



Lake Conference

COMPARATIVE AND EVOLUTIONARY NEUROBIOLOGY

October 25 - 29, 2026

Hyatt Regency Lake Washington Renton, Washington

Sunday, October 25 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Time	Activity	Location
5:00 – 6:45 PM	Registration Opens & Reception Begins	Lake Washington Ballroom Terrace
6:45 – 6:50 PM	Welcome: Rui Costa , Allen Institute	Lake Washington Ballroom
6:50 – 7:00 PM	Opening Remarks: Ed Lein , Allen Institute	

Monday, October 26 8:00 AM – 9:00 PM

Time	Activity	Location
8:00 – 9:00 AM	<i>Breakfast</i> Speaker Testing 7:30-8:30	Bellevue Room Lake Washington Ballroom
9:00 – 9:25 AM	Jacob Musser , Yale University – An ancient monoaminergic signaling system coordinates contractility in a nerveless sponge	Lake Washington Ballroom
9:25 – 9:50 AM	Christopher Lowe , Stanford University – Making an adult nervous system by larval transformation: reprogramming the ciliary band during sea cucumber metamorphosis	
9:50 – 10:15 AM	Pawel Burkhardt , University of Bergen – Tracing the deep origins of nervous systems	
10:15 – 10:40 AM	<i>Coffee & Discussion</i>	

10:40 – 11:05 AM	Maria Tosches , Columbia University – Evolution of neuron types and tissue architecture in the vertebrate telencephalon	Lake Washington Ballroom
11:05 – 11:30 AM	Trygve Bakken , Allen Institute – Conservation and divergence of cell types in the mammalian CNS	
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	<i>Personal Time / Lunch</i>	Bellevue Room
1:00 – 1:25 PM	Evan Eichler , University of Washington – Human-specific evolution of brain genes by duplication	
1:25 – 1:50 PM	Pierre Vanderhaegen , KU Leuven – Linking developmental timing and human brain evolution	
1:50 – 2:15 PM	Franck Polleux , Columbia University – Human-specific genetic modifiers of cortical circuit evolution	
2:15 – 2:40 PM	<i>Coffee & Discussion</i>	
2:40 – 3:05 PM	Henrik Kaessmann , ZMBH Heidelberg – The origins and molecular evolution of the vertebrate brain	
3:05 – 3:30 PM	Genevieve Konopka , University of California, Los Angeles – Cognitive genomics: cell type-specific brain evolution	
3:30 – 3:55 PM	Jennifer Li , Max Planck Institute for Biological Cybernetics – The structure and function of the fish “hippocampus	
3:55 – 4:20 PM	Kathleen Millen , Seattle Children’s Hospital – A cerebellum first perspective of CNS development	
4:20 – 4:50 PM	Short Talks	
4:20 – 4:35 PM	Emre Caglayan , Boston Children's Hospital / Harvard Medical School – Looking at human and nonhuman primate brain aging through the lens of somatic mutations	
4:35 – 4:50 PM	Suel-Kee Kim , Yale University – Talk Title TBD	
4:50 – 7:00 PM	<i>Personal Time / Dinner</i>	Bellevue Room
7:00 – 9:00 PM	Poster Session 1: A-K	Seattle Room

Tuesday, October 27 8:00 AM – 9:00 PM

Time	Activity	Location
8:00 – 9:00 AM	<i>Breakfast</i> Speaker Testing 7:30-8:30	Bellevue Room Lake Washington Ballroom

9:00 – 9:25 AM	Alex Pollen , University of California, San Francisco – Perturbational Genomics of Human Brain Evolution	Lake Washington Ballroom
9:25 – 9:50 AM	Stein Aerts , KU Leuven and VIB.AI – Modeling genome regulation using single-cell atlases	
9:50 – 10:05 AM	Jenelle Wallace , University of California, San Francisco – Evolution of neuronal activity-dependent regulatory grammar in human cortical neurons	
10:05 – 10:30 AM	Erich Jarvis , Rockefeller University – Talk Title TBD	
10:30 – 10:40 AM	<i>Coffee & Discussion</i>	
10:40 – 11:05 AM	Oliver Hobert , Columbia University – Nervous system adaptations over several 100 million years of nematode evolution	Lake Washington Ballroom
11:05 – 11:20 AM	Short Talk	
11:05 – 11:20 AM	Natalia Goriounova , Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam – Bridging cells and networks to understand human cognition	
11:20 AM – 11:45 AM	Paul Cisek , University of Montreal – Brain evolution and the continuous extension of control	
11:45 – 1:30 PM	<i>Lunch / Personal Time</i>	Bellevue Room
1:30 – 1:55 PM	Barbara Treutlein ETH Zurich – Mapping neurogenic niches across the axolotl brain	
1:55 – 2:20 PM	Claude Desplan , New York University – Amplification of the peripheral olfactory system and the central mushroom body in a eusocial insect	
2:20 – 2:45 PM	David Keays , Ludwig-Maximilians-Universitaet Munich – Magnetic Neuronal Circuits	
2:45 – 3:10 PM	<i>Coffee & Discussion</i>	
3:10 – 3:35 PM	Daniel Kronauer , Rockefeller University – Ant Societies: From Behavior to Neural Circuits	
3:35 – 4:00 PM	Vanessa Ruta , Rockefeller University – Themes and variations in Drosophila social circuits	
4:00 – 4:25 PM	Bing Brunton , University of Washington – Embodied intelligence: From connectomes to body models	
4:25 – 4:55 PM	Short Talks	
4:25 – 4:40 PM	Paul Katz , University of Massachusetts Amherst – Connectomic and transcriptomic investigation of a nudibranch mollusc reveals multiple neural circuit motifs and ganglionic adult neurogenesis	

4:40 – 4:55 PM	Kelsey Tyssowski , Harvard University – Evolution of the neural basis of dexterity in deer mice	
4:55 – 7:00 PM	<i>Personal Time / Dinner</i>	Bellevue Room
7:00 – 9:00 PM	Poster Session 2: L- Z	Seattle Room

Wednesday, October 28 8:00 AM – 8:30 PM

Time	Activity	Location
8:00 – 9:00 AM	<i>Breakfast</i> Speaker Testing 7:30-8:30	Bellevue Room Lake Washington Ballroom
9:00 – 9:25 AM	Azahara Oliva Gonzalez , Cornell University – Talk Title TBD	Lake Washington Ballroom
9:25 – 9:50 AM	Madeline Lancaster , University of Cambridge – Timing and tempo in primate and human neural expansion	
9:50 – 11:05 AM	Short Talks	
9:50 – 10:05 AM	Huihui Qi , Johns Hopkins University – Pallial motor circuits at single-neuron resolution: evolutionary insights from universal barcoding	
10:05 – 10:20 AM	Maxwell Coyle , Harvard University – An ancient receptor lineage illuminates the evolution of animal sensation	
10:20 – 10:35 AM	Brandon Weissbourd , MIT – Talk Title TBD	
10:35 – 10:50 AM	Loranzie Rogers , Harvard University – Metamorphic remodeling of sensation across the water-to-land transition	
10:50 – 11:05 AM	Annaliese Beery , Berkeley – Social brains: oxytocin receptor density and sociality across a clade of South American rodents	
11:05 – 11:30 AM	Personal Time	
11:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Load onto cruise boat (<i>departs at 12p sharp</i>)	Hyatt Dock
12:00 – 3:00 PM	Lunch on Argosy Cruise	
3:00 – 3:30 PM	Dock at MOHAI and arrive at Allen Institute	
3:30 – 4:30 PM	Allen Institute Presentations	Auditorium
4:30 – 6:00 PM	Poster Session	Level 2 & 3
6:00 – 6:45 PM	Shuttles back to hotel	
7:00 – 8:30 PM	<i>Dinner</i>	Bellevue Room

Thursday, October 29 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Time	Activity	Location
8:00 – 9:00 AM	<i>Breakfast</i> Speaker Testing 7:30-8:30	Bellevue Room Lake Washington Ballroom
9:00 – 9:25 AM	Lindy McBride (Princeton) – Emergence of a population code for human odor during the rapid evolution of mosquito host preference	Lake Washington Ballroom
9:25 – 9:50 AM	Nate Sawtell , Columbia University – Neural mechanisms for predictive sensory processing: a comparative approach	
9:50 – 10:30 AM	<i>Coffee & Discussion</i>	
10:30 – 10:55A	Detlev Arendt , EMBL Heidelberg – Talk Title TBD (Pre-recorded)	
10:55 – 11:25 AM	Short Talks	Lake Washington Ballroom
10:55 – 11:10 AM	Aalok Varma , University of California, San Diego – The role of an endogenous viral element in neural function in coleoid cephalopods	
11:10 – 11:25 AM	Roy Zang , Yale University – Building the First Neurons: The Evolution of Spectrin and the Membrane Periodic Skeleton	
11:25 AM – 1:00 PM	<i>Lunch & Final Remarks</i>	Bellevue Room
1:00 PM	Event Concludes	