

BrightFocus ALZHEIMER'S FAST TRACK

November 12-14, 2025 | San Diego, CA



■ Wednesday, November 12

8:00–8:15 am WELCOME

SESSION I: FOSTERING SUCCESS IN SCIENCE

Moderator: Sharyn Rossi, PhD

8:15–8:30 am	How to Write a Successful Grant	Cindy Lemere, PhD
8:30–8:45 am	Building a Foundation of Success for Early-Stage Scientists	Frank LaFerla, PhD
8:45–9:00 am	Securing Funding for International AD AD Collaborations: Strategies for Early-Career Researchers	Harry Steinbusch, PhD
9:00–10:00 am	Making an Impact with your Speech and Style	Bri McWhorter
10:00–10:30 am	BREAK	

SESSION II: CLINICAL HETEROGENEITY IN NEURODEGENERATIVE DISEASE

Moderator: Harry Steinbusch, PhD

10:30–10:50 am	Atypical Alzheimer's Disease: Embracing Clinicopathologic Heterogeneity to Inform Biomarker and Therapeutic Devices	Melissa Murray, PhD
10:50–11:10 am	Neurodegenerative Disease Diagnosis: The Role of Biomarkers	Adam Boxer, PhD
11:10–11:30 am	Clinical Manifestations of Mixed Neuropathology	Melissa Lamar, PhD
11:30–12:00 pm	DISCUSSION	
12:00–1:30 pm	LUNCH	

SESSION III: RACIAL DISPARITIES AND SEX DIFFERENCES

Moderator: Frank LaFerla, PhD

1:30–1:50 pm	Preparing a Future of Optimal Aging for All A Renewed Focus on Study Design	Crystal Glover, PhD
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1:50–2:10 pm	Alzheimer’s Biomarkers Across Populations– Data from the HABS-HD	Sid O’Bryant, PhD
2:10–2:30 pm	TBD	Timothy Hohman, PhD
2:30–3:00 pm	DISCUSSION	
SESSION IV: CROSS DISEASE COMMON MECHANISMS		
Moderator: Cindy Lemere, PhD		
3:00–3:20 pm	Aging, Lysosomes, and Neurodegenerative Diseases	Aimee Kao, MD, PhD
3:20–3:40 pm	TBD	Daniel Geschwind, MD, PhD
3:40–4:00 pm	Drug Discover for Neurodegeneration: Why So Slow?	Peter Lansbury, PhD
4:00–4:30 pm	DISCUSSION	
5:00–7:00 pm	GRANT PROPOSALS	
7:00–9:00 pm	DINNER	

■ Thursday, November 13

SESSION I: TRANSLATION AND CLINICAL TRIAL DESIGN

Moderator: Cindy Lemere, PhD

8:00–8:20 am	The AD Drug Pipeline	Donald Weaver, MD, PhD
8:20–8:40 am	Improving Preclinical to Clinical Translation: MODEL-AD Preclinical Efficacy	Stacey Rizzo, PhD
8:40–9:00 am	Clinical Trial Recruitment	Joshua Grill, PhD
9:00–9:30 am	DISCUSSION	

SESSION II: IMMUNITY AND INFLAMMATION

Moderator: Harry Steinbusch, PhD

9:30–9:50 am	Microglial Cells: Friends and Foe in Neurodegenerative Disease	Michael Heneka, MD
9:50–10:10 am	Meningeal Lymphatic Function in Brain Health & Disease	Sandro Da Mesquita, PhD

10:10–10:30 am	The Alzheimer's Pathobiome Initiative: Patient-Centered Interdisciplinary Collaboration Unveiling Microbial Drivers of Dementia	Nikki Shultek, BS
10:30–10:50 am	β -Amyloid is an Antimicrobial Immunopeptide and AD is an Immunopathy	Donald Weaver, MD, PhD
10:50–11:20 am	DISCUSSION	

SESSION III: RESOURCES

Moderator: Frank LaFerla, PhD

11:20–11:40 am	SEA-AD: An Integrated Multimodal Cell Atlas of Alzheimer's Disease	Kyle Travaglini, PhD
11:40–12:00 pm	Marmosets as Research Models for the Study of Alzheimer's Disease	Stacey Rizzo, PhD
12:00–12:30 pm	DISCUSSION	
12:30–2:00 pm	LUNCH	Lived Experience Panel Moderator: Joshua Grill, PhD

SESSION IV: RISK FACTORS AND INTERVENTIONS

Moderator: Cindy Lemere, PhD

2:00–2:20 pm	Beyond Proteins: Expanding the Targetome with Regulatory Non-Coding RNA	Anna Krichevsk, PhD
2:20–2:40 pm	Vascular Risk Factors, Neurotrauma and Dementia	Cheryl Wellington, PhD
2:40–3:00 pm	Blood-Brain Barrier Modulation with Focused Ultrasound: From Preclinical Research to Clinical Applications for Drug Delivery and Brain Plasticity	Isabelle Aubert, PhD
3:30–3:30 pm	DISCUSSION	
3:30–4:00 pm	BREAK	

SESSION V: PANEL DISCUSSION

Moderator: Sharyn Rossi, PhD

4:00–4:45 pm How to Translate and Streamline
Novel Therapies in ADRD

Peter Lansbury, PhD
Donald Weaver, MD, PhD
Peter Lansbury, PhD
Stacey Rizzo, PhD
Aimee Kao, MD, PhD

5:00–7:00 pm GRANT PROPOSALS

7:00–9:00 pm DINNER

■ Friday, November 14

7:30–8:30 am BREAKFAST

Moderator: Cindy Lemere, PhD

8:30–9:00 am People Living with Dementia:
The Real Face Behind Our Research

Donald Weaver, MD, PhD

Moderator: Harry Steinbusch, PhD

9:00–9:20 am DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS

9:20–9:35 am DISCUSSION

9:35–9:55 am ENDOLYSOSOMAL SYSTEM

9:55–10:10 am DISCUSSION

10:10–10:30 am MULTI-ETIOLOGY DEMENTIA

10:30–10:45 am DISCUSSION

10:45–11:05 am NEUROIMMUNE INTERFACE

11:05–11:20 am DISCUSSION

11:20–11:40 am NOVEL THERAPEUTICS

11:40–11:55 am DISCUSSION

12:00–1:30 pm PICTURE and LUNCH

Moderator: Frank LaFerla, PhD

2:00–2:20 pm	NEURODEGENERATIVE PATHOBIOME
2:20–2:35 pm	DISCUSSION
2:35–2:55 pm	SEX BASED DIFFERENCES
2:55–3:10 pm	DISCUSSION
3:10–3:30 pm	SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH
3:30–3:45 pm	DISCUSSION
3:45–4:05 pm	VASCULAR CONTRIBUTIONS
4:05–4:20 pm	DISCUSSION
4:20–5:00 pm	DELIBERATION AND AWARDS

CLOSING RECEPTION TBD