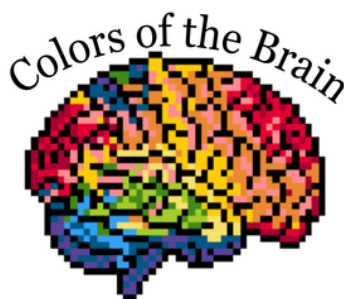


2026 MIND (MENTORING, INCLUSION AND NEUROSCIENCE DISCOVERIES) SYMPOSIUM

Colors of the Brain — Kavli Institute of
Brain and Mind

August 28th, 2026
1-5 PM
Bonner Hall 2130



The **Kavli**
Institute for
Brain and Mind



UC San Diego

INTERNATIONAL BRAIN
IBRO 
RESEARCH ORGANIZATION

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

COME SUPPORT OUR SUMMER 2026 SCHOLARS AND LEARN MORE
ABOUT UNDERGRADUATE NEUROSCIENCE RESEARCH AT UCSD!
WE ESPECIALLY ENCOURAGE UCSD STUDENTS, STAFF, RESEARCHERS,
FRIENDS, AND FAMILY TO ATTEND

Food will be provided

2026 MINDS Speakers



1 Lauren Valdez & Shazreh Hassan

Co-Program Coordinators
Opening Remarks



2 Dayrin Gutierrez 1:10 - 1:25

Leveraging neural organoids to understand the contribution of spike synchrony to aperiodic neural activity

Mentors: Bradley Voytek, PhD; Christian Cazares, PhD; Liz Kaplan

3 Audrey Perillo 1:25 - 1:40

Validating CaMPARI for High-Throughput Screening

Mentors: Sreekanth Chalasani, PhD; Sasha Bikkina; Callum Walsh, PhD



4 Brayan Quiroz 1:40 - 1:55

Investigating the Role of Touch in Infant-Directed Aggression in Mice

Mentors: Dhananjay Bambah-Mukku, PhD; Sunaina Martin



2026 MINDS Speakers



5

Talisa Wines

1:55 - 2:10

**Multidimensional Readouts of Prosocial
Decision Making**

Mentors: Kay Tye, PhD; Isaac Tang; Bitna
Joo, PhD



6

Austin Smith

2:10 - 2:25

**Heparan Sulfate Modification of
Astrocytic Neurexin-1: Mechanism and
Function**

Mentors: Justin Trotter, PhD; Shijun Li



STARTNeuro Speaker

7

Brenna Hall

2:50 - 3:05

**Adipocytes in Cancer and Obesity in
Ireland**

Mentors: Stephanie Annett, PhD; Caoimhe
Cadden



2026 MINDS Speakers



Alumna Speaker

8

Sasha Bikkina 3:05 - 3:30

**Using Sonogenetics to Replace
Pharmaceuticals**

Mentors: Shrek Chalasani, PhD; Callum
Walsh, PhD

Keynote Speaker

9

Dr. Lucy Lai 3:30 - 4:30

**Making decisions with limited cognitive
resources**

