

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

Influence of Early Experience on Adult Brain Organization and Function
Friday, December 2, 2016



April A. Benasich is the Elizabeth H. Solomon Professor of Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience, Director of the Infancy Studies Laboratory at the Center for Molecular and Behavioral Neuroscience, Rutgers University, and the Director of the Carter Center for Neurocognitive Research. Benasich received her Ph.D.s from New York University in experimental/cognitive neuroscience and clinical psychology. Postdoctoral work was completed at Johns Hopkins University Medical School. Her work focuses on the human developing brain, the early identification of developmental disorders, the dynamics of early brain plasticity and the role of attention and sensory recruitment in the construction of early brain maps critical to later learning and achievement.



BJ Casey is a Professor of Psychology at Yale University and an Adjunct Professor at The Rockefeller University and Weill Cornell Medical College in New York City. She completed her doctorate in experimental psychology at the University of South Carolina and completed her postdoctoral training at the National Institute of Mental Health where she gained a reputation as a pioneer in pediatric brain imaging. Over the past decade she has gained international recognition for her empirical and theoretical work on the adolescent brain and preclinical discoveries in humans and mice that inform novel therapeutics for psychiatric disorders.



Catherine Dulac is a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator and the Higgins Professor of Molecular and Cellular Biology at Harvard University. Her work explores neural circuits underlying instinctive social behaviors in mice and the nature and function of genomic imprinting in the brain. Dulac graduated from the Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris, and received her Ph.D. from the University of Paris VI. She was Chair of Harvard's Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology from 2007 to 2013. Dulac is a member of the US National Academy of Sciences, the French Academy of Sciences, and a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.



Jay N. Giedd, M.D., is Director of the Division of Chair of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at UC San Diego and an Adjunct Professor at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in the Department of Population, Family and Reproductive Health. Since 1991, Giedd has been conducting research on the biological basis of cognition, emotion, and behavior with a particular emphasis on the teen years.



Carla Shatz is the Sapp Family Provostial Professor of Biology and Neurobiology and David Starr Jordan Director of Bio-X, Stanford University's pioneering interdisciplinary biosciences program. She received a B.A. in Chemistry (1969) and Ph.D. in Neurobiology (1976) from Harvard. Prior to joining Stanford University, Shatz was the first woman to Chair the Department of Neurobiology at Harvard Medical School. She has devoted her career to understanding the dynamic interplay between genes and environment that shapes brain circuits. Shatz is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, American Philosophical Society and Royal Society of London. She received the Gruber Neuroscience Prize in 2015, and most recently (2016) the Kavli Prize in Neuroscience.

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Beth Stevens is an Assistant Professor of Neurology at Harvard University. Her lab is interested in interactions between the two fundamental cell types of the nervous system, neurons and glia, and how neuron-glia communication facilitates the formation, elimination, and plasticity of synapses during both healthy development and disease states. Stevens received her Ph.D. in neuroscience in 2003 from the University of Maryland, College Park and NIH. She is the recipient of several awards including the Dana Foundation Award, Ellison Medical Foundation New Scholar in Aging award, John Merck Scholar Program, MacArthur Fellows Program, and the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PCASE).



Mark F. Bear received his Ph.D. in neurobiology from Brown University. He took postdoctoral training from Wolf Singer at the Max Planck Institute for Brain Research in Frankfurt, Germany, and from Leon Cooper at Brown. Bear joined the faculty of the Brown University School of Medicine in 1985 and was named a Howard Hughes Medical Investigator in 1996. At Brown, he was awarded the 2000 Elizabeth H. Leduc Award for teaching excellence in the life sciences, and the Class of 2000 Barrett Hazeltine Citation for teaching excellence. In 2003, Bear was appointed Picower Professor of Neuroscience at The Picower Institute for Learning and Memory in the Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences at MIT.



Matthew State received his M.D. from Stanford University, completed a residency in psychiatry and a fellowship in child psychiatry at UCLA, and earned a Ph.D. in genetics from Yale University, where he joined the faculty in 2001. In 2013 he moved to UC San Francisco as the Oberndorf Family Distinguished Professor and Chair of the Department of Psychiatry. State's lab studies the genetics and genomics of childhood neuropsychiatry disorders. He co-leads several international genomics collaborations, including the NIH-funded Autism Sequencing Consortium and has been the recipient of multiple awards, including recent induction into the Institute of Medicine and The AACAP George Tarjan Award for Contributions in Developmental Disabilities.



Terrence Sejnowski is a pioneer in computational neuroscience and his goal is to understand the principles that link brain to behavior. He received his Ph.D. in physics from Princeton University and is currently an Investigator with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, a Distinguished Professor at UC San Diego and holds the Francis Crick Chair at The Salk Institute. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Medicine, and the National Academy of Engineering. He served on the Working Group of the Advisory Committee to the Director of NIH for the BRAIN Initiative.