

12:00	Registration, Lunch, Poster Set-Up
12:30-1:00 PM	<u>Welcome</u> Barbara L. Bass, MD Kimberly D. Russo, MBA, MS Alison K. Hall, PhD
1:00- 1:45 PM	<u>Session I: Lightning Talks</u> Matthew Colonnese, PhD <i>Circuit basis of activity maturation in normal and injured brains</i> William Gaillard, MD <i>Childhood epilepsy and brain structure</i> Anne Chiaramello, PhD <i>From Concept to Clinic: Mitochondria in Neurodegenerative Disease</i> Jennifer Berkeley, PhD, MD <i>Neurocritical Care Research in a Community Setting</i> Sanjay Maggirwar, PhD <i>Monocytes in HIV Associated ND</i> Vsevolod Polotsky, MD: <i>Sleep-disordered breathing in obesity</i>
1:50-2:10 PM	<u>Clinical Interests and Expertise</u> Michael K. Rosner, MD <i>Overview of neurosurgery expertise and interest</i> Mohamad Koubeissi, MD <i>Multidisciplinary clinics and clinical trials in neurology</i>
2:10-2:30 PM	Break
2:30-3:15 PM	<u>Session II: Lightning Talks</u> John Bethea, PhD <i>Neural injury, neuroinflammation and repair</i> Hui Lu, PhD <i>Circuit dysfunction in motor function and affect</i> Paul Marvar, PhD <i>Translational research opportunities in neuropsychiatric diseases</i> Nobuyuki Ishibashi, MD <i>Neurological impairment in congenital heart disease</i> David Mendelowitz, PhD <i>Animal models to disrupt autonomic regulation of cardiac function</i> Christina Prather, MD <i>Dementia and aging</i>
3:20-4:00 PM	<u>Next Steps</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What steps can we use to build connections between researchers?• In what areas should we build brain research?
4:00-5:30 PM	Networking Reception and Posters



Barbara Lee Bass, MD

Walter A. Bloedorn Professor of Administrative Medicine
Vice President for Health Affairs
Dean, School of Medicine and Health Sciences
Professor of Surgery

Dr. Bass leads GW's academic medical enterprise in education, research, patient care, and community engagement. Since arriving in January 2020, she has led GW's response to the COVID-19 pandemic; overseen the reaccreditation of the Doctor of Medicine (MD) program and the Physician Assistant (PA) program; guided the growth of SMHS funded research expenditures by 50%, established the Office of Clinical Research, and the SMHS Center for Population Health and Health Equity to develop research and programs to measure and eliminate health disparities in Washington DC. Prior to GW, Bass had an academic practice in surgical oncology for 35 years. An internationally recognized leader in surgical education, Bass established one of the nation's first and preeminent centers for simulation based surgical training and research in MIS and computer aided surgery at the Houston Methodist Hospital/Weill Cornell Medicine while serving as chair and professor of surgery. Bass's research has spanned from bench research in GI epithelial regeneration, application of computational sciences to surgical disease, clinical trials in surgical oncology, to health services research to measure surgical quality, with funding as PI from the NIH, NSF, VA, and EU and others for over three decades. She is an accomplished advocate for faculty career advancement and opportunity for those often underrepresented in medicine, surgery and research. Email: smhsdean@gwu.edu



Kimberly D. Russo, MBA, MS

Chief Executive Officer – GW Hospital
Group Vice President – Washington, DC Region

Kimberly D. Russo, MBA, MS, is the Group Vice President of the Washington, DC Region of Universal Health Services, Inc. (UHS) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of The George Washington University Hospital (GW Hospital). Kim was named Group Vice President of UHS in April 2021. She has helped established a partnership with the Government of the District of Columbia to open the first new hospital in DC in 20 years, which will be part of the GW Health Network. The new hospital will bring vital healthcare services to an underserved region, transforming healthcare access and outcomes through integrated and quality care. Kim has also been CEO of GW Hospital since 2016. Prior, Kim served as Chief Operating Officer and had numerous other management roles at GW Hospital. Under her leadership, GW Hospital has advanced its programs and services to elevate its critical care and expand access to care for the region. With more than 20 years of clinical and operational healthcare experience, Kim has received accolades for her impact on healthcare and the community in Washington, DC. These include the American Hospital Association (AHA) Grassroots Advocacy Champion (2022), Becker's Hospital Review's 100 Academic Medical Center CEOs to Know (2020 and 2024), and Washingtonian Magazine's Most Powerful Women (2019, 2021, 2023). Email: Kimberly.Russo@gwu-hospital.com



Alison Hall, PhD

Senior Associate Dean for Research, GW SMHS
Professor of Neurology and Rehabilitation Medicine

Dr. Hall oversees the research missions of the GW academic medical enterprise — including basic sciences, translational and clinical research, health services research, and educational research. In partnership with academic department chairs and research investigators, she directs the strategic advancement of research programs originating in all of the basic science, clinical, and health sciences departments. Dr. Hall earned her PhD in developmental genetics and anatomy/neuroscience in 1988 at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. Prior to her work at GW, Dr. Hall was the deputy director of the Division of Training, Workforce Development, and Diversity at the National Institute of General Medical Science where she led the overall assessments of several programs to support students from underrepresented backgrounds to enter PhD programs and reported on MD “on-ramps” to research careers. Dr. Hall also led a highly productive and well-funded research program focused on neural development and the peripheral nervous system at Case Western Reserve University SOM. Email: akhall@gwu.edu



Jennifer Berkeley, MD, PhD

Assistant Dean for Research
GW Regional Medical Campus at LifeBridge Health
Clinical Associate Professor of Neurology and Rehabilitation Medicine

Jennifer Berkeley, MD, PhD, earned her MD and PhD in neuroscience from Emory University in 2003. She joined LifeBridge Health in 2009 and is currently the director of neurocritical care as well as vice chair of neurology, which includes oversight of inpatient education for residents and medical students.

In 2023, Dr. Berkeley was named the first chief scientific officer for LifeBridge Health where she also serves as assistant dean for research for the Regional Medical Campus (RMC) with the GW-SMHS which is based at LifeBridge Health's Sinai Hospital in Baltimore. As chief scientific officer, Berkeley plays a vital role in identifying and fostering research initiatives within the organization, as well as engaging with medical faculty to become active investigators.

Email: Jberkele@lifebridgehealth.org



John Bethea, PhD

Chair of the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology, GW SMHS
King Fahd II Professor of Anatomy and Cell Biology
Professor of Anatomy and Cell Biology

Before joining GW SMHS in 2023 as department chair, Dr. Bethea was a professor in the Department of Biology at Drexel University, where he served as the Department Head from 2014 to 2019. He received his PhD in neuroscience in 1991 from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Bethea's research focuses on the mechanisms and therapies for chronic neuropathic pain, mechanisms of spinal cord injury-induced immune dysfunction, and TNFR2 (tumor necrosis factor receptor-2) dependent sex differences in functional recovery and mechanisms of remyelination and neuroprotection. Email: jrb117@gwu.edu



Anne Chiaramello, PhD

Professor of Anatomy and Cell Biology, GW SMHS

In 1990, Dr. Chiaramello received her PhD in biology from the University of California, San Diego. She is the founding Director of the Mito-EpiGen Program. It provides an interactive infrastructure for collaborative investigations between translational researchers and clinicians and serves as a hub for patient advocacy groups. She discovered a novel pharmaco-epigenomic approach to induce mitochondrial biogenesis and metabolic reprogramming. She applied this concept to develop a pharmaco-epigenomic therapeutic avenue for rescuing the mitochondrial phenotype in patient-derived fibroblasts. Her translational and clinical research on LHON-Plus and MELAS is funded by the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences. As the sponsor of a Research IND application, she recently received authorization by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to conduct the first basket trial to test her small molecule drug-based therapeutic approach in patients with LHON-Plus or MELAS enrolled in a phase 1/2a clinical trial. Email: achiaram@gwu.edu



Matthew Colonnese, PhD

Professor of Pharmacology and Physiology, GW SMHS

Dr. Colonnese received his PhD in Neuroscience from Yale in 2001. He established the Laboratory for Systems Neural Development at GW-SMHS in 2011. The group seeks to uncover the secret life of the developing brain. The goals of the lab are to 1) to develop an atlas that matches disruptions in early brain activity in human infants to the underlying circuitry in order to make the clinical EEG diagnostic; 2) develop new technologies to increase recovery of function and regeneration in adults, and 3) provide foundational understanding of how individual circuits regulate development of thalamus and cortex and how these processes are disrupted by neurodevelopmental disorders. Email: colonnese@gwu.edu



William Gaillard, MD

Professor of Neurology and Rehabilitation Medicine, Children's National
Professor of Pediatrics
Chief, Divisions of Child Neurology and of Epilepsy and Neurophysiology
Director, Comprehensive Pediatric Epilepsy Program

Dr. Gaillard's MD is from Yale University, School of Medicine (1985). His research utilizes advanced structural and functional imaging to examine the effects of epilepsy on brain structure and function. His pioneering work has changed clinical practice for patients with epilepsy, made important technical contributions to structural and functional imaging methods, and provided fundamental scientific insights on the biology of brain plasticity. In addition to his research program in childhood epilepsy, Dr. Gaillard helped to build the autism clinical research and neonatal brain protection programs at Children's. His research interests are epilepsy research, and intellectual and developmental disabilities.
Email: wgaillard@childrensnational.org



Nobuyuki Ishibashi, MD

Foglia-Hills Professor of Pediatric Cardiac Research, Children's National
Director, Cardiac Surgery Research Laboratory
Professor of Pediatrics

Dr. Ishibashi completed clinical training in Surgery, Cardiovascular Surgery, and Pediatric Cardiac Surgery at Tokyo Women's Medical University with Japanese Board of Surgery in 2002 and Japanese Board of Cardiovascular Surgery in 2005. Research activities at the Ishibashi Lab focus on studying how congenital heart disease and subsequent cardiac surgery affect the rapidly developing brain in fetal, neonatal and infant populations. The Lab has successfully utilized sophisticated and cutting-edge neuroscience approaches in several clinically relevant experimental models of injury. The long-term goal of the Lab's research program is to optimize treatment strategy and develop new approaches that will reduce neurodevelopmental impairment in children with congenital heart disease. Dr. Ishibashi's research interests are congenital heart disease and neuroprotection; brain injury, recovery and protection; congenital heart disease and neuroprotection; white matter development and function.
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Mohamad Koubeissi, MD

Interim Chair, Department of Neurology and Rehabilitation Medicine, GW SMHS
Professor of Neurology and Rehabilitation Medicine

Dr. Koubeissi obtained his MD (1999) from the American University of Beirut (AUB), Lebanon. Dr. Koubeissi was on faculty at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, OH, for six years before joining GWU in 2012. At both Case Western and GWU, he established epilepsy centers that gained significant academic visibility and received international referrals. In 2020, he earned a master's degree in English literature from GWU. Dr. Koubeissi's clinical and research interests are epilepsy, medication-resistant epilepsy, epilepsy surgery, deep brain stimulation, brain mapping, language, memory, consciousness, and antiseizure medications.
Email: mkoubeissi@mfa.gwu.edu



Hui Lu, PhD

Associate Professor of Pharmacology and Physiology, GW SMHS

Dr. Lu earned her PhD from the University of California Berkeley. She and her colleagues at her independent lab at GW are interested in understanding the bidirectional link between physiological changes in neural circuitry and behaviors. They endeavor to characterize neural circuit coding of mouse behavior and understand the dysfunction of neural circuits in mouse models of human diseases, by using the tools of in vivo two-photon calcium imaging, optogenetics, mouse genetics, computational analyses and machine learning approaches. Currently, the Lu Lab has pursued deeper analyses of circuit dysfunctions related to motor function, social interactions, and emotional state in mouse model of a severe neurodevelopmental disorder, Rett syndrome. The lab has also been actively collaborating with other scientists at GWU and Johns Hopkins to develop state-of-the-art miniaturized two-photon imaging tools that will allow the recording of neurons with high resolution as the animals are freely moving rather than head-fixed. Email: hui.lu@gwu.edu



Sanjay Maggirwar, PhD, MBA

Professor and Chair

Department of Microbiology, Immunology & Tropical Medicine, GW SMHS

Before earning his PhD in molecular microbiology at the Savitribai Phule Pune University in Pune, India, and completing postdoc work at the Milton S. Hershey Medicine Center in Hershey, PA, Dr. Maggirwar worked both onstage and behind the scenes in theater. He believes that his theater experience as well as his additional pursuit of an MBA have provided him with a set of skills that he has applied to his extensive HIV research portfolio and to his academic and teaching responsibilities. His research interests include neurological disorders caused by HIV impairment to the central and peripheral nervous system (NeuroAIDS), and co-morbidities of HIV, specifically non-AIDS defining cancers such as lymphoma. Email: smaggirwar@gwu.edu



Paul Marvar, PhD

Associate Professor of Pharmacology and Physiology, GW SMHS

Dr. Marvar obtained his PhD in physiology from West Virginia University in 2006. During his Postdoctoral fellowship at Emory University, Atlanta GA, he developed a long-standing interest and current research focus on understanding the impact of emotional stress on cardiovascular disease development. Dr. Marvar's current funding and research interests are in anxiety disorders and cardiovascular risk (Hypertension) with a focus on the brain neurocircuitry and neurohormonal (renin angiotensin-aldosterone) systems involved in the autonomic control of blood pressure and immune system regulation. Email: pmarvar@gwu.edu



David Mendelowitz, PhD

Chair, Department of Pharmacology & Physiology, GW SMHS

Professor, Pharmacology & Physiology

Dr. Mendelowitz earned his PhD from the University of Washington in 1989. His research career is centered on the neurons in the brain and peripheral nervous system that control cardiorespiratory function with the goal of identifying new targets to reduce and/or prevent highly prevalent and devastating diseases, including obstructive sleep apnea (OSA), arrhythmias, hypertension, cardiac ischemia and heart failure. In 1996 he was the first investigator to study the voltage and ligand gated receptors, firing properties and function of cardiac vagal neurons that generate parasympathetic activity to the heart. The [Mendelowitz Lab](#) studies the cellular properties, neuronal network and in-vivo reflex control of pre-motor parasympathetic cardio-inhibitory vagal neurons located in the brainstem that generate parasympathetic activity to the heart. Email: dmendel@gwu.edu



Vsevolod Polotsky, MD, PhD

Professor of Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine, GW SMHS

Dr. Polotsky earned his medical degree at Russia's St. Petersburg State I.P. Pavlov's Medical University in 1984, and his PhD at the same institution in 1990. He became Vice Chair for Research in the GW Department of Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine in 2022, after having served as a professor of medicine at Johns Hopkins University since 2015. He has pioneered novel treatments for diseases such as obstructive sleep apnea and opioid induced respiratory depression, and is committed to strengthening GW's basic and translational research programs and to reinforcing our robust clinical research program. [The Polotsky Lab](#) is interested in the pathogenesis and novel treatment of sleep disordered breathing in obesity, in the role of carotid body in respiratory and cardiovascular complications of obesity, and in novel treatment approaches to opioid-induced respiratory depression. Email: vsevolod.polotsky@gwu.edu



Christina Prather, MD

Director, Division of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine, GW SMHS
Clinical Director, GW Institute for Brain Health and Dementia
Co-director, Memory Evaluation and Treatment Clinic
Associate Professor of Medicine

Dr. Prather earned an engineering degree in biological resources and biomedical engineering at the University of Maryland, College Park and completed medical school in Baltimore at the University of Maryland. She completed her residency in Internal Medicine and fellowship in Geriatrics at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. The GW Institute for Brain Health and Dementia, where Dr. Prather is Clinical Director, aims to promote and support research on cognitive health that will meaningfully impact lives, through promotion of brain health, prevention of cognitive loss, addressing disparities in cognitive health, and improving the quality of life of persons living with dementia and their care partners. She seeks to better identify intersections of aging, cognition and prevention, with the goals of preserving brain health across the adult span while also improving quality of life and health outcomes for persons living with dementia.

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Michael K. Rosner, MD

Chair of Neurological Surgery
Dr. Hugo V. Rizzoli Professor of Neurosurgery
Residency Program Director of Neurological Surgery, GW SMHS

Dr. Rosner graduated in 1995 from the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. Prior to joining the full-time GW faculty in 2015, Dr. Rosner held multiple positions at the F. Edward Herbert School of Medicine at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences and at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, including serving as Chief of the Neurological Surgery Service from 2006 to 2011 and Integrated Chief of the Neurological Surgery Service from 2011 to 2015. Rosner retired from the U.S. Army in 2015, and was honored to serve our country while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom during his active duty years. His clinical interests include complex spine disorders such as scoliosis and kyphoscoliosis of all age groups, degenerative spinal pathology, revision spine surgery and deformity correction, spinal oncology, minimally invasive spine surgery and neuro-trauma. His current management style utilizes a multi-disciplinary approach to the management of spinal column disorders. Email: mrosner@mfa.gwu.edu

Brain Research Retreat organizing committee: Colston Judd, Molly Karl, Colleen Kennedy, Pesh Rubinstein, Sara VanDommelen, Emi Wheeler.

Seminars and Grand Rounds

To download this list, go to <https://smhs.gwu.edu/brain-research-retreat>

Anatomy & Cell Biology (typically Weds at noon)

Contact: Siobhan Hanna, shanna19@email.gwu.edu

Date	Speaker	Location
10/16/2024, 12:00PM	John Bethea, PhD	
11/6/2024, 12:00PM	Sreejita Arnab (Bethea Lab) Post doc	Ross Hall 737
12/4/2024, 12:00PM	Jaclyn Andricovich (Zheng Lab) Post doc	Ross Hall 602

Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine

Admin contact: Eduard Shaykhinurov, MS, eshaykhinurov@mfa.gwu.edu

Contact for Anesthesiology grand rounds: Ryan Keneally, MD, RKeneally@mfa.gwu.edu

Contact for Critical Care Medicine grand rounds: Jeffrey Williams, MD, jeffodw@gwu.edu

Critical Care, first Thursday of every month; 4-5 PM, ICU 6 Conference Room Zoom link https://gwu-edu.zoom.us/j/97315457006	
Date	Speaker, Topic
11/7/2024	TBD
12/5/2024	Stephanie Streit, MD: Understanding and Caring for Blast Injuries
1/2/2025	TBD
2/6/2025	Nitin K. Puri, MD, ICU Errors and Maintaining a Culture of Safety
3/6/2025	Jula Marion, Post Neuro-ICU Survivors Clinic

Microbiology, Immunology, and Tropical Medicine

Contact: mitm_dept@gwu.edu for Zoom link and in-person location

Date, 11 AM	Speaker
10/17/2024	Pathogen-Host Interest Group: Aline Sardinha-Silva, PhD
11/7/2024	MITM Seminar: Helen Dooley, PhD
11/21/2024	Pathogen-Host Interest Group: Eduardo Amaral, PhD
12/5/2024	MITM Seminar: Weiguo Cui, PhD

Neurology

Epilepsy Seminar Series

Contact: cwoods@mfa.gwu.edu

Date	Speaker	Location
11/11/2024	Jeff Noebels, MD, PhD, Baylor College Of Medicine, Texas, "Glioblastoma Epilepsy: A Hypersynaptic Ring of Fire"	Zoom
12/17/2024	Joseph Tracy, PhD, ABPP/CN, Thomas Jefferson University, PA	Zoom

Neurosurgery

The Departments of Neurology and Neurosurgery are coordinating to present "**Neuroscience Grand Rounds**," on Tuesdays at 8 AM.

Contact: Nancy McCormack, nmccormack@mfa.gwu.edu

The Neurosciences Newsletter provides updates from both the Neurology and Neurosurgery Departments.

Contact: Christopher Saouda, PhD, csaouda@mfa.gwu.edu

Pharmacology and Physiology (typically Thurs at 12:30)

Contact: Azita Esfandiari, aita@gwu.edu

Ross Hall 643 and via Zoom.

Pizza lunch begins at 12:15 PM; talk begins at 12:30 PM. Graduate students meet with seminar speakers 1:30 – 2:30 PM.		
Date	Speaker	University
11/6/2024	Amanda Woerman	Colorado State University
12/5/2024	Zhaolan Zhou	UPenn
2/6/2025	Jennifer Gelinas	Columbia

2/20/2025	Monica Santisteban	Vanderbilt
3/6/2025	Kailyn Price – IBS Student	GW – Polter Lab
3/20/2025	Annette DeKloet	Georgia State
3/27/2025	Julieta Lischinsky	NIEHS
4/3/2025	Serena Dudek	NIEHS
4/17/2025	Zoe McElligott	UNC

GW-CN Neuroscience seminar series

GW and Children’s collaborate to provide a neuroscience seminar series. To receive announcements about the series, subscribe to NeuroSem listserv. To subscribe, send this text in the body of an email message (not in the subject line) to listserv@hermes.gwu.edu: *subscribe NEUROSEM Your First Name Your Last Name*
 Example: *subscribe NEUROSEM Martha Washington*

Psychiatry

Contact: Jisandry A. Gonzalez, MA, jgonzalez@mfa.gwu.edu

For full schedule: <https://psychiatry.smhs.gwu.edu/grand-rounds-schedule>

Psychiatry Grand Rounds take place on Thursdays, 10:30AM – 12PM GWUH Auditorium: 900 23rd St NW, Washington, DC 20037 Via Zoom, Meeting ID: 962 3062 5107, Passcode: 605431:			
Date	Speaker	Title	Location
10/17/2024	TBD	TBD	
10/24/2024	Kenneth Ashley, MD	Mental Health and Health Inequities Through the Lens of HIV	Zoom and TBD
10/31/2024	Jorge C. Srabstein, MD	Detection of Exposure to Ongoing Bullying and other forms of Maltreatment in the Psychiatric Evaluation of Adults	Zoom only
11/7/2024	Daniel Carrero, MD	Neuromodulation for the management of treatment resistant depression	GWUH Auditorium and Zoom
11/14/2024	Robin Toler, MD, and Andrew Matz, MD	M&M Conference	GWUH Auditorium and Zoom
11/21/2024	John V. Campo, MD	Managing Youth Suicide Risk: Strategies Relevant to Health Care Settings	Zoom only
12/5/2024	Enrico Suardi, MD, and Jeffrey Akman, MD	GW Psychiatry and St. Elizabeth's Hospital: Historical Perspectives	GWUH Auditorium and Zoom
12/12/2024	Courtney Forbes, PhD	Cultivating a Life of Joy and Meaning: Advances in the Treatment of Anhedonia in Affective Disorders	GWUH Auditorium and Zoom

Meeting materials downloadable at <https://smhs.gwu.edu/brain-research-retreat>:

