



Selection Symposium, October 9th, 2025

Schaller Research Group Leader Positions in Neurosciences

*Center for Integrative Infectious Diseases Research (CIID),
Im Neuenheimer Feld 344,
Seminar Room, Ground Floor, Room 003/004*

08.55 Welcome

Prof. Rohini Kuner

*Chairperson of the Board
Chica and Heinz Schaller Foundation*

09.00 **Dr. Fikri Birey**

Department of Human Genetics, Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, USA

“3D Cellular Models of Human Brain Development: Towards Novel Disease Biology & Therapeutic Avenues”

09.30 **Dr. Masashi Hasegawa**

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, New Brunswick, USA

“Importance of Neural Synchrony in Movement Generation”



10.00 **Dr. Yusaku Hontani**

Brain Research Institute, University of Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland

“Deep-tissue imaging: advancing optical methods for tracking neural stem cell dynamics”

10.30 Coffee Break

11.00 **Dr. Pegah Kassraian**

Zuckerman Institute, Columbia University, New York, USA

“Hippocampal circuits for experience-based social behaviors”

11.30 **Dr. Diana April Liao**

Animal Physiology, University Tübingen, Tübingen, Germany

“Cognitive building blocks for communication in crows”

12.00 **Dr. Greta Pintacuda**

The Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, Cambridge, USA

“Converging on Risk: Mapping Functional Hubs in Complex Brain Disorders”

12.30 Lunch

13.30 **Dr. Juan F. Ramirez-Villegas**

Institute of Science and Technology Austria, Klosterneuburg, Austria

“Subcortical architects of memory: Sleep, synchrony, and the brainstem-hippocampus axis”

14.00 **Dr. Daniel Silverman**

HHMI, Department of Neuroscience & Helen Wills Neuroscience Institute, University of California, Berkeley, USA

“Sleep pressure from locus coeruleus activity and its dysregulation in Parkinson’s disease”



14.30 **Dr. Fabian Voigt**

Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology, Harvard University, Cambridge, USA

“Expanding the optical bag of tricks for (neuro)science”

15.00 Coffee break

15.30 **Dr. Steffen Wolff**

Department of Pharmacology & Physiology, University of Maryland School of Medicine Baltimore, USA

“Learning volleyball, tennis, the piano and everything else... circuits for multi-task learning.”

16.00 **Dr. William J. Wright**

Department of Neurobiology, University of California, San Diego, USA

“Dissecting the Synaptic Basis of Learning In Vivo”

16.30 **Dr. Erdost Yildiz**

Physical Intelligence Department, Max Planck Institute for Intelligent Systems, Stuttgart, Germany

“Bio-inspired small-scale robotics as a research toolbox for cellular neuroscience”

17.00 Closing remarks

Prof. Dr. Karoly Nikolich

Vice-Chairman of the Board

Chica and Heinz Schaller Foundation

17.05 End of symposium