



Aging Initiative

2026

NOVA

NEUROSCIENCE OF VITALITY AND AGING CONFERENCE

APRIL 25TH, 2026

Time	Session	Location	Speakers
8:30 AM	Networking and Coffee	-	-
9:00 AM	Opening Remarks	Canopy Hall	Aging Initiative Team
9:15 AM	Keynote 1: Finding Your Why	Canopy Hall	Joanne Smikle Board of Directors, American Brain Foundation
9:45 AM	Clinical Progress in Neurodegeneration Panel	Canopy Hall	John Sims (Eli Lilly), Wendy Yau (MGH, HMS), Annie Yang (Yale)
10:15 AM	Break/Transition	-	-
10:30 AM	Studying the Biology of Brain Aging with New Tools Panel Sponsored by Vizgen	Canopy Hall	Ed Boyden (MIT/HHMI), David Salat (MGH/HMS), Stuart Lipton (Scripps), Eric Sun (MIT)
10:30 AM	Translational Discovery Panel Sponsored by Frontage Labs	Riverbend	Heike Hering (Biogen), Merit Cudkowicz (MGB)
10:30 AM	Economics, Policy, and Ethics Panel	Cedar Grove	Audrey Medeiros (MLSC), Arielle Galinsky (HKS, Yale), Thomas Stanley (MA House of Representatives)
10:30 AM	Flash Talks	Lane's Edge	Olivia Walch (Arcascope), Danica Chen (UCBerkeley), Emad Eskandar (Neuradaptive), Sufal Deb (Norn Group)
10:30 AM	Early Career Workshop	Branch View	Kat Kajderowicz (MIT), Heer Joisher (Nucleate)

For more info contact:
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For more info visit:
novaneuro.org

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Time	Session	Location	Speakers
10:30 AM	Poster Session A	West Hollow	-
11:30 AM	Lunch	TBD	-
12 PM	Mainstage Presentations	Canopy Hall	Raiany Romanni-Klein (Amaranth)
12:45 PM	Neurotechnology and Brain-Computer Interfaces Panel Sponsored by Neo-Bionica	Canopy Hall	Christian Howell (Cognito), Oliver Armitage (Axoft), Dan Rizzuto (Nia Tx), Leigh Hochberg (BrainGate/MGH), Alan Mardinly (Science Corp)
1:15 PM	Investment Landscape Panel	Canopy Hall	Alex Colville (age1), Karen Harris (ADDF), Danny Carbonero (PsyMed Ventures), Jarod Rutledge (Starbloom capital)
1:45 PM	Repair and Regeneration Panel Sponsored by SMSBiotech	Canopy Hall	Abdulkader Rahmo (SMSBiotech), Mark Tomishima (BlueRock Tx), Jean Hébert (ARPA-H), Nabih Saklayen (Cellino), Parastoo Khoshakhlagh (GC Tx), Abdulkader Rahmo (SMS Biotech)
2:15 PM	Break/Transition	-	-
2:30 PM	Flash Talks	Canopy Hall	J Ross (Alleo Labs), Martin Jacko (Aperture Tx), Neal Amin (Sculpta Bio), Chelsea Trengrove (Neoclease)
2:30 PM	Cell-Type Specific Delivery and Brain Shuttles Talks	Riverbend	Jim Gorman (Wyss), Brandi Simpson (Switch Tx), Kirk Brown (Alnylam), Kimberely Scarse-Levie (Manifold Bio)
2:30 PM	Immunology and NeuroInflammAging Panel Sponsored by Wiley Advanced	Cedar Grove	Ande Shafer (NIH/NIMH), Miguel Marin Rodero (HMS), Michael Wheeler (HMS/MGB)
2:30 PM	Patient Advocacy	Lane's Edge	Karen Thornber (Harvard), Kevin Rhodes (AFTD), Carolyn Lowe (Parkinson's Foundation)

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Time	Session	Location	Speakers
2:30 PM	Oral Research Presentations	Branch View	Doris Hong (MGB), Anthony Sandrasagra (Alevian), Caterina Gasperini (Harvard), Abdulkader Rahmo (SMSBiotech)
2:30 PM	Poster Session B	West Hollow	-
3:30 PM	Afternoon Break	-	-
4:00 PM	Keynote 2: TBD	Canopy Hall	Dennis Selkoe Co-director, Ann Romney Center for Neurologic Diseases
4:30 PM	Closing Remarks	Canopy Hall	Aging Initiative Team

POSTERS

GLP-1 Receptor Agonists, Sleep, and the Glymphatic System in Alzheimer's Disease Prevention, Aadith Maganti
Small Mobile Stem Cells' (SMS) Potential Contribution to Vascular Dementia Treatment, Abdulkader Rahmo
Neuromodulation on Calcium Dynamics and Electrical Stimulation in *P. americana* cockroaches, Adrika Moulik
A Quantitative Study of the Human Brain Entry-Exit System, Annabel Tiong
Recombinant GDF11 as a Neurorestorative Therapeutic for Age-Related Neurologic Injury, Anthony Sandrasagra
Investigating Parenchymal Dynamics and Efflux of Astroglial Exosomes in Alzheimer's Disease (AD), Caroline Reynolds
Microbiome depletion rejuvenates the aging brain, Caterina Gasperini
Wrist-Based Neural Fitness: Scalable Biomarkers of Mild Cognitive Impairment and Brain Aging, Dexter Ang
Discovering species-specific mutational landscape across aging primate neurons, Emre Caglayan

Obesity, Mobility Limitations, and Cognitive Decline Among Older Adults in the United States, Khunza Asma
Modeling Neuromuscular Degeneration: From Human NMJ Assembloids to a Screening Platform for Drug Discovery, Kuchuan Chen
A New Way to Die: Hospice and the Ethics of Aging in Modern America, Lily Walton
Regulation of microglial responses to amyloid pathology by complement receptor C3aR, Maya Murali Krishnan
The Effect of Transgenerational Epilepsy on Dementia Pathology in *C. elegans*, Parnitha Karapakula
Multi-trial Free Recall for Evaluating Memory in Traumatic Brain Injury, Riley Fotis
The 100-Year-Old Microglia: Developing Age-Equivalent Cellular Models, Samuel Cranston
Association Between Severe Periodontitis and Cognitive Decline in Older Adults, Yash Brahmbhatt
Structural Brain Signatures of Cognitive Performance in Middle and Late Adulthood, Yue "Doris" Hong



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The Aging Initiative is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit advancing the future of aging biology through high-impact educational programming, translational innovation, and science-informed advocacy. We bring together students, researchers, clinicians, and industry leaders through symposia, expert-led workshops, policy briefings, and collaborative forums that accelerate aging research, biotech translation, and public engagement.



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