T32 Postdoctoral Research Training 2023-2024

The T32 Postdoctoral Research Training in Alzheimer's Disease and Related Neurodegenerative Disorders prepares basic, translational, and clinical scientists to be future leaders in research on brain aging and dementia. This program is funded by the National Institute on Aging of the National Institutes of Health under award number T32AG052909 and is directed by Thomas M. Wisniewski, MD, and Helen E. Scharfman, PhD.
Current T32 Trainees

**Amanda Labuza, PhD**  
T32 Trainee Year 2  
Pt: Stephen Ginsberg, PhD  
The Nathan S. Kline Institute for Psychiatric Research  

Amanda received a PhD in neuroscience from University of Maryland, Baltimore, studying calcium regulation in skeletal muscle and neurons in the lab of Dr. Robert Bloch. Her postdoctoral research in Dr. Ginsberg’s lab is focused on neuronal populations within the default mode network (DMN) across the Alzheimer’s disease spectrum in postmortem human brain tissue to uncover the link between gene expression and disease progression.

**Gabriel Stephens, PhD**  
T32 Trainee Year 1  
Pt: Helen Scharfman, PhD  
The Nathan S. Kline Institute for Psychiatric Research  

Gabriel obtained his PhD in neuroscience at Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, in the lab of Dr. Jeannie Chin, investigating recurrent seizures in Alzheimer’s disease. His postdoctoral research with Dr. Scharfman aims to identify circuit mechanisms driving interictal spikes by selectively reducing the activity of medial septal cholinergic neurons (MSCNs) in mice that model the early pathophysiology of Alzheimer’s disease.

**Oliver Swart, PhD**  
T32 Trainee Year 1  
Pt: Paramjit Arora, PhD  
Department of Chemistry, NYU  

Oliver received his PhD in chemistry from the University of Rochester, working under Dr. Benjamin Miller on developing small-molecules against HIV frameshift stimulatory RNA and precursor microRNAs. In his postdoctoral research in Dr. Arora’s lab, he is developing peptidomimetic ligands to specifically target RNA triplet repeats implicated in neurodegenerative diseases, focusing on the expanded CAG repeat in Huntington’s disease.

**Amber Tetlow, PhD**  
T32 Trainee Year 2  
Pt: Einar Sigurdsson, PhD  
Department of Neuroscience and Physiology, NYU Grossman School of Medicine  

Amber earned her PhD in aging sciences from University of South Florida working with Dr. David Morgan on aging and viral mouse models of tauopathy. In her postdoctoral work in Dr. Sigurdsson’s lab, she studies neuronal function, microglia morphology, and behavior in a mouse model of tauopathy in response to effective and toxic tau immunotherapies using two-photon imaging, histological analyses, and behavioral tests.
Recent T32 Alumni

Marta Grońska-Pęski, PhD
T32 Trainee 2021-2022

PI: Gilad Evrony, MD, PhD
Center for Human Genetics & Genomics, NYU Grossman School of Medicine

Marta earned her neuroscience PhD at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, working with Dr. Jean Hébert on the role of fibroblast growth factor receptors in hippocampal stem cell biology. Her postdoctoral work with Dr. Evrony centers on mutational processes and cell-type specific somatic mutation rates (SMRs) in the aging and Alzheimer’s disease brain, utilizing ultra-high fidelity DNA sequencing in postmortem human brain tissue.

Jason Moore, PhD
T32 Trainee 2021-2023

PI: Jayeeta Basu, PhD
Department of Neuroscience and Physiology, NYU Grossman School of Medicine

Jason received a PhD in neuroscience at UCLA in the lab of Dr. Mayank Mehta studying dendritic activity during navigation and learning. In his postdoctoral work in Dr. Basu’s lab, he investigates the cellular mechanisms of how dendrite-centric Alzheimer’s disease pathologies result in cognitive decline using calcium imaging to examine dendritic population activity in the CA3 area of mouse hippocampus.
T32 Alumni

2017-2022

Yi Li, MD, PhD

Katherine Y. Peng Mackie, PhD
Pi: Paul Mathews, PhD, and Efrat Levy, PhD (2017-2019)

Emmanuel A. Cruz Torres, PhD
Pi: Cristina Alberini, PhD (2018-2020)

Jessica S. Sadick, PhD
Pi: Shane Liddelow, PhD (2018-2020)

Samantha B. Larsen, PhD
Pi: Richard Tsien, DPhil (2019-2021)

Andie N. Dodge, PhD
Pi: Einar Sigurdsson, PhD (2021-2021)

Marco J. Russo, MD, PhD
Pi: Un Kang, MD (2020-2022)