

3rd Annual Neuroscience Symposium

Bringing Minds Together!

Society for Neuroscience (SfN) Baton Rouge Chapter

April 10, 2026

LSU School of Veterinary Medicine, Skip Bertman Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70803

Program



8:30-9:00

Registration /Breakfast

9:00-9:50

Oral presentations by graduate students

9:00-9:10 Tharindu Trishan Dapana Durage, Nutrition & Food Sciences, LSU, Baton Rouge, "*Cross-study reanalysis of public 16S rRNA sequencing datasets reveals shared gut microbiome and predicted metabolic pathway signatures in Alzheimer's disease*"

9:10-9:20 Raevan Hanan, Department of Psychology, LSU, Baton Rouge, "*Impact of Long-Term Memory Strength Encoding Modulation on Retrieval and Attentional Guidance*"

9:20-9:30 Mohamed Sayed, LSU Health Sciences Center, New Orleans, "*Cerebellar Regulation of Fear Memory and Extinction*"

9:30-9:40 Ignitius Lim, Vet Med CBS Department, LSU, Baton Rouge, "*Nicotine tunes dopaminergic and non-dopaminergic connectivity in ventral tegmental area local circuits*"

9:40-9:50 Alyssa Daspit, Biological Sciences Department, LSU, Baton Rouge, "*Mapping Modified or Novel Retinorecipient Regions in the Anableps Brain*"

9:50-11:10

Vendor Show/Poster Viewing

11:10-11:15

Welcome from outgoing Chapter President: Alexander K. Murashov, MD, PhD

11:15-11:20

Opening Remarks from incoming Chapter President: Melissa R. Beck, PhD

11:20-11:25

Opening Remarks from Dr. Oliver Garden, Dean and Kenneth Burns Endowed Chair, LSU School of Veterinary Medicine



11:25-12:15

Keynote Address: Jeffrey G. Tasker, Ph.D., Catherine and Hunter Pierson Chair in Neuroscience, Professor in Cell & Molecular Biology, Tulane Brain Institute. "*Neuromodulatory Dysregulation of Amygdala Inhibitory Circuits by Traumatic Stress.*"

12:15 -12:50

Lunch/Networking

12:50-14:10

Vendor Show/Poster Viewing

14:10-15:50

Oral Presentations by faculty



14:10-14:30 Steffy Manjila, Ph.D., Neuroscience Center of Excellence & Department of Neurology, LSU Health Sciences Center, New Orleans, "*Characterization of Oxytocin receptor (OxTR): expressing neurons in the dorsal endopiriform nucleus (EPd): a novel area for shifting gears from surveillance to-novelty*"

14:30-14:50 Juhee Haam, Ph.D., Biological Sciences, LSU, Baton Rouge, "*Role of Hyperpolarization-Activated Cyclic Nucleotide-Gated Channels in Neuroinflammation and-Amyloid Beta Pathology in the Entorhinal Cortex*".

14:50-15:10 Friederike Klempin, Ph.D., CV Center, Neurology and Cell Biology and Anatomy, LSU Health Sciences, New Orleans, "*Serotonin-Vascular Interactions Shape Microglial Function and Neuroplasticity*"

15:10-15:30 Jeffrey Erickson, Ph.D., Neuroscience Center, LSU Health Sciences, New Orleans, "*Novel presynaptic agents to prevent glutamate-induced neural injury*"

15:30-15:50 Ludmila Belayev, Ph.D., Neuroscience Center, LSU Health Sciences, New Orleans, "*Long-lasting neuroprotection by docosanoid mediator*"

15:50-16:00

Group Photo/Coffee break

16:00-19:00

Social at the Vet School with Closing Remarks and Awards: Melissa R. Beck, PhD

