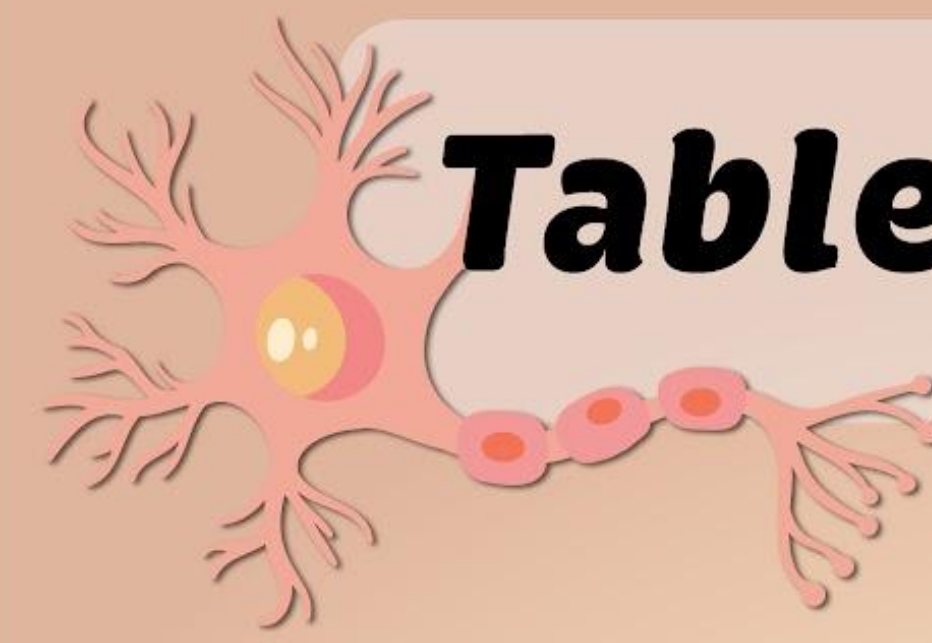


# **Black In Neuro Annual Report 2023 – 2024**



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**Reporting Committee:** Monica Javidnia, Danielle Nadin, Nicole Quintus, Danielle Lewis-Sanders, Almarely Berríos-Negrón, Cai Mathieu, Amirah Iman-Hicks, & Victoria McCray

**Graphic Design:** Daniela Franco

# Meet The Team

# Black In Neuro

## Board of Directors



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**Paige Greenwood, PhD**  
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**Thiago Arzua, PhD**  
Social Lead & Co-Founder



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Professional Development



**Darielle Lewis-Sanders, M.S.**  
Mentorship Committee Member



**Bethlehem (Betty) Bekele**  
Mentorship Committee Member



**Almarely Berríos-Negrón, M.S.**  
Organizing Committee Member



**Charisse Nicole Winston, M.S.**  
Seminar Series Co-Lead



**Caitlin Corona-Long, PhD**  
Seminar Series Committee Member

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**Michael Yassa, PhD**  
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**Michelle Jones-London, PhD**  
Chief, Office of Programs to Enhance Neuroscience Workforce Diversity, NINDS



**Cai Mathieu, BSc**  
Administrative Associate

## Administration

# Welcome



Over the past four years, Black In Neuro has made incredible strides in amplifying Black voices in neuroscience. From Black In Neuro Week to our mentorship programs and professional development workshops, we've created spaces for Black scholars to thrive. Our collective efforts, backed by the generous support of the STEM community, have helped promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in the field.

As we look to the future, we remain committed to systemic change, ensuring fair compensation for our contributors, expanding resources for Black scholars globally, and creating more opportunities for mentorship and collaboration. BIN is not just a platform—it's a lifeline for early-career neuroscientists, offering support, guidance, and a sense of belonging that can truly shape careers.

Our community's accomplishments—from publications to graduations—continue to inspire, and we are deeply grateful to our members, allies, and sponsors for their unwavering support. Together, we are transforming neuroscience for the better, ensuring that the next generation has the tools, support, and opportunities to excel.

**Let's keep moving forward—uplifting, empowering, and breaking barriers to build a field that truly reflects the diversity of human experience.**

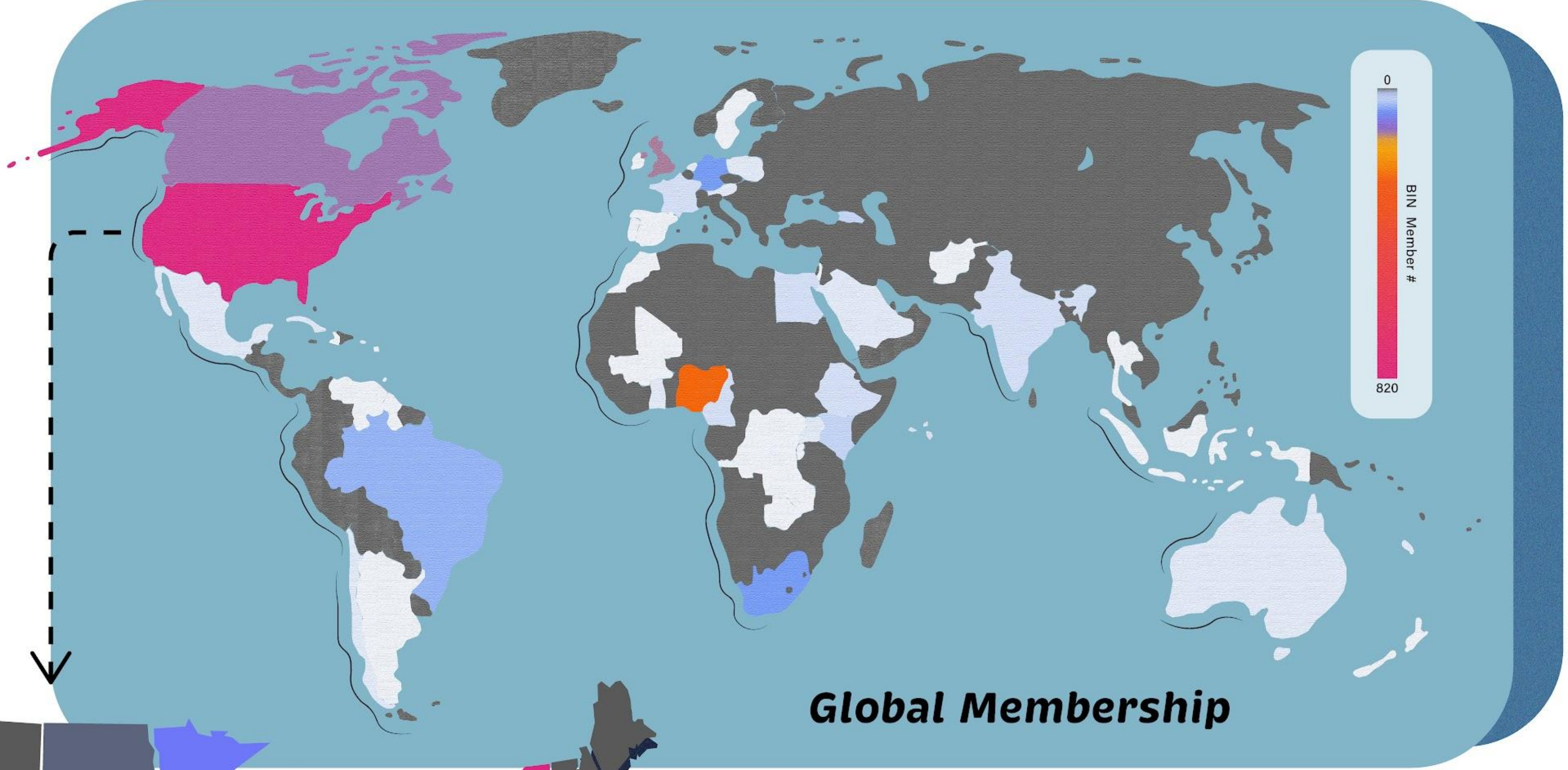
A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kaela S. Singleton".A decorative illustration on the left side of the page shows a white envelope with a gold seal, a white card with a "BLACK IN NEURO" logo, and a lightbulb with a brain inside, sitting on a piece of paper with a pen.

Kaela S. Singleton, PhD

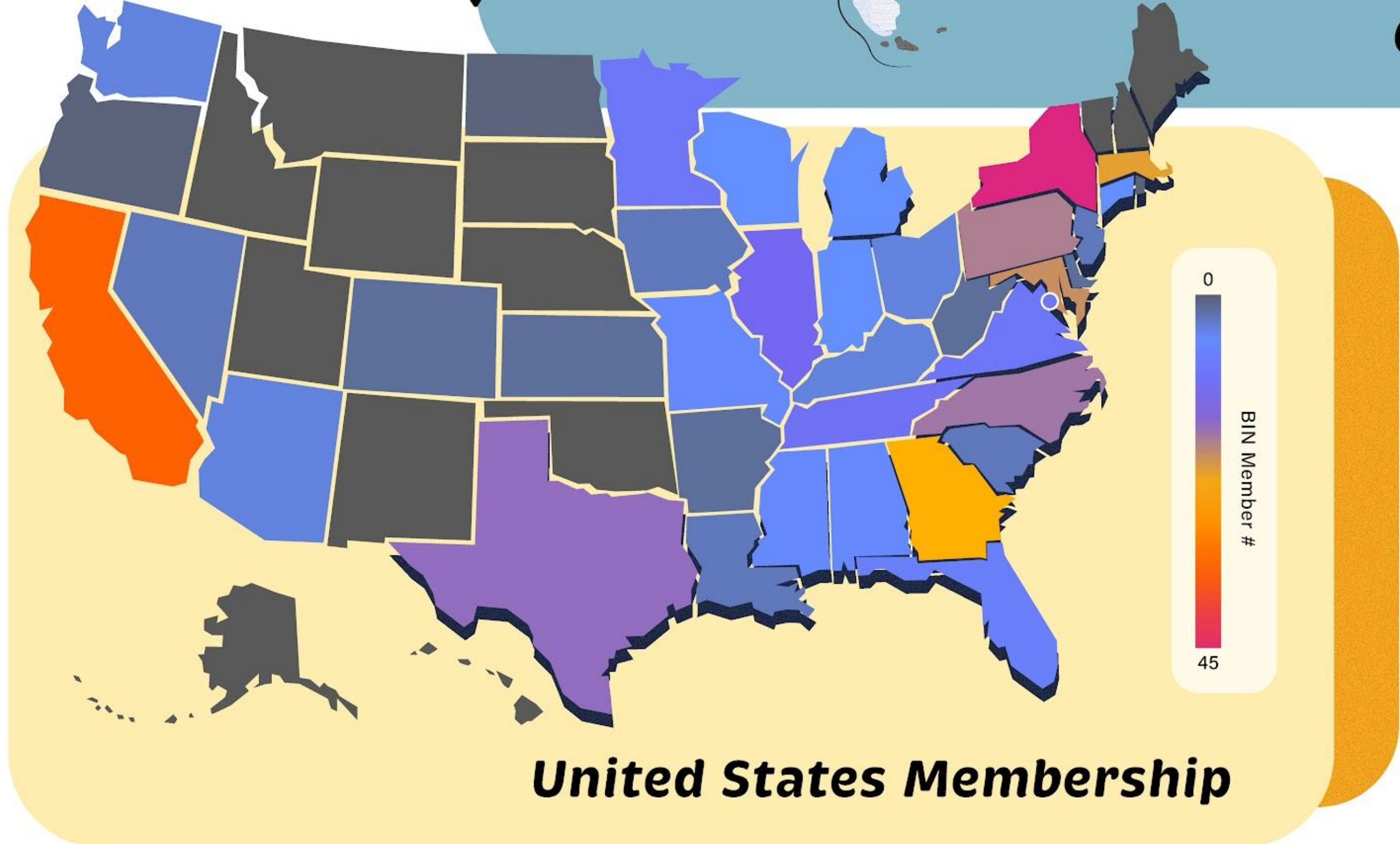
# Growing Our Community



In the past year, our community has continued to flourish. We now proudly represent **over 1,150 members** from more than **50 countries**



Global Membership



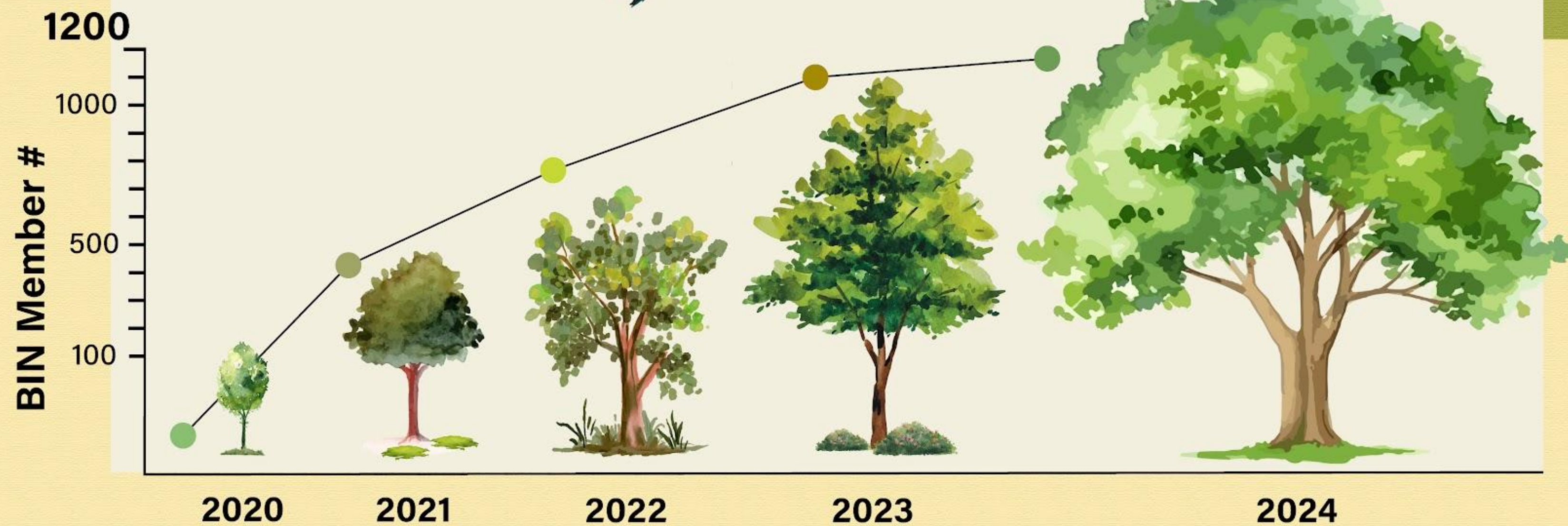
United States Membership

**BIN Membership grew by ~400 members from 2023 - 2024**

# Cultivating Community



## 1.1K+ Members



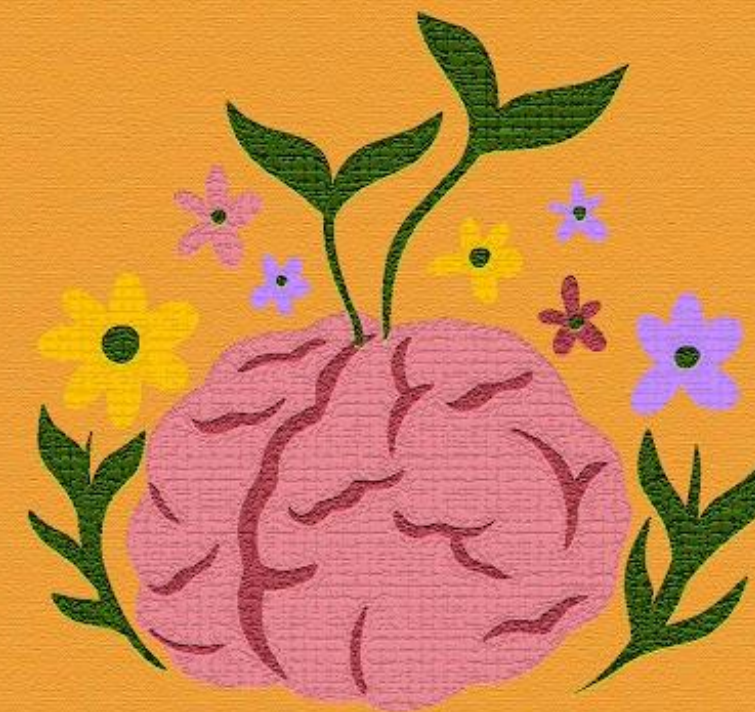
**150+ Posts**

for **#BlackInNeuroRollCall**



**180+ Attendees**

for **BIN Workshop at SfN 2023**



**200+ Attendees**

for **BIN Networking Social at SfN 2023**



Our in-person events have attracted **hundreds** of attendees, with our **#BlackInNeuroRollCall** event during our annual Black In Neuro Week leading to hundreds of members actively introducing themselves on social media.



## Professional Development

The Professional Development workshops are tailored to our Black In Neuro community members in order to disseminate information on navigating academic spaces and increasing employability. Our team aims to promote professional opportunities by taking suggestions from community members and identifying gaps in information dissemination within neuroscience-related fields. This year, we aim to center our events on exposing undergraduates to professional development opportunities, specifically targeting minority serving institutions like historically Black Colleges and Universities. The professional development of our Black In Neuro members is one of our priorities and we are excited to have organized several successful workshops in 2024. **Stay tuned for the dates and registration links for our upcoming events!**



## Mentorship Program

On October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023, we launched our first mentorship program with 10 mentor/mentee pairs for mentees at the undergraduate, post-baccalaureate, and graduate levels. The goal of the Black In Neuro Mentorship Program is to connect trainees with mentors within the Black In Neuro community to support their academic and professional development. In addition to mentorship pairing, the program provides seminars to further assist participants with their professional academic development. Previous topics include effective scientific communication, creating an individual development plan, NIH funding opportunities, and data presentation and accessibility. You can learn more about some of our mentor/mentee pairs in the links below:

**Dr. Olu Ajilore and Nicholas Aderinto**  
**Dr. Taraz Lee and Yvonne Milligan**



## Chapters

**Black In Neuro Chapters** is an in-person initiative designed to foster community among our neuroscientists at the regional level. By connecting neuroscientists at every career stage, we aim to expand the impact of Black In Neuro through enriching programs and activities. We are excited to announce several new developments:

**Chapters Week:** A dedicated week of events and activities to celebrate our local chapters and strengthen the network of regional members across the BIN community.

**Black In Neuro SURP Symposium:** The inaugural event showcases the summer research of undergraduate neuroscience students while providing opportunities for mentorship, professional development, and networking across career levels.

**Launch of BIN Manhattan Social Media:** Follow us on social media to stay updated with the latest news, events, and highlights from our first chapter, BIN Manhattan, which has now grown to over 90 members and continues to expand.

**Regional Participation:** We encourage you to express interest in starting a local chapter in your area or join us at the next BIN Manhattan event. Email us at [chapters@blackinneuro.com](mailto:chapters@blackinneuro.com) or [manhattan@blackinneuro.com](mailto:manhattan@blackinneuro.com) for more information.

**Be part of this dynamic and growing network, and help us build a stronger, more connected Black In Neuro community!**



## Seminar Series

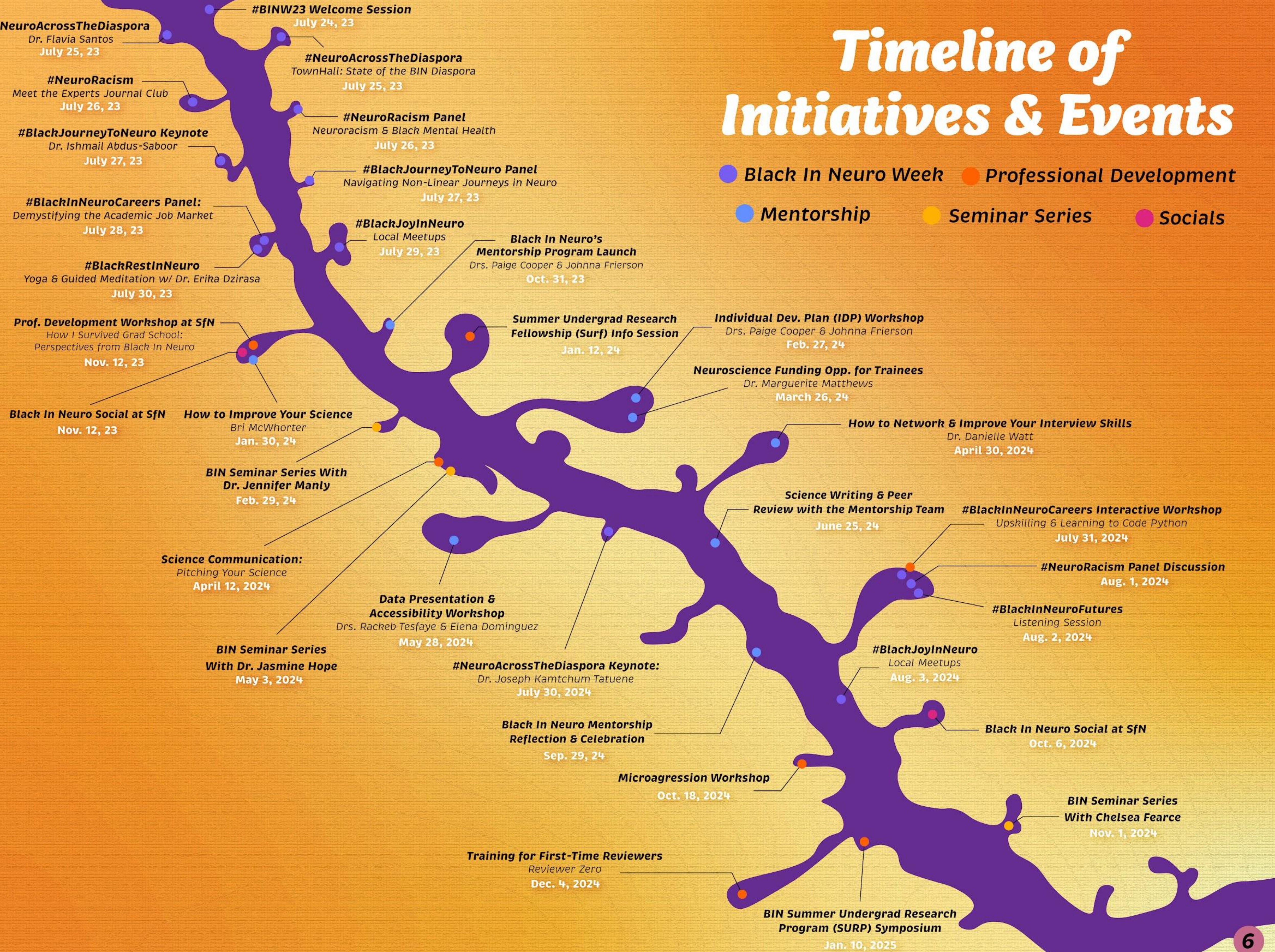
The seminar series is a cornerstone in recognizing and celebrating the contributions of Black neuroscientists within the Black In Neuro community. The Seminar Series features engaging science talks from community members across varying career levels, backgrounds, and neuroscience disciplines.

**Check out our YouTube channel for recordings of prior seminars!**

# Our Initiatives

# Timeline of Initiatives & Events

- Black In Neuro Week
- Professional Development
- Mentorship
- Seminar Series
- Socials



**#NeuroAcrossTheDiaspora**  
Dr. Flavia Santos  
July 25, 23

**#NeuroRacism**  
Meet the Experts Journal Club  
July 26, 23

**#BlackJourneyToNeuro Keynote**  
Dr. Ishmail Abdus-Saboor  
July 27, 23

**#BlackInNeuroCareers Panel:**  
Demystifying the Academic Job Market  
July 28, 23

**#BlackRestInNeuro**  
Yoga & Guided Meditation w/ Dr. Erika Dzirasa  
July 30, 23

**Prof. Development Workshop at SfN**  
How I Survived Grad School:  
Perspectives from Black In Neuro  
Nov. 12, 23

**Black In Neuro Social at SfN**  
Nov. 12, 23

**How to Improve Your Science**  
Bri McWhorter  
Jan. 30, 24

**BIN Seminar Series With Dr. Jennifer Manly**  
Feb. 29, 24

**Science Communication:  
Pitching Your Science**  
April 12, 2024

**BIN Seminar Series With Dr. Jasmine Hope**  
May 3, 2024

**#BINW23 Welcome Session**  
July 24, 23

**#NeuroAcrossTheDiaspora**  
TownHall: State of the BIN Diaspora  
July 25, 23

**#NeuroRacism Panel**  
Neuro Racism & Black Mental Health  
July 26, 23

**#BlackJourneyToNeuro Panel**  
Navigating Non-Linear Journeys in Neuro  
July 27, 23

**#BlackJoyInNeuro**  
Local Meetups  
July 29, 23

**Black In Neuro's Mentorship Program Launch**  
Drs. Paige Cooper & Johnna Frierson  
Oct. 31, 23

**Summer Undergrad Research Fellowship (Surf) Info Session**  
Jan. 12, 24

**Individual Dev. Plan (IDP) Workshop**  
Drs. Paige Cooper & Johnna Frierson  
Feb. 27, 24

**Neuroscience Funding Opp. for Trainees**  
Dr. Marguerite Matthews  
March 26, 24

**How to Network & Improve Your Interview Skills**  
Dr. Danielle Watt  
April 30, 2024

**Science Writing & Peer Review with the Mentorship Team**  
June 25, 24

**#BlackInNeuroCareers Interactive Workshop**  
Upskilling & Learning to Code Python  
July 31, 2024

**#NeuroRacism Panel Discussion**  
Aug. 1, 2024

**#BlackInNeuroFutures**  
Listening Session  
Aug. 2, 2024

**#BlackJoyInNeuro**  
Local Meetups  
Aug. 3, 2024

**Black In Neuro Social at SfN**  
Oct. 6, 2024

**BIN Seminar Series With Chelsea Fearce**  
Nov. 1, 2024

**Data Presentation & Accessibility Workshop**  
Drs. Rackeb Tesfaye & Elena Dominguez  
May 28, 2024

**#NeuroAcrossTheDiaspora Keynote:**  
Dr. Joseph Kamtchum Tatuene  
July 30, 2024

**Black In Neuro Mentorship Reflection & Celebration**  
Sep. 29, 24

**Microaggression Workshop**  
Oct. 18, 2024

**Training for First-Time Reviewers**  
Reviewer Zero  
Dec. 4, 2024

**BIN Summer Undergrad Research Program (SURP) Symposium**  
Jan. 10, 2025

# Community Highlights



**Black In Neuro**  
@BlackInNeuro

## Social Media Highlight ✕

"We are back with our second 🌟 BIN Mentorship Spotlight! #BlackInNeuro is celebrating a BIN mentor and mentee pair every month. 📅 This month we hear from Dr. Ajilore and Nicholas about what this BIN Mentorship program has meant to them #MentorshipMatters #BINMentorshipSpotlight"

## Black In Neuro Mentorship



**Mentor**

"I am very proud to be part of the Black in Neuro mentorship program. I have benefitted so much from strong mentorship throughout my career, and I see this is an excellent opportunity to pay it forward."

-Olu Ajilore, MD, PhD

Professor of Psychiatry, University of Illinois at Chicago

"The BIN mentorship has exposed me to a one-on-one experience I would not have had through conventional means. I am grateful to be part of it."

- Nicholas Aderinto, MBBS

UAcademic Editor, PLOS ONE



**Mentee**

**BIN Mentorship  
23'-24' Cohort**

## Successes from our Mentors!

Working to uplift aspiring Black scientists!  
**Dr. Dosh Whye**

I successfully taught my mentee collaborative writing that resulted in co-authoring a book chapter. I also encouraged my mentee on how to search for research funding and preparedness for submitting an application

**Dr. Adejoke Memudu**

## Successes from our Mentees!

Have a clearer career plan  
**Nicholas Aderinto, MD**

I graduated with a Bsc in Neuroscience and started a new job in industry--all with the help of the mentorship scheme with BIN

**Ngum Mofor, BSc**

## Mentorship Program Launch



#BlackRestInNeuro



Sharing the things we do to protect our peace and mental health so we continue to thrive in neuroscience

#BlackJoyInNeuro



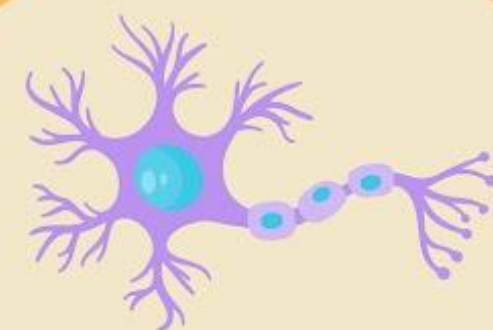
We want to use the day to build community and spread joy by meeting up with Black In Neuro members in your local community

#BlackInNeuroCareers



The day is dedicated to offering career advancement techniques for those in neuroscience related fields

#BlackJourneyToNeuro



Highlight and celebrate the diverse journeys taken within the BIN community

#NeuroRacism



We explore ongoing racism in neuroscience related fields, and ways to dismantle it

#NeuroAcrossTheDiaspora



Celebrate our BIN community across the diaspora as we hear from a range of academics outside of the US, UK, and Canada

#BlackInNeuroRollCall



Introducing the #BlackInNeuro community to the world by amplifying each other!

# Black In Neuro Week 2023



**Black In Neuro Week 2023 (BINW23)** was held virtually and in-person from July 24 – July 30, 2023. As always, our events were free and open to the public.

# Black In Neuro Week 2023

## Highlights

*BIN Week is one of my favorite weeks of the year! I always look forward to my timeline filling up with Black neuroscientists, and it expands my community further as the years go by.*

*BIN Community Member*

Registrants tuned in from **35 countries**. The majority were based in the USA (81%), followed by Nigeria, Canada, and the United Kingdom

On Twitter we had **621K impressions** over the week. We kicked off the week with **150+** Black students, faculty, clinicians, technicians, and career professionals from around the world checking in for **#BlackInNeuroRollCall**

We held our first official in-person BINW events to celebrate **#BlackJoyInNeuro**. Eight community meet-ups were held in 8 cities in Nigeria, Canada, and the United States





# Black In Neuro @ SfN 2023

We made our mark at the Society for Neuroscience 2023 conference held in Washington, D.C. from November 11-15, 2023. Black In Neuro held two events on Sunday November 12, 2023 – “How I Survived Grad School: Perspectives from Black In Neuro” and our second ‘BIN @ SfN Networking Social.’ It was amazing seeing over 100 new and familiar faces, networking, and even playing BINGo.



**BIN@ SfN Social: Faculty & Career Professionals**



**‘How I Survived Grad School’: Perspectives from Black In Neuro Workshop**



**BIN@ SfN Social: Postdocs**



**BIN@ SfN Social: Undergrads, lab techs, & post bacs**



**BIN@ SfN Social: Graduate Students**

## **BINW2023 Feedback**

*“BIN Week is one of my favorite weeks of the year! I always look forward to my timeline filling up with Black neuroscientists, and it expands my community further as the years go by.”*

*“It was amazing! I’ve already shared BIN with others, and feel so inspired for this week”*

*“My experience interacting in BINW23 was just amazing. I learned a lot and I never knew about the existence of incredible research teams in the community”*

## **BIN At SfN 2023 Feedback**

*“I enjoyed the BIN events and don’t feel like as much of an imposter in neuroscience”*

*“It was inspiring! The questions and answers part was very engaging and helpful.”*

*“This was my first time interacting with BIN and I enjoyed it so much! It’s great to know that there’s an established community for black people in neuro and I’m looking forward to getting more involved over the years.”*

*“Great experience. I am not a student. I am a mid-career faculty. However, I am so happy I came, I learned so much!”*

*“It was great to see everyone and know that we out here”*

# **Thoughts From Our Community**

# Thank You to Our Sponsors & Donors

## In-Kind Services



**ALY LAB**

Career / Grad School Mentorship



Center for the Neurobiology of Learning and Memory

Fiscal Sponsor: Processing speaker honoraria



"Peer Review 101" webinar: Illuminating the "hidden curriculum" for early career scholars



Functional Imaging & Naturalistic Neuroscience (FINN) Lab  
Graduate School Application Guidance



SOCIETY FOR THE NEUROBIOLOGY OF LANGUAGE

Complimentary SNL Membership for BIN early career researchers

## Monetary Contributions



**ALLEN INSTITUTE**  
open for science

\$10,000



Howard Hughes Medical Institute

\$5,000



Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

The Friedman Brain Institute

\$2,500



\$2,500

**WU TSAI INSTITUTE**  
**YALE UNIVERSITY**

\$2,500



Institute for Brain Sciences

\$1,000



Berkeley Molecular & Cell Biology

\$1,000



**UCDAVIS**

Center for Neuroscience

\$1,000



OHSU

Department of Behavioral Neuroscience

\$500

**Schnagel Labs**

Semper Argumenta Collige

\$500



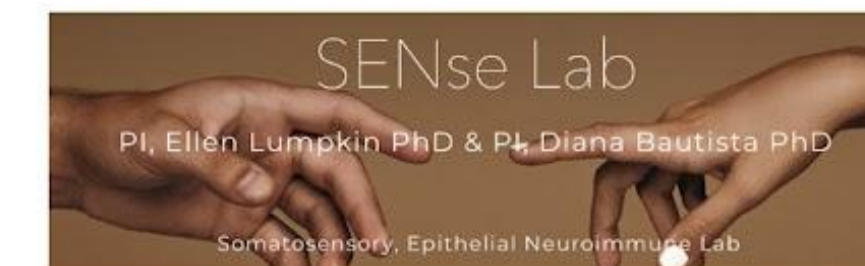
UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND BALTIMORE  
Department of Neurobiology

\$500



A Cell Press journal

\$500



SENse Lab

PI, Ellen Lumpkin PhD & PI, Diana Bautista PhD

Somatosensory, Epithelial Neuroimmune Lab

\$500

**Rothwell Lab**

@ UMN

\$500



DREXEL UNIVERSITY  
Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Professional Studies  
College of Medicine

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Neuroscience  
\$500



Center for the Neurobiology of Learning and Memory

\$500



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# Looking Ahead: Closing Message

## Incoming President Statement

Our history is resilient, our present is a beautiful struggle and our future holds limitless potential. As Black In Neuro approaches 5 years, yes, 5 years, our growth, connectivity and joy has been priceless to experience. We've gone from being institutionally siloed, excluded and belittled to creating our own foundations and domains where we stand tall. We have created a place for ourselves within the neurosciences that ensures that we can survive, thrive and chart our own paths forward. We built this safe place together.

Now more than ever it is important that we protect and fortify this space: we as Black In Neuro leadership hold the keys to a Black centered hub that prioritizes the needs of our community and ensures our inclusion within spaces that have resisted our progress. This is a huge responsibility that we don't take lightly. Viral moments can dissipate, movements can come to a halt, but real, lasting change stands the test of time. Black In Neuro is here to stay.

So as we reach new milestones, there is more work to be done. We want Black In Neuro to be a platform that transcends academia, where young and old can feel inspired to join us on this journey. We want anybody who is curious about the brain to know where to go for direction, be that through knowledge dissemination, disease and disparity advocacy or lighting the path for the next generation. As this field begins to grow, we want Black participation to blossom and lead the way. And that participation reaches far beyond the United States. We have a global Black diaspora that need unlocking. Within the neurosciences, there is amazing work happening on the continent of Africa, in Europe, the Americas, the Caribbean, Oceania, and Asia.



Better connecting researchers wherever they may be is key to the success of all of us. Unlearning our Western biases and interacting with our diaspora as equal partners holds so much value. That connection also extends beyond race. Although we will unapologetically center our Blackness, we are willing to work with likeminded people and organizations to ensure equity, belonging and justice for all of us. This work must be done together, not as competing factions and we are at the table ready to talk, collaborate and build together.

So as Black In Neuro's incoming President, I and this amazing team of volunteers who sacrifice their time are going to **1) Fortify** our present and future within the higher education sector, **2) Expand** our reach beyond academia to create our own pipelines that identify, nurture and propel Black talent into and within the neurosciences, **3) Connect** with and center the global Black In Neuro diaspora, **4) Cement** Black In Neuro as a trusted source for our community through the sharing of knowledge and advocacy on diseases, disparities and technologies that we may encounter and **5) Collaborate** and align with organizations committed to ensuring a better future for all of us.

**I look forward to serving, leading, and working alongside you. Thank you for joining us on this journey.**



De-Shaine Murray, PhD