

MEET OUR SPEAKERS – DAY 1



Tracy Dixon-Salazar, PhD
Executive Director
LGS Foundation

Dr. Tracy Dixon-Salazar is a neuroscientist, geneticist, and patient advocate. Her desire to get her Ph.D. was inspired by her daughter, Savannah, who developed intractable seizures at the age of 2, which evolved into LGS by the age of 5. She did her Ph.D. and postdoctoral work at UC, San Diego, and during her research tenure, and after 16 years of watching daily, unrelenting seizures in her child, she uncovered the driver of her daughter's illness and identified a novel precision therapy that improved her child's life.



Elaine Wirrell, MD, FRCP
Professor, Child and Adolescent Neurology
Mayo Clinic

Dr. Wirrell is the Director of Pediatric Epilepsy at Mayo Clinic. She focuses on early-onset epilepsies and epileptic encephalopathies, such as LGS. Her research activities include early diagnosis and treatment, prediction of medical intractability, and understanding common comorbidities of epilepsy. She is co-founder of the Pediatric Epilepsy Research Consortium, a multicenter U.S. group of clinicians that focuses on epilepsy in children.



Anup Patel, MD
Associate Medical Director
Nationwide Children's Hospital

Anup Patel, M.D. is board certified in neurology with special qualifications in child neurology. He is the President-Elect for the Child Neurology Foundation. He is an associate medical director for quality improvement at Nationwide Children's Hospital and the director of quality improvement for neurology. He is an associate professor for neurology and pediatrics at Nationwide Children's Hospital and The Ohio State University Medical Center in Columbus, Ohio. He has publications and clinical research interests in the field of pediatric epilepsy, health care utilization, learning healthcare systems, and quality improvement.



Anne T. Berg, PhD
Research Professor
Northwestern Feinberg School of Medicine

Dr. Berg's research has focused on the "natural" history of seizures and epilepsy with a specific emphasis on seizure outcomes, developmental and cognitive consequences of epilepsies in children and the impact all of these have on quality of life for patients and families. She was also a lead investigator in the Multicenter Study of Epilepsy Surgery and with the PI, Susan Spencer, and Barbara Vickrey contributed to the literature defining the seizure, psychiatric, cognitive, and quality of life outcomes of patients who have undergone epilepsy surgery.



James W. Wheless, BScPharm, M.D., FAAP, FACP, FAAN, FAES
Professor and Chief of Pediatric Neurology
University of Tennessee Health Science Center

Dr. Wheless is a Diplomate of the American Board of Pediatrics, and the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology with special qualifications in Child Neurology, Clinical Neurophysiology, and Epilepsy. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Pediatrics; the American Academy of Neurology & the American Epilepsy Society. Dr. Wheless is a member of the Editorial Board of Journal of Child Neurology, Formulary, and Epilepsy.com and serves as a reviewer of a number of journals including Neurology; Epilepsia; Pediatrics; and Epilepsy and Behavior.

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Jurriaan Peters, MD, PhD
Principal epileptologist at the Multidisciplinary Tuberous Sclerosis Clinic at Boston Children's Hospital

Jurriaan M. Peters MD, PhD, is the principal epileptologist at the Multidisciplinary Tuberous Sclerosis Clinic at Boston Children's Hospital. His research in the Laboratory of Translational Neuroimaging and in the Computational Radiology Laboratory focuses on novel MRI and EEG modeling techniques in the localization of the seizure onset zone in children with medically refractory epilepsy, on how focal lesions give rise to a generalized epileptic encephalopathy, and on early medical and surgical treatment of epilepsy to mitigate detrimental effects on neurodevelopment.



Jennifer Gelinas, MD, PhD
Assistant Professor of neurology Columbia University

Jennifer Gelinas, MD, PhD is an assistant professor of neurology (in the Institute for Genomic Medicine and the Gertrude H. Sergievsky Center) at Columbia University Irving Medical Center. Dr. Gelinas obtained her medical doctorate and doctorate degrees at the University of Alberta, Canada. She subsequently completed pediatric neurology residency at the University of British Columbia, followed by an epilepsy fellowship at New York University Langone Medical Center. Dr. Gelinas' clinical practice focuses on infantile and childhood epilepsy, with a special interest in epilepsy surgery and intracranial electroencephalography (iEEG).



John Archer, MD, PhD
Senior Lecturer in Medicine
University of Melbourne

Dr John Archer obtained his medical degree through the University of New South Wales in 1990. He trained in General Neurology in Sydney and Oxford, and subsequently completed a PhD in Epilepsy and Neuroimaging through Austin Hospital and The University of Melbourne in 2002. From 2002-7 he initiated and managed the neurology service at Cairns Base Hospital, whilst helping establish the medical program of James Cook University. In 2007 he was appointed Senior Lecturer in Medicine at the University of Melbourne, Neurologist and Head of EEG laboratory Austin Health, and Research Fellow The Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health



Zach Grinspan, MD, MS
Associate Professor and Director of Pediatric Epilepsy
New York-Presbyterian Hospital-Weill Cornell Medicine

Dr. Grinspan graduated from Yale University in 1996, taught high school through the Teach for America Program, then attended and graduated medical school from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in 2004. He completed pediatrics training at the Mass General Hospital for Children, neurology training at Columbia University Medical Center, and epilepsy training at Montefiore Medical Center, then joined Weill Cornell Medicine in 2011. At Cornell, he obtained a master's degree in biostatistics and completed a postdoctoral fellowship in quality of care and medical informatics.



Dennis J. Dlugos, MD
Director, Pediatric Epilepsy Program
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Dr. Dlugos is Professor of Neurology and Pediatrics in the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania; and Director, Pediatric Epilepsy Program at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). He received his MD from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York. He went on to complete his internship in Pediatrics at the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland; a residency in Neurology / Child Neurology at the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center and CHOP; and his fellowship in Epilepsy at CHOP. Dr. Dlugos serves as Vice-President of The Epilepsy Study Consortium (TESC) and is a member of the Pediatric Epilepsy Research Consortium (PERC).

MODERATORS



Heather Mefford, MD, PhD
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

Heather Mefford is a Full Member in the Center for Pediatric Neurological Disease Research at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. She runs a research laboratory dedicated to gene discovery in pediatric disease, with a major focus on pediatric epilepsies. Her work uses cutting edge genomic technologies and has helped define the genetic landscape of epileptic encephalopathies with studies reporting novel copy number variants and numerous novel disease-causing genes. She identified and characterized several novel deletion and duplication syndromes due to recurrent CNVs. She was a co-PI for several of the Epi4K consortium projects and co-chairs the ClinGen Neurodevelopmental Disorder Clinical Domain Working Group and Epilepsy Gene Curation Working Group. She serves on the Professional Advisory Board for LGSF.



Ann Poduri, MD, MPH
Associate, Department of Neurology; Director, Epilepsy Genetics
Program Professor of Neurology, Harvard Medical School
Boston Children's Hospital

Dr. Annapurna Poduri is a clinician-scientist focused on understanding the genetic causes of human epilepsy. She is a pediatric neurologist and the director of the Programs in Neurogenetics and Epilepsy Genetics at Boston Children's Hospital. Dr. Poduri's role is to evaluate the contribution of epilepsy and its genetics to sudden death.

Dr. Poduri serves as an expert for the Department of Neurology for Boston Children's Hospital Precision Medicine Service.



Eric Marsh, MD, PhD
Pediatric Neurologist
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Dr. Marsh specializes in diagnosing and treating children with developmental epilepsies, epilepsy, infantile spasm, and malformations of cortical development. In addition to his role at CHOP, Dr. Marsh is an associate professor of neurology at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania.



Brenda Porter, MD, PhD
Professor of Neurology and of Pediatrics
Stanford University

Dr. Porter received her MD and Ph.D. from Washington University in St. Louis. She traveled east to complete her child neurology fellowship at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. She went on to complete a combined clinical and research fellowship in epilepsy.

Dr. Porter developed an interest in difficult-to-treat epilepsy, with a special focus on children with neuronal developmental disorders leading to epilepsy such as tuberous sclerosis and focal cortical dysplasia. Her clinical research focuses on improving outcomes in epilepsy surgery, increasing parental understanding of epilepsy and the role epilepsy surgery plays in treatment.



Vicky Holets Whittemore, PhD.,
Program Director
National Institute of Health (NIH)

Vicky Holets Whittemore, PhD., is a program director of the Channels, Synapses and Circuits Cluster in the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, Maryland, United States.

She represents NINDS on the Trans-NIH Working Group on myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS).

While the committee was still active, she served as the NIH Representative to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) CFS Advisory Committee, CFSAC, as an ex officio member.

MEET OUR SPEAKERS – DAY 2



Scott C. Baraban, PhD
Professor of Neurological Surgery
University of California, San Francisco

Scott C. Baraban, PhD is a Professor of Neurological Surgery and William K. Bowes Jr. Endowed Chair in Neuroscience Research at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF). He obtained his Bachelor's degree from Johns Hopkins University (1983-87) and a PhD in Pharmacology from the University of Virginia (1990-94). He trained as a postdoctoral fellow (1994-1997) with Phil Schwartzkroin at the University of Washington. A faculty member at UCSF since 1999, he directs the Epilepsy Research Laboratory in the Department of Neurological Surgery; a research program continuously funded by NIH for over 20 years.



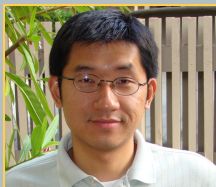
Allyson Muotri, PhD
Professor
University of California, San Diego

Dr. Muotri is a professor at the Departments of Pediatrics and Cellular & Molecular Medicine at UC San Diego. He is also the Director of the Stem Cell Program and Archealization Center. Dr. Muotri earned a BSc in Biological Sciences from the State University of Campinas in 1995 and a Ph.D. in Genetics in 2001 from University of Sao Paulo, in Brazil. He moved to the Salk Institute as Pew Latin America Fellow in 2002 for a postdoctoral training in the fields of neuroscience and stem cell biology. His research focuses on brain evolution and modeling neurological diseases using human induced pluripotent stem cells and brain organoids. He has received several awards, including the prestigious NIH Director's New Innovator Award, NARSAD, Emerald Foundation Young Investigator Award, Surugadai Award, Rock Star of Innovation, NIH EUREKA Award, Telly Awards among several others.



Megan Dennis, PhD
Assistant Professor
University of California, Davis

Megan Dennis studies disease genetics, human genomics and evolution. Her main interests lie in identifying previously unexplored genes and variants that contribute to human-specific neurological traits and diseases, developing next-generation sequencing methods to assay regions of the genome that are difficult to study with traditional techniques, and identifying gene variants associated with neurological disorders.



Mingshan Xue, PhD
Assistant Professor
Baylor College of Medicine

Dr. Mingshan Xue is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Neuroscience at Baylor College of Medicine and the Caroline DeLuca Scholar in the Jan and Dan Duncan Neurological Research Institute at Texas Children's Hospital. The long-term research goal of his lab is to understand the neural circuit dysfunctions in neurodevelopmental disorders and harness this knowledge to explore new therapeutic strategies for these disorders. His lab currently uses mouse models to study STXBP1 dysfunction, one of the genetic causes of LGS, and develop therapeutic interventions.