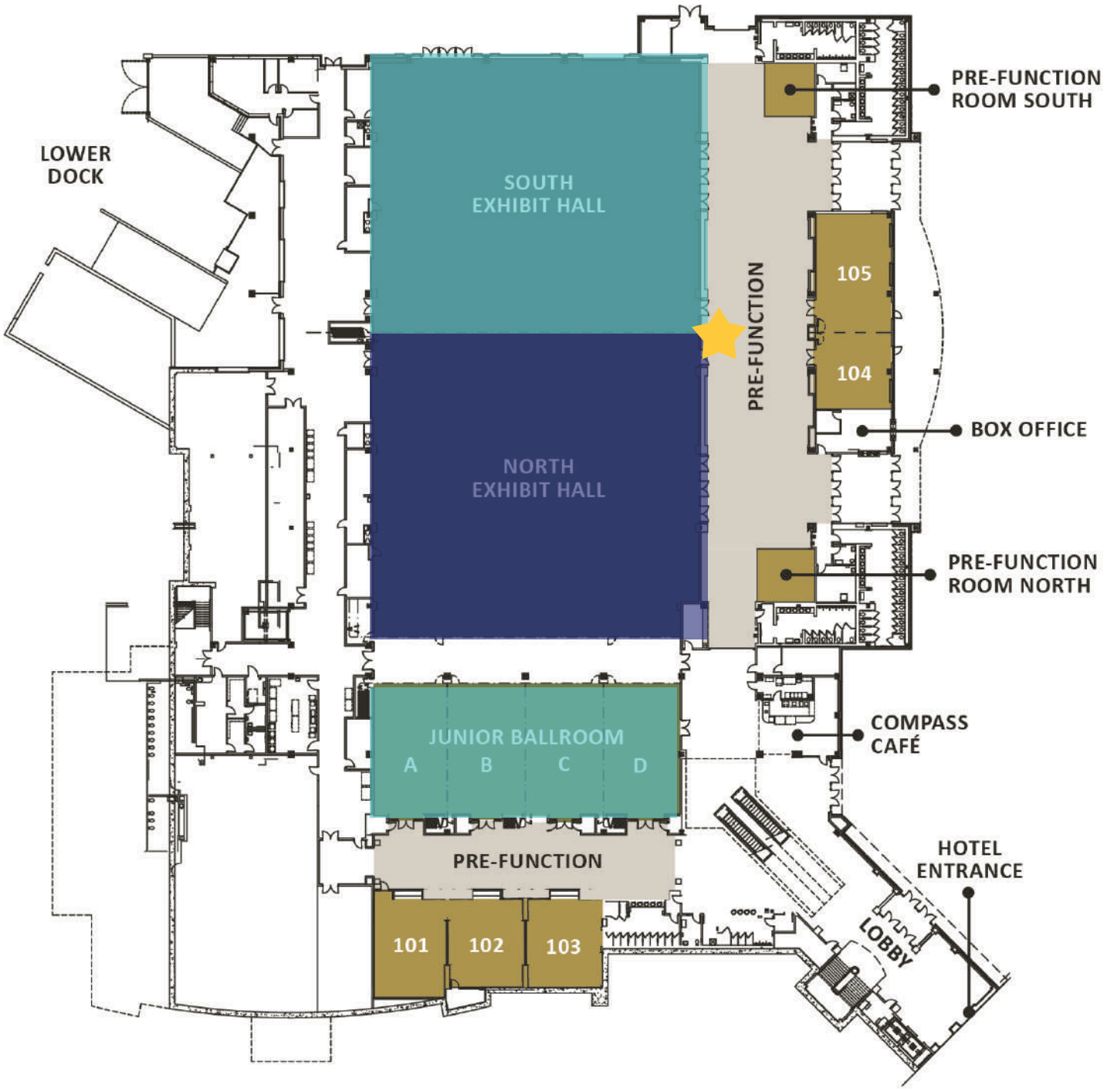
The American Society for Neurochemistry's Missions:

- To advance and promote cellular and molecular neuroscience knowledge
- To advance, promote, support, encourage, and facilitate communication among investigators in neurochemistry and related neurosciences
- To promote, support, encourage, and facilitate the dissemination of information concerning neurochemical research through scientific meetings, seminars, publications and related activities
- To promote, support, and encourage the research of individual cellular and molecular neuroscientists and to engage in any and all other activities for the advancement of the science of neurochemistry which may be deemed advisable
- To ensure that all of its activities remain open to the full participation of scholars of all backgrounds and nationalities.



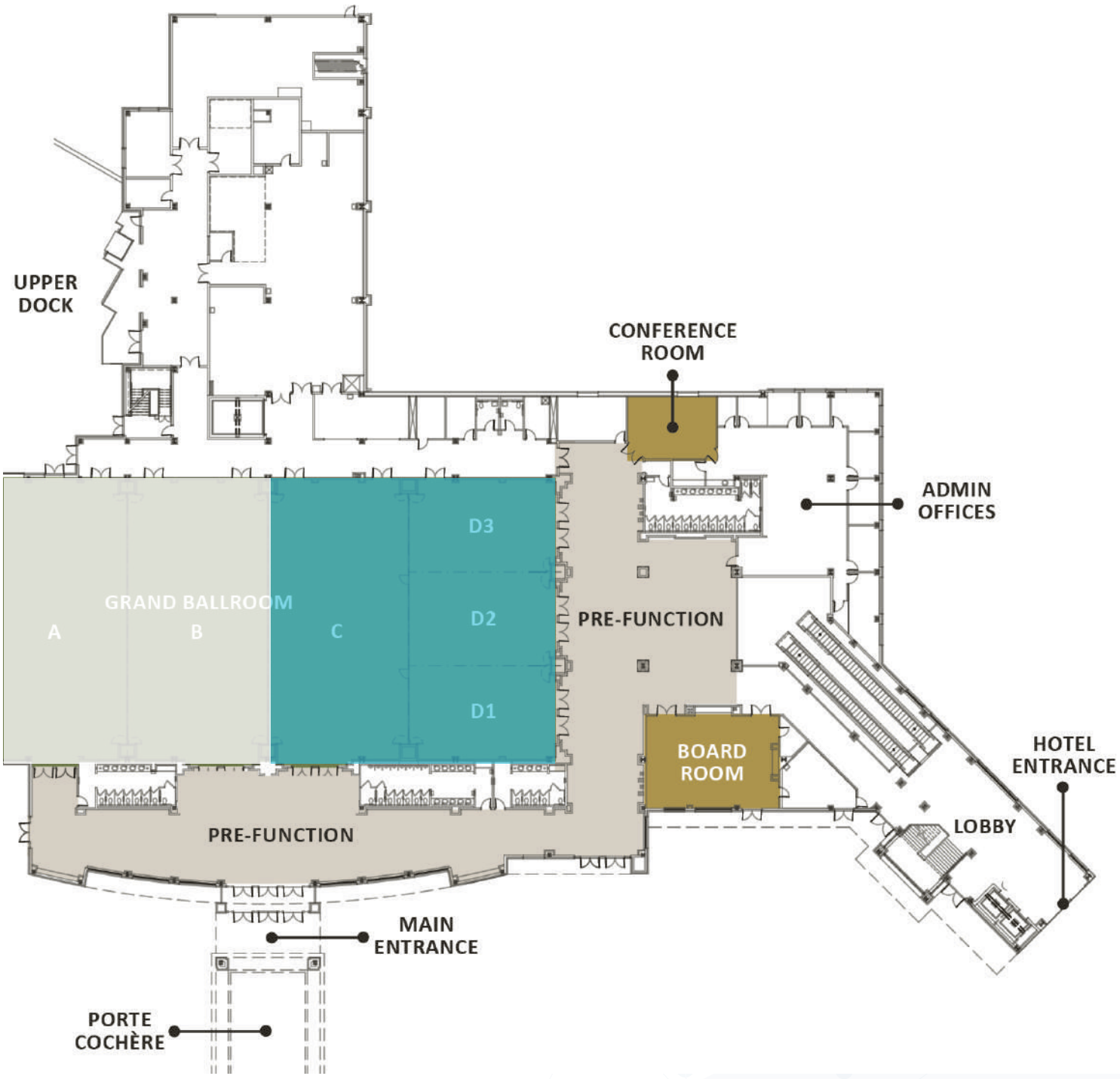
VENUE FLOORPLAN

Lower Level



Registration | Exhibit and Poster Hall | Plenary Session / Breakout Rooms

Upper Level



ASN Gala Reception and Dinner

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

> “ENJOY A DYNAMIC PROGRAM FILLED WITH CUTTING-EDGE SCIENCE AND OPPORTUNITIES TO INTERACT AND EXCHANGE IDEAS WITH COLLEAGUES.

Sincerely,
Wilma Friedman,
PhD ASN President, 2025-2027

SATURDAY
April 18, 2026

Registration Desk Open
2:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Public Forum
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

First Timers' Reception
5:00 pm - 5:30 pm

Welcome Reception
5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

SUNDAY
April 19, 2026

Registration Desk Open
7:00 am - 5:00 pm

Exhibit & Poster Hall Open
9:30 am - 7:00 pm

Plenary
8:15 am - 9:30 am

Coffee Break 9:30 am - 10:00 am

Breakout Sessions
10:00 am - 12:00 pm

WIN (Women in Neurochemistry) Lunch
12:15 pm - 1:15 pm

Lunch Break
12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Breakout Sessions
2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Coffee Break 3:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Breakout Sessions
4:00 pm - 5:30 pm

Poster Session One
5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Student Post-Doc Mingler
7:00 pm - 10:00 pm

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MONDAY
April 20, 2026

Registration Desk Open
7:30 am - 4:30 pm

Exhibit & Poster Hall Open
9:30 am - 4:00 pm

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Plenary
8:15 am - 9:30 am

Coffee Break 9:30 am - 10:00 am

Breakout Sessions
10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Plenary Speaker Lunch
12:15 pm - 1:15 pm

ECDC Forum (Early Career Development Committee)
12:15 pm - 1:45 pm

Lunch Break
12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Breakout Sessions
2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Coffee Break 3:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Breakout Sessions
4:00 pm - 5:30 pm

ASN Business Meeting
5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

TUESDAY
April 21, 2026

Registration Desk Open
7:30 am - 4:30 pm

Exhibit & Poster Hall Open
9:30 am - 7:00 pm

Plenary
8:15 am - 9:30 am

Coffee Break 9:30 am - 10:00 am

Breakout Sessions
10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Plenary Speaker Lunch
12:15 pm - 1:15 pm

Lunch Break
12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Breakout Sessions
2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Coffee Break 3:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Breakout Sessions
4:00 pm - 5:30 pm

Poster Session Two
5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

WEDNESDAY
April 22, 2026

Registration Desk Open
7:30 am - 4:00 pm

Exhibit & Poster Hall Open
9:30 am - 4:00 pm

Plenary
8:15am - 9:30 am

Coffee Break 9:30 am - 10:00 am

Breakout Sessions
10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Plenary Speaker Lunch
12:15 pm - 1:15 pm

Lunch Break
12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Breakout Sessions
2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Coffee Break 3:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Breakout Sessions
4:00 pm - 5:30 pm

ASN Gala Reception
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

ASN Gala Dinner
7:00 pm - 10:00 pm

PLENARY SPEAKERS

MICHAEL HENEKA

Innate immunity in Alzheimer disease

Sunday, April 19

Michael Heneka is a board-certified neurologist and clinician-scientist with over 25 years of experience in studying neurodegenerative diseases at experimental, preclinical and clinical levels. He has a long-standing interest in immunology and neuroscience. While the main focus of his work is related to dementia and Alzheimer's disease, he has also been working on Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis and Parkinson's disease. At the clinical level, he had established a neurodegenerative outpatient unit at both the University of Münster and the University of Bonn in Germany. From 2016 to 2021, he led the department of Neurodegenerative Disease and Geriatric Psychiatry in Bonn.

From January 2022 onwards, he is the Director of the Luxembourg Centre for Systems Biomedicine (LCSB) at the University of Luxembourg and Principal Investigator of the Neuroinflammation group (Heneka Lab).

DIANE LIPSCOMBE

Calcium Ion Channels: Forms and Functions and Implications for Selective Drug Targeting

Monday, April 20

Plenary session supported by a grant from sanofi

Diane Lipscombe is the Reliance Dhirubhai Ambani Director of the Robert J. and Nancy D. Carney Institute for Brain Science and the Thomas J. Watson Jr. Professor of Science in the Department of Neuroscience at Brown University.

Lipscombe studies ion channel regulation and function with particular focus on neuronal voltage-gated calcium ion channels in health and disease including chronic pain and neurological disorders. Lipscombe has uncovered molecular mechanisms that control the form and the function of calcium ion channels in different cell-types and disease states. The lab has shown that one class of calcium ion channel, Cacna1b gene, underlies dynamic changes in the responsiveness of nerves innervating the skin to heat. Pharmacological

inhibition of these channels inhibits heat hypersensitivity associated with neuroinflammation and cytokine release. Lipscombe has also defined the molecular mechanisms that underlie cell-specific and developmentally regulated expression of functionally and pharmacologically distinct splice isoforms. The Lab is funded by NINDS.

Lipscombe is a past President of the Society for Neuroscience, member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and honorary fellow of the Physiological Society (London, UK). At Brown, Lipscombe participates in student teaching and mentorship and numerous governance roles. Lipscombe chaired the Task Force on the Status of Women Faculty at Brown and has received several awards including the Harriet W Sheridan Award for Distinguished Contribution to Teaching and Brown's Distinguished Research Achievement Award.

CHRISTIAN GONZALEZ-BILLAULT

Cell Biology of the Neuron: From Development Through Aging

Tuesday, April 21

Christian Gonzalez-Billault received his initial training in Biochemistry at the Universidad de Chile. He subsequently earned a PhD in Cell and Molecular Biology from the Centro de Biología Molecular Severo Ochoa in Madrid, Spain, under the supervision of Jesús Avila. Following his doctoral studies, he was awarded a postdoctoral fellowship by the Madrid Regional Government. In 2003, he joined the Department of Biology in the Faculty of Science at the Universidad de Chile, where he currently holds the position of Full Professor. More recently, he has assumed partial appointments in the Department of Neuroscience at the Faculty of Medicine of the Universidad de Chile, as well as in the Public Health Unit of the Institute for Nutrition and Food Technology at the same university.

From 2015 to 2023, he served as Director of the Geroscience Center for Brain Health and Metabolism (GERO), an aging research center funded through the Priority Areas Program of the Chilean Commission for Scientific and Technological Research. In 2023, he was

appointed Vice President for Research and Development at the Universidad de Chile, while continuing to serve as Deputy Director of GERO.

Professor Gonzalez-Billault has played an active leadership role in the Chilean scientific community. He served as President of the Chilean Society for Biology, the country's oldest and most traditional scientific society, and the Chilean Society for Neuroscience. He previously directed the PhD Program in Cell, Molecular, and Neuroscience at the Universidad de Chile and was a member of the Frontiers in Science group of the Chilean Academy of Sciences. In 2021, he became the first Chilean scientist to be appointed as an EMBO Associate Member.

The research conducted in his laboratory focuses on elucidating the role of cytoskeletal proteins in neuronal function, encompassing both physiological and pathological contexts. He initiated and has led a successful series of biennial workshops entitled "Emerging Concepts of the Neuronal Cytoskeleton," held in 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2023, and 2025 with an additional meeting scheduled for 2027. This workshop series has received support from organizations such as ISN, EMBO, The Pew Foundation, IUBMB, IBRO-LARC, The Company of Biologists, Andor Technology, Nikon, Zeiss.

More recently, Professor Gonzalez-Billault's research is centered on understanding the impact of aging on brain cells, including both neurons and glial cells. His group employs neurons derived from skin cells to model aging in vitro and investigates the functional and metabolic coupling between astrocytes and neurons during normal aging and in neurological disorders. In addition, he examines the consequences of cellular senescence on neuronal morphology and function, as well as the potential beneficial effects of the ketogenic diet on brain aging.

QING RICHARD LU, Ph.D

Epigenetic Regulation in CNS Repair and Disease

Wednesday, April 22

Plenary session supported by a grant from sanofi

Dr. Lu has been interested in neuroscience and cancer biology to uncover the mechanisms and pathways underlying neurological disorders and cancer. His current research focuses on: 1) how distinct glial cell types such as myelinating oligodendrocytes and their progenitor cells contribute to neurological diseases, and 2) how dysregulated developmental programs and tumor microenvironment cross-communications contribute to brain tumorigenesis, recurrence and metastasis.

During his postdoctoral work at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute/Harvard Medical School, Dr. Lu discovered a pair of bHLH

transcription factors, Olig1 and Olig2, which are critical for oligodendrocyte lineage development and myelination. These findings have set a key milestone in understanding the molecular mechanisms of gliogenesis and brain tumorigenesis.

Dr. Lu's work as an independent investigator, starting at UT Southwestern and then at Cincinnati Children's, has used a combination of state-of-the-art molecular genetic approaches and adopted novel concepts to address the mechanisms underlying neurological diseases including demyelinating disease multiple sclerosis and autism spectrum disorders as well as brain tumorigenesis.

My lab has a strong translational theme with two major directions:

1) Development of novel therapeutics for promoting myelin repair to treat neurodegenerative diseases such as multiple sclerosis;

2) Development of targeted therapy, radiotherapy, and immunotherapy to treat brain tumors such as medulloblastoma and malignant gliomas, including glioblastoma and diffuse midline gliomas (DMG/DIPG).

Our research goals include dissecting the etiological mechanisms of these neurological diseases and cancers to develop effective therapies by promoting functional regeneration while blocking brain tumorigenesis and recurrence.

Dr. Lu is the recipient of several awards, including Javits Neuroscience Award from the NIH-National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, Harry Weaver Neuroscience Award from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, and Best Research Award at the Cincinnati Children's Medical Center.

SOCIAL EVENTS

SATURDAY, APRIL 18

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Public Forum

- Junior Ballroom AB
- Free parking and admission, no registration necessary

Speakers / Moderator / Special Guests: Michael Nichols, PhD; Seema Tiwari Woodruff, PhD; Larry Sherman, PhD; Seema Tiwari Woodruff, PhD; Jameson Holloman, MD; Dr. Aimee Dunlap; Mr. Les Gatrel

An interactive discussion on the latest findings presented by experts in the field of MS. Topics will range from basic scientific research to clinical aspects of MS. Open to patients, family members, caregivers, advocates, researchers, and anyone interested in learning more.

5:00 PM – 5:30 PM

First Timers' Reception

- North Exhibit Hall, ASN Exhibit and Poster Hall
- Open to all registered first-time attendees Name badges must be worn and visible for entry.

Attending ASN for the first time? We welcome you to join other first-time attendees and meet new friends over drinks.

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Welcome Reception

- North Exhibit Hall, ASN Exhibit and Poster Hall
- Open to all registered attendees. Name badges must be worn and visible for entry.

We are excited to welcome you to ASN 2026 with a drink and some light canapes surrounded by your ASN colleagues! Join us at the Welcome Reception and catch up with some old friends and make new ones.

SUNDAY, APRIL 19

12:15 PM – 1:15 PM

Meet the Plenary Speaker Lunch

- Room 103
- Pre-registration required
- $ 15 USD

This is your opportunity to meet and interact with Michael Heneka, over a plated lunch.

12:15 PM – 1:15 PM

Women in Neurochemistry Lunch

- Room 104 & 105
- Pre-registration required
- $ 65 USD

The WIN (Women in Neurochemistry) lunch is an inclusive networking and community-building event designed to foster meaningful connections across career stages. Round table discussions focus on topics such as career development, mentoring, and work-life balance. Each table includes early-career trainees and established scientists from academia or industry, promoting dialogue and long-term relationships. Buffet lunch is provided.

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Poster Session One

- North Exhibit Hall, ASN Exhibit and Poster Hall
- Open to all registered attendees. Name badges must be worn and visible for entry.

Learn about new research and network with poster abstract authors.

7:15PM – 9:15 PM

Student Post-Doc Mingler

- Chicken N Pickle (Check walking directions)
- Open to student/post docs. Pre-Registration required

Meet some of your fellow students or post docs while enjoying a round of pickleball!

MONDAY, APRIL 20

12:15 PM – 1:15 PM

Meet the Plenary Speaker Lunch

- Room 103
- Pre-registration required
- $ 15 USD

This is your opportunity to meet and interact with Diane Lipscombe, over a plated lunch.

12:15 PM – 1:45 PM

ECDC Forum - Exploring Career Paths in Neuroscience - Panel Discussion & Networking Event

- Junior Ballroom AB

The Early Career Development Committee (ECDC) will host a panel discussion focused on diverse career paths in neuroscience for trainees and early-career scientists. The second half of the session will provide opportunities for participant engagement through Q&A, small-group discussions, and networking.

Panelists:

Sarah E. Lutz, PhD
Douglas Feinstein, PhD
Sandra Hewett, PhD
Stefanie Giera, PhD
Karen Chandross, PhD

TUESDAY, APRIL 21

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

ASN High School Day

One of the central missions of the ASN is to introduce academic career choices and promote diversity, equity, and inclusion at early levels of education and scientific training. As part of this effort, we have invited students from a local High School to engage with early career scientists and experience the scientific excitement of the ASN conference. ASN is enthusiastic about providing this opportunity for young students to experience the latest research in neurochemistry and inspiring them to pursue a scientific career.

12:15 PM – 1:15 PM

Meet the Plenary Speaker Lunch

- Room 103
- Pre-registration required
- $ 15 USD

This is your opportunity to meet and interact with Christian Gonzalez-Billault, over a plated lunch.

4:30 PM – 6:00 PM

Poster Session Two

- North Exhibit Hall, ASN Exhibit and Poster Hall
- Open to all registered attendees. Name badges must be worn and visible for entry.

Learn about new research and network with poster abstract authors.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

12:15 PM – 1:15 PM

Meet the Plenary Speaker Lunch

- Room 103
- Pre-registration required
- $ 15 USD

This is your opportunity to meet and interact with Qing Richard Lu, over a plated lunch.

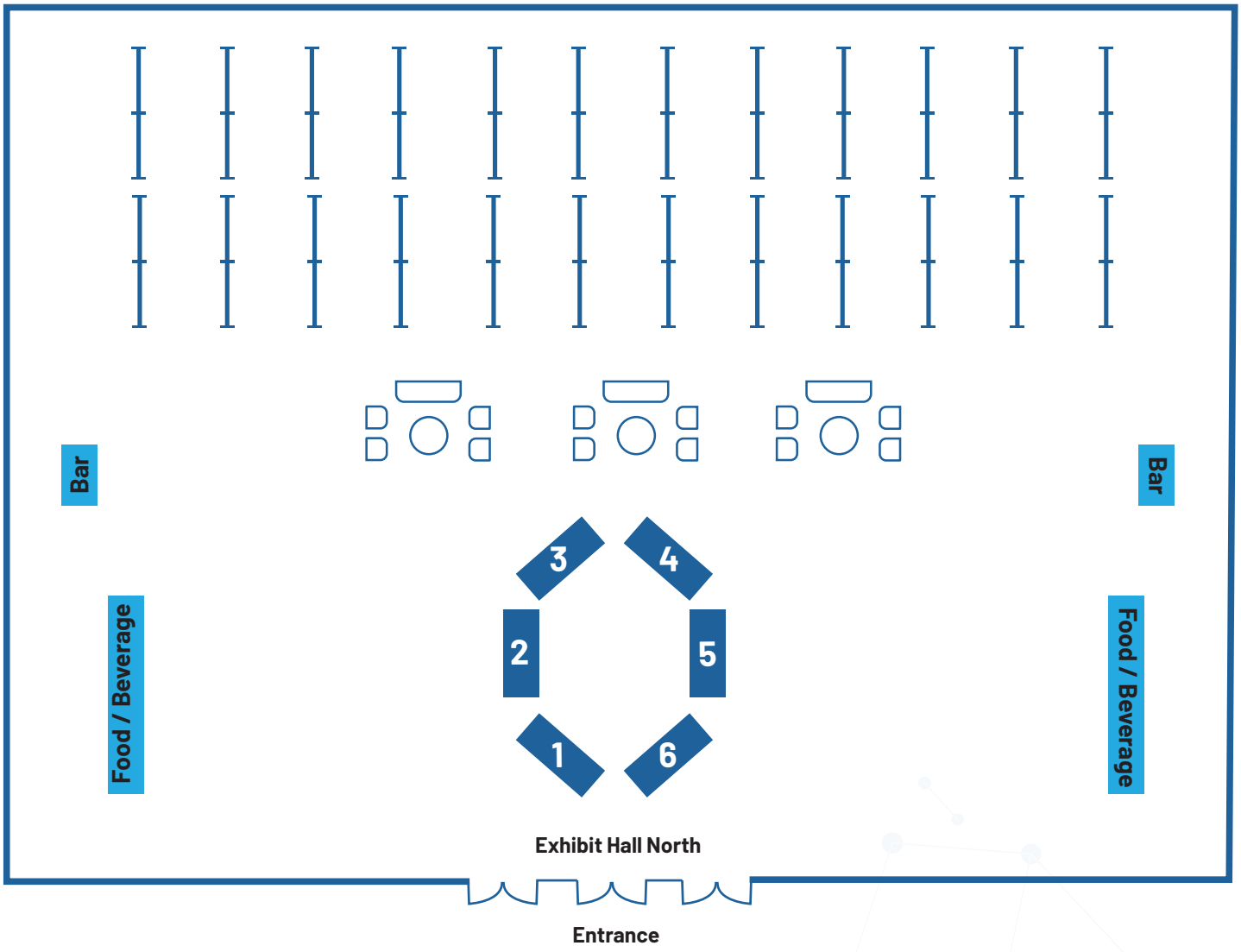
6:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Gala Reception & Dinner

- Grand Ballroom
- Open to all registered attendees. Event ticket required for entry.
- $ 35 USD

Join your fellow attendees as we celebrate the close of ASN 2026 over a fun filled evening of dinner and dance.

EXHIBITOR INFORMATION



ASN Early Career Development Committee	**4**
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ASN EARLY CAREER DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (ECDC)

ASN Early Career Development Committee (ECDC) comprises members at early career stages (graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and junior faculty). Members serve two-year terms and meet regularly to plan and organize activities that support the professional development of trainees within the Society.

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI – COLUMBIA

Established in 1839 as Missouri's flagship, land-grant public university, the **University of Missouri** is a Carnegie-designated R1 research institution and AAU member, ranking among the nation's best values, offering advanced programs across Colleges of Arts & Science, Engineering, Veterinary Medicine, Honors, among others, and building brighter future through education, research and innovation.

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UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI – ST. LOUIS OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

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ASN AWARDS

JORDI FOLCH-PI AWARD

Sarah Ackerman

YOUNG LATIN AMERICAN SCHOLAR TRAINEE AWARD

Natalia Morales-Ramirez

EARLY CAREER EDUCATIONAL ENHANCEMENT AWARDS

Jiangshan Zhan

Bolaji Oyetayo

Chanpreet Kaur

Fernando Rigal

Jazmin Corral

Madison Gray

Meet Parikh

Nasim Khatibi

Salma Reyes-García

Ukbong Kwon

Vijay Arruri

ASN NEURO TRAINEE AWARD

Connor Tuck

SANOFI TRAINEE AWARD

Avantika Ahiya

ASN 2026 DETAILED PROGRAM

SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2026

8:15 AM – 9:30 AM

Plenary Session 1: Innate Immunity in Alzheimer Disease

South Exhibit Hall

Speakers: Michael Heneka

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Noncoding RNAs in Brain Disorders: Mechanisms, Biomarkers, and Therapeutic Potential

Junior Ballroom AB

Session Chair: Dr. Wang-xia Wang

Session Co-Chair: Ashutosh Dharap

Speakers: Prof. Stefan Stamm; Ashutosh Dharap; Dr. Wang-Xia Wang; Dr. Lien Nguyen

Noncoding RNAs (ncRNAs) represent a diverse class of RNA transcripts that play essential roles in regulating gene expression at both the transcriptional and post-transcriptional levels within the central nervous system (CNS). Growing evidence implicates the dysregulation of ncRNAs in the onset and progression of various neurological and neurodegenerative conditions. This session explores emerging functions of ncRNAs in CNS pathophysiology and highlights their increasing potential as diagnostic biomarkers and therapeutic targets.

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Neuroinflammatory and Microglial Mechanisms in Health and Disease

Junior Ballroom CD

Session Chair: Dr. Michael Nichols

Speakers:

Marie Eve Tremblay	10:00 AM –10:30 AM
Jony Kipnis	10:30 AM – 11:00 AM
Celeste Karch	11:00 AM – 11:30 AM
Michael Nichols	11:30 AM – 12:00 AM

This session highlights new research on how microglial-mediated neuroinflammation sensitively modulates disease-related pathologies. The underlying theme is microglial processes and pathways that greatly impact brain health. Presentations will cover new data from researchers examining microglial dynamics from different perspectives and approaches, including microglia stress, dysfunction, inhibition, and responses to amyloid-beta.

12:15 PM – 1:15 PM

Plenary Speaker Lunch 1

Room 103

12:15 PM – 1:15 PM

Women in Neurochemistry Luncheon

Room 104 & 105

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Sleep and Circadian Rhythms in Neurogenerative Diseases

Junior Ballroom AB

Session Chair: Dr. Erik Musiek

Session Co-Chair: Dr. Shannon Macauley

Speakers: Dr. Erik Musiek; Dr. Shannon Macauley; Yo-El Ju; Prof. David Holtzman

Emerging data suggest that disruptions of sleep and circadian rhythms may influence the pathogenesis of neurodegenerative diseases. This session presents cutting-edge basic, translational, and clinical research on mechanisms linking sleep and circadian rhythms to neurodegeneration, particularly Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases. Topics include circadian regulation of glial function, bidirectional links between brain metabolism/sleep/AD pathology, REM behavior disorder and other sleep disturbances as PD biomarkers, and the impact of sleep on tau pathology and tau-mediated neurodegeneration.

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Post Doc Presentations

South Exhibit Hall

Session Chair: Dr. Drew Steelman

Speakers:

Discovery of Novel Ligands and Co-receptors for Jedi-1 Mediated Efferocytosis of Neural Cells. - Dr. Matthew Houpert

MHC-Expressing Oligodendroglia in Demyelination and Repair - Dr. Jingwen Hu

Pharmacologic inhibition of GSK3beta Improves Cerebrovascular Wnt/beta-catenin and Signs of NeuroCOVID in Aged Mice - Dr. Avantika Ahiya

Regulation of Methylated RNAs in Astrocytes Alters During Manganese Exposure - Dr. Christine Bowen

Single-cell Transcriptomic Atlas of Glial Cells in Adult Mouse Dorsal Root Ganglia Identifies Multipotent Progenitors - Dr. Pauline Meriau

The Impact of MCC950 on Inflammasome Signaling in a CLN2 Mouse Model of Neuroinflammation - Dr. Kathryn Sanchez.

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Marian Kies: Complement Proteins in Neurodegeneration and Neuroinflammation

Junior Ballroom CD

Speakers: Patrick Sheehan; Peter Calabresi; Alberto Cruz-Martin

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

Team Science Strategy in Translational Neurotrauma Research: Clinical and Data Science Advantages and Challenges on Post-Traumatic Sequela

Junior Ballroom AB

Session Chair: Dr. Zezong Gu

Speakers: Dr. Zezong Gu; Dr. Komal Ashraf

This session highlights recent neurotrauma research advances in traumatic brain injuries (TBI), post-trauma sequela and rehabilitation through collaborative, team-based approaches. The central challenge arises from the immense complexity of various TBIs for their pathogenesis and prognosis. The session integrates complex datasets, protocol harmonization, and advanced AI to understand mechanisms, discover imaging/biofluid biomarkers, and investigate early treatment and neural cell regeneration. Presentations include advances and challenges in TBI clinical investigations (TRACK-TBI), chronic impacts of TBI on Alzheimer's-related dementias and PRECISE-TBI toolkits, diverse biomarker analyses across TOP-NT/OBTT/TAPTE consortia, and outcomes from clinical networks addressing progression of TBI including post-concussive epilepsy.

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

New Vistas on the Reticula of the Brain

Junior Ballroom CD

Session Chair: Dr. Randy Stout

Session Co-Chair: Dr. Melissa Cooper

Speakers: Dr. Randy Stout; Amanda Charest; Prof. David Spray; Dr. Melissa Cooper

This session will be on gap junction connectivity in the brain. The theme is new methods and insights obtained using microscopy and other emerging imaging methods to better understand how astrocytes, neurons, and other cells connect to form distinct reticular networks with a variety of functions in brain health and disease. Presentations range from historical perspectives to super-resolution imaging, spatial multi-omics, and brain-wide gap junction network mapping, with a focus on understudied roles beyond direct intercellular channels.

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

From Mechanisms to Therapies: Tackling Repeat Expansion-Mediated Neurodegeneration

South Exhibit Hall

Session Chair: Dr. Qiang Zhu

Session Co-Chair: Dr. Rita Sattler

Speakers: Dr. Qiang Zhu; Fen-biao Gao; Dr. Rita Sattler; Dr. Wenzhen Duan

Abnormal expansion of short DNA repeat sequences within specific genes causes several devastating neurodegenerative diseases, including C9orf72 repeat expansion in ALS/FTD and expanded CAG repeats in HTT causing Huntington's disease. These disorders share overlapping mechanisms such as toxic RNA/protein accumulation, RAN translation, polyglutamine expansion, disrupted RNA metabolism, nucleocytoplasmic transport defects, and dysfunction in neurons and glia. This session integrates molecular, cellular, and translational perspectives and discusses emerging therapeutic strategies such as ASOs, gene expression modulation, and spatial genomics tools.

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Poster Session One

North Exhibit Hall

7:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Student Post-Doc Mingler

Chicken 'N Pickle

MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2026

8:15 AM – 9:30 AM

Plenary Session 2: Calcium Ion Channels: Forms and Functions and Implications for Selective Drug Targeting

South Exhibit Hall

Speakers: Diane Lipscombe

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

The Role of Sensory Ganglionic Glia and Peripheral Neuroimmune Interactions in Persistent Pain – From Omics to Function

Junior Ballroom AB

Session Chair: Dr. Alison Xiaoqiao Xie

Session Co-Chair: Prof. David Spray

Speakers: Prof. Theodore Price; William Renthal; Dr. Alison Xiaoqiao Xie; Prof. David Spray

Chronic pain conditions affect millions of Americans and cost billions to treat annually. Neuroimmune interactions contribute to persistent pain, but evidence of peripheral neural and glial mechanisms sustaining primary afferent

sensitization has been scarce. Recent breakthroughs using single-cell/single-nucleus transcriptomics, cell-specific translatome and epigenome approaches provide comprehensive views of the sensory ganglia microenvironment, intercellular communications, and cell subtype-specific function in chronic pain. Cross-species comparisons offer translational perspectives and highlight sex-specific mechanisms and the need for personalized treatment.

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Lipid Metabolism Dysregulation in Brain Disorders

Junior Ballroom CD

Session Chair: Dr. Anil Cashikar

Speakers: Dr. Priyanka Narayan; Dr. Danira Toral-Rios; Prof. Deliang Guo; Dr. Fei Yin

Lipids make up approximately 50% of the brain's dry weight. They are not just structural components but active players in brain neurochemistry. Alterations in brain lipid homeostasis are increasingly recognized as contributing factors to the etiology and progression of various neurological cancers and neurodegenerative diseases. Understanding roles of lipids, metabolism, and dysregulation is crucial for developing effective diagnostics and therapeutic strategies.

12:15 PM – 1:15 PM

Plenary Speaker Lunch 2

Room 103

12:15 PM – 1:45 PM

ECDC Forum

Room 104 & 105

Supported by a grant from sanofi

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Oligodendrocyte Dysfunction in Neurodegenerative Disease and Aging

South Exhibit Hall

Session Chair: Dr. Katrina Adams

Session Co-Chair: Dr. Georgina Craig

Speakers: Dr. Katrina Adams; Prof. Benjamin Clayton; Dr. Georgina Craig; Dr. Alban Gaultier

Oligodendrocytes ensheath neuronal axons with myelin and enable saltatory conduction and efficient signal transmission. They also provide metabolic/trophic support and sequester inflammatory mediators. Emerging evidence suggests oligodendrocytes can actively contribute to neurodegenerative disease pathogenesis and brain aging. This session covers new insights into oligodendrocyte pathogenesis across models and human tissues, showing how alterations contribute to disease progression and severity.

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Synaptic Endocytic Genes in Parkinson's Disease

Junior Ballroom AB

Session Chair: Dr. Pingyue Pan

Speakers: Dr. Ryan Dhindsa; Dr. Pingyue Pan; Assoc. Prof. Alexander Chubykin; Dr. Sabine Hilfiker

Multiple PD genes and risk genes converge on signaling that regulates synaptic vesicle endocytosis. This symposium covers advances in pathogenic mechanisms of synaptic endocytic genes including SYNJ1/synaptojanin1, DNAJC6/auxilin1, ITSN1/intersectin1 and LRRK2, bringing together expertise in clinical genetics, bioinformatics, synaptic physiology and cell biology.

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Astrocyte-guided Circuit Activity and Behavior

Junior Ballroom CD

Session Chair: Dr. Thomas Papouin

Speakers: Dr. Xinzhu Yu; Dr. Michelle Olsen; Dr. Thomas Papouin; Dr. Grant R Gordon; Dr. Ciaran Murphy-Royal

Astrocytes have emerged as key neural hubs controlling circuit dynamics and behavior. Combining in-vivo recordings of astrocyte calcium activity, GRAB sensors technologies, multi-omics, physiology, behavioral tracking and computational modeling, this symposium highlights the real-time interplay between astrocyte signaling and neuromodulator dynamics during behavior, and how these interactions are influenced by context.

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

Graduate Student Presentations

Junior Ballroom CD

Session Chair: Dr. Jeff Dupree

Speakers:

Liver Kinase B1 Deficiency Alters Pantothenic Acid Metabolism and Iron Accumulation, and Increases Ferroptosis in Astrocytes - Rebecca Alemani

Investigating the Effects of Excitatory and Inhibitory Neuronal Activity on Early Developmental Oligodendrocytes - Tessa Allen

Neuropilin-2 Regulates Spinal Commissural dI2 Neuron Development by Promoting Their Progenitor Survival Through the Maintenance of Apical Adhesion and Basal Lamina Stability - Adefemi Baderinwa

Bidirectional Chemogenetic Control of Schwann Cell Development and Myelination via DREADD-Mediated Ca2+ Signaling - Jazmin G. Corral

Deciphering the Synaptic Transcriptome of the Spinal Dorsal Horn in Neuropathic Pain - Niloufarsadat Mirian

Oligodendrocyte-specific Loss of CRYAB Ameliorates Motor Deficits in MS Models - Daria Rouhbakhsh

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

Effective Treatment of Neurological Disorders Using Nanomaterial-based Delivery

Junior Ballroom AB

Session Chair: Dr. Langert

Session Co-Chair: Dr. DiAnna Hynds

Speakers: Heather Ferris; Candace Paschal; Kelly Langert

Effective pharmacological treatment is challenged by cellular diversity and inaccessibility of the nervous system, often leading to prolonged dysfunction due to ineffective delivery. This session covers nanoscale delivery systems that can deliver effective doses to specific sites/cells, allow on-demand release, and cross biological barriers. Topics include axon regeneration, peripheral neuropathy, brain tumors, stroke, spinal cord injury, drug delivery across blood-nerve and blood-brain barriers, and targeting corticospinal tract neurons to encourage recovery of motor function.

5:30 PM – 6:30 PM

ASN Business Meeting

Junior Ballroom AB

TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2026

8:15 AM – 9:30 AM

Plenary Session 3: Cell Biology of the Neuron: From Development Through Aging

South Exhibit Hall

Speakers: Christian Gonzalez-Billault

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Jordi Folch-Pi Session - Beyond the Blood–Brain Barrier: Borders, Breaches and Breakthroughs

Junior Ballroom AB

Session Chair: Dr. Jo Anne Stratton

Speakers: Prof. Zsuzsanna Fabry; Dr. Jessica Williams; Dr Zhihui Zhu

Once viewed as an “immune-privileged” fortress, the brain is now recognized as a patrolled landscape where immune cells navigate brain niches, such as perivascular and cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) spaces, shaped by multiple border systems. This session spotlights these often-overlooked immune border niches—such as the ependyma, meningeal and astrocytic interfaces. We will focus on topics such as how these cellular niches regulate fluid, signaling, and immune surveillance; and how border cell changes promote inflammation in neuroimmunological brain conditions. Talks will integrate advanced technologies and in vitro/in vivo models to characterise and explore mechanisms of barrier and immune niches.

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Astrocyte-inspired Circuit Computation and its Importance to Brain Function

Junior Ballroom CD

Session Chair: Dr. Shinung Ching

Session Co-Chair: Dr. Thomas Papouin

Speakers: Dr. Wei Li; Prof. Leo Kozachkov; Dr. ShiNung Ching; Dr. Thomas Papouin

This session explores how computational modeling is being used to understand how astrocytes enhance neural circuit dynamics and function. It presents new models and theories regarding neural–astrocyte interactions and brain function, reframing computation as a multicellular process.

12:15 PM – 1:15 PM

Plenary Speaker Lunch 3

Room 103

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

NAD Metabolism in Physiology and CNS Diseases

Junior Ballroom AB

Session Chair: Dr. Shinghua Ding

Speakers: Dr. Shinghua Ding; Dr. Vargas; Dr. Lananna; Dr. Chen

NAD+ is a crucial metabolite for energy homeostasis and is involved in DNA repair, oxidative stress, Ca2+ signaling, and circadian rhythm. NAD+ can be synthesized from three intracellular pathways; the NAD+ salvage pathway (NAMPT) is dominant and rate-limiting. Impaired NAD+ homeostasis is observed during aging and in neurodegenerative diseases (ALS, AD, PD). This session presents mechanisms and therapeutic opportunities (e.g., NAD+ precursors), inter-organ communication regulating NAD+ metabolism, and ultra-high-field whole-brain imaging of NAD.

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Leveraging Glia for CNS Repair

Junior Ballroom CD

Session Chair: Dr. Amy Gleichman

Speakers: Dr. Irene L. Llorente; Dr. Andy Shih; Dr. John Lukens; Dr. Amy Gleichman

This session presents approaches to leverage glial biology to improve CNS repair, with a particular focus on repair in models of dementia. Topics include iPSC-derived glial progenitors as therapeutic platforms, pericyte-based strategies to improve cerebrovascular health in Alzheimer's disease, and the roles of innate immune cells including microglia. It also highlights reactive astrocyte heterogeneity and region-dependent responses as sources of new repair strategies.

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Retrograde Signaling in Axon Maintenance and Degeneration

South Exhibit Hall

Session Chair: Dr. Wilma Friedman

Speakers: Dr. Pabitra Sahoo; Dr. Rosalind Segal; Prof. Bruce Carter; Dr. Wilma Friedman

This session examines how neurons respond to cues that differ across compartments, involving trafficking of signaling proteins between distal axon, soma, and dendrites. It covers distinct axon-initiated signaling pathways, coordinated trafficking and local translation supporting axonal viability, and mechanisms that initiate degenerative responses, including responses to traumatic brain injury and chemotherapeutic treatments.

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

Dopamine Neurotransmission: New Frontiers in Intersystemic Signaling and Psychostimulant Regulation

Junior Ballroom AB

Session Chair: Dr. Habibeh Khoshbouei

Session Co-Chair: Dr. Angela Carter

Speakers: Dr. Angela Carter; Dr. Peter Gaskill; Dr. Aurelio Galli; Dr. Habibeh Khoshbouei

This colloquium explores dopamine's expanding role as a signaling hub beyond the brain, including bidirectional regulation between central dopamine dynamics and peripheral systems (immune, endocrine, gut–brain, microbiome). It also examines psychostimulant regulation and emerging avenues for therapeutic interventions.

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

ASN Neuro Publications

Junior Ballroom CD

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Poster Session Two

North Exhibit Hall

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2026

8:15 AM – 9:30 AM

Plenary Session 4: Epigenetic Regulation in CNS Repair and Disease

South Exhibit Hall

Speaker: Qing Richard Lu

Supported by a grant from sanofi

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Oligodendroglial Biology and Pathology: Myelination and Beyond

Junior Ballroom AB

Session Chair: Dr. Fuzheng Guo

Session Co-Chair: Dr. Wensheng Lin

Speakers: Dr. Wensheng Lin; Dr. Benayahu Elbaz-eilon; Stephen Crocker; Dr. Jayshree Samanta

Oligodendrocytes form myelin sheaths during CNS development and contribute to adaptive myelination across life experiences. New concepts have emerged on roles of oligodendroglia and myelination in shaping motor, cognitive, and emotional adaptability. This session covers developmental and adaptive myelination, intrinsic programs and extrinsic signals controlling myelination, and oligodendroglia pathology across demyelination and neurodegenerative diseases.

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Blood-Brain Barrier Regulation Revisited: New Perspectives on Cellular Roles & Molecular Mechanisms

Junior Ballroom CD

Session Chair: Dr. Anushka Andjelkovic

Session Co-Chair: Dr. Natasha O'Brown

Speakers: Dr. Samantha Golf; Dr. Natasha O'Brown; Dr. Anushka Andjelkovic; Dr. Michal Toborek

This symposium invites a critical reexamination of BBB biology. It examines how cellular and molecular mechanisms differ across developmental, adult, and disease contexts; whether BBB formation pathways also support maintenance or repair; and how distinct molecular programs activate in response to stress or cell-type interactions. Talks highlight neuron-derived signals in BBB formation, astrocyte/pericyte regulation in adult BBB maintenance and repair, roles of connexin43/gap junctions, pericyte vulnerability in HIV and stroke, and dynamic context-specific roles of CNS cells in BBB function.

12:15 PM – 1:15 PM

Plenary Speaker Lunch 4

Room 103

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Translational Neurobiology in Patient-Derived Systems: Uncovering Neuroimmune Mechanisms of Disease

Junior Ballroom AB

Session Chair: Dr. Stephanie Matt

Speakers: Dr. Stephanie Matt; Dr. Jensen (co-chair); Dr. Bekhbat; Dr. Dastgheyb

This symposium focuses on integration of patient-derived cellular systems with neuroimmune research to elucidate inflammatory and glial signaling contributions to disease progression. Talks explore how blood-derived cells are used to identify disease-specific immune phenotypes and how patient data are analyzed using advanced biostatistics. Using iPSC-derived models, speakers present data defining how immune cells and cytokine networks shape neuronal health. The session represents a range of global backgrounds and successful, dynamic women in science.

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Lipid Post-translational Protein Modifications in Neurological Diseases and Disorders

Junior Ballroom CD

Session Chair: Dr. DiAnna L. Hynds

Session Co-Chair: Dr. Kelly Langert

Speakers: Dr. Chanpreet Kaur; Dr. Rachael Sirianni; Dr. DiAnna Hynds

This session examines lipid moieties added to key proteins and how abnormalities in protein lipidation affect localization and function of neuronal and glial proteins, leading to disease. It highlights roles of products of the mevalonate pathway, prenylation precursors and cholesterol, regulation of subcellular localization/activity, Rho GTPase signaling, and therapeutic potential of prenyltransferase inhibition.

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Astrocyte Regulation of Neuronal Function in Health and Disease: From Synapses to Behavior

South Exhibit Hall

Session Chair: Dr. Elena Blanco-Suarez

Session Co-Chair: Dr. Isabella Farhy-Tselnicker

Speakers: Dr. Elena Blanco-Suarez; Prof. Mary-Louise Risher; Dr. Alberto Serrano-Pozo; Dr. Isabella Farhy-Tselnicker

Astrocytes and other non-neuronal cells play central roles in shaping neuronal function. This session showcases research uncovering how astrocytes regulate neural communication and behavior across healthy and diseased brain states, offering insights into the cellular choreography underlying behavior and synaptic health.

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

Assistant Professors Presentations

Junior Ballroom CD

Long Noncoding RNA Norad Regulates Ischemic Brain Damage - Dr Vijay Arruri

Glypican-4 Affects Lifespan and Axon Sprouting in Alzheimer's Disease Models - Dr. Jaeda Coutinho-budd

Lysosome-acidifying Nanoparticles Restore Lysosomal and Autophagy Activities and Rescue Neuronal Death in Tauopathies - Dr Chih Hung Lo

Activity-dependent Mitochondrial Transport in Astrocytes Drives Motor Function - Dr Sarah Ackermen

Distinct Functions of FIG4 and PIKfyve in the PAS Complex for Myelination in PNS - Dr Bo Hu

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

New Targets for Pain and Addiction: Opioids and Beyond

Junior Ballroom AB

Session Chair: Dr. Susruta Majumdar

Session Co-Chair: Dr. Tao Che

Speakers: Susruta Majumdar; Amynah Pradhan; Ream Al-Hasani; Tao Che

This session addresses the need for new targets for pain and opioid use disorders, separating functional pain relief from adverse effects. It covers design of new drugs, novel strategies for treating headache and pain, dynamics of endogenous opioid peptides in fentanyl withdrawal, and cryoEM-enabled targeting of allosteric sites in opioid receptors.

6:00 PM – 10:00 PM

ASN 2026 Gala Reception & Dinner

Grand Ballroom CD

GENERAL INFORMATION

ACCESS/SECURITY

Name badges are available at the ASN2026 Registration Desk for all participants and attendees. Please wear and ensure your name badge are visible at all times as it is your admission pass to all Plenary and Concurrent sessions, the Exhibit Hall and social events. Attendees will not be able to access the annual meeting space without their badge. There is a 60 USD reprint fee for any lost or misplaced badge.

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

The official language of the ASN2026 Meeting is English. All sessions will be conducted in English.

LOST PROPERTY

Please report any lost or unattended items immediately to the ASN2026 Registration Desk located in the St. Charles Convention Center. If you lose an item while attending ASN2026, please enquire at the Registration Desk where any recovered lost property will be held. At the end of the meeting, all unclaimed lost and found items will be given to the St. Charles Convention Center.

PARKING INFO

The St. Charles Convention Center has 1,200 complimentary parking spaces available on a first come, first served, basis.

EXHIBITS & POSTER HALL - HOURS

St. Charles Convention Center – North Exhibit Hall (ASN Exhibit and Poster Hall)

Saturday, April 18	5:30 PM – 7:00 PM Welcome Reception
Sunday, April 19	9:30 AM – 5:30 PM 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM Poster Session 1
Monday, April 20	9:30 AM – 4:00 PM
Tuesday, April 21	9:30 AM – 5:30 PM 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM Poster Session 2
Wednesday, April 22	9:30 AM – 4:00 PM

PHOTOGRAPHER

An official photographer will be present during the meeting. By registering for the ASN2026 Annual Meeting, you agree your picture may be taken. Photography may be used for marketing purposes for future ASN Meetings and Events.

REFRESHMENT BREAKS

April 19 - 22

North Exhibit Hall (ASN Exhibit and Poster Hall)

Morning Refreshment Break
9:30 AM - 10:00 AM

Lunch Break (on own)
12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Afternoon Refreshment Break
3:30 PM – 4:00 PM

REGISTRATION DESK HOURS

St. Charles Convention Center Pre-Function

Saturday, April 18	2:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Sunday, April 19	7:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Monday, April 20	7:30 AM – 4:30 PM
Tuesday, April 21	7:30 AM – 4:30 PM
Wednesday, April 22	7:30 AM – 4:00 PM

COMPLIMENTARY TROLLEY SHUTTLE

Check out Saint Charles' historic Main Street, with a complimentary trolley service, courtesy of the Greater Saint Charles Convention and Visitors Bureau. Trolley shuttles will pick up from the Saint Charles Convention Centre and do a continuous loop to and from the Streets of Saint Charles and Historic Main Street at the following times:

Saturday, April 18, 2026
7:00 PM – 11:00 PM

Sunday, April 19 - 21, 2026
6:30 PM – 10:30 PM

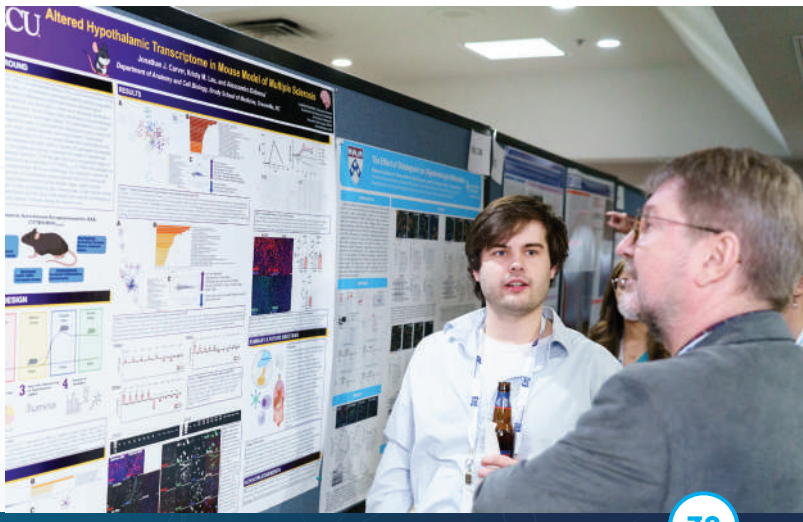
Monday, April 20, 2026
6:30 PM – 10:30 PM

Tuesday, April 21, 2026
6:30 PM – 10:30 PM

DISCLAIMER

All reasonable endeavors will be made to hold the ASN2026 Annual Meeting and to present the program as scheduled under circumstances which assure the comfort and safety of the meeting participants. However, the American Society for Neurochemistry and its branches, and their respective directors, officers, employees, representatives or agents, shall not be liable in any manner whatsoever to any person as a result of the cancellation of the meeting or any of the arrangements, programs or events connected therewith; nor shall any of the foregoing entities or persons be liable in any manner whatsoever for any loss, injury, sickness, damage or inconvenience which may be suffered by any person while travelling to or from, or during such person's presence in, the USA in connection with the meeting. Participants are advised to consider procuring their own insurance against any such occurrences.

SHARE YOUR **#ASN2026** MOMENTS!



SAVE THE DATE

APRIL 24-28, 2027

VANCOUVER, CANADA

See you at the 57th American Society for Neurochemistry Meeting!

ASN 2027

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