NATIONAL ACADEMIES Sciences Engineering Medicine

Forum on NEUROSCIENCE and NERVOUS SYSTEM DISORDERS

Mitigating Health Disparities in Brain Disorders Starting with Basic Science

November 12, 2023

Speaker Biographies

Forum Co-Chair

John Krystal, MD, is the Robert L. McNeil, Jr., Professor of Translational Research; Professor of Psychiatry, Neuroscience, and Psychology; and Chair of the Department of Psychiatry at the Yale University. He is also Chief of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health at Yale-New Haven Hospital. He is a graduate of the University of Chicago, Yale University School of Medicine, and the Yale Psychiatry Residency Training Program. He has published extensively on the neurobiology and treatment of schizophrenia, alcoholism, PTSD, and depression. Notably, his laboratory discovered the rapid antidepressant effects of ketamine in humans. He is the Director of the NIAAA Center for the Translational Neuroscience of Alcoholism and the Clinical Neuroscience Division of the VA National Center for PTSD. Dr. Krystal is a member of the U.S. National Academy of Medicine and a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Currently, he is co-director of the Neuroscience Forum of the U.S. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine; and editor of Biological Psychiatry (IF=13.38). He has chaired the NIMH Board of Scientific Counselors and served on the national advisory councils for both NIMH and NIAAA. Also, he is past president of the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ACNP) and International College of Neuropsychopharmacology (CINP).

Panelists

Kacie Deters, PhD, MS, earned her B.S. in Biology from the University of Alabama, Birmingham. She had little research experience and was curious if this was the path she wanted to pursue. After a year of figuring out what would make her happy, she ultimately completed her M.S. in Biology from CSU Dominguez Hills in 2012. Science turned into a passion Deters wanted to explore more. In 2017, she earned her Ph.D. in Medical Neuroscience at the Indiana University School of Medicine focusing on genetic and imaging characteristics of tauopathies, including Alzheimer's disease. Deters then completed her first postdoc in 2021 at Stanford University with Dr. Elizabeth Mormino where she first began to explore ethnic and racial disparities existed in AD biomarkers. COVID hit, and Deters decided to take a second postdoc, which she completed in 2022 at the University of California, San Diego in the

Department of Neurosciences with Dr. Sarah Banks. While at UCSD, Deters expanded her training to understand racial bias that exists in neuropsychological assessments. While at UCLA, Deters's lab will focus is on ethnic and racial disparities in predictors (genetic; neuroimaging; neuropsychological assessments; social/environmental factors) for cognitive decline and Alzheimer's disease and related dementias in older adults, primarily from the Black community.

Phil Gutis was diagnosed with younger-onset Alzheimer's disease in 2016 at age 54.

After graduating from Penn State University, Gutis joined the New York Times as a "copy boy" and worked his way up the ranks to become a reporter in the mid-1980s. He left the newspaper in 1990 and began a career managing communications for non-profits, including serving in communications roles at the American Civil Liberties Union and the Natural Resources Defense Council. He is currently the director of a small, non-profit organization that manages a historic, early-industrial village near his home. Prior to his diagnosis, Gutis had been worried about memory lapses for some time. He recalls being embarrassed at his inability to remember working with a good friend at his college newspaper. He would get lost driving a familiar route. Worse, he was struggling to maintain his business. "It was becoming harder and harder to handle multiple assignments," he says. "I blamed myself and thought maybe I just lacked the discipline to get the job done." Phil's sister found an online advertisement looking for people concerned with memory loss for a drug trial. He called the number, passed the initial screenings, and was brought in for additional testing including a cognitive assessment. Gutisl scored a 71 – well below the 85 or less needed to be admitted to the trial. The director of research for the trial let him know that there was likely something seriously wrong and he could be facing a diagnosis of early onset dementia or Alzheimer's. Following an MRI and a PET scan, it was confirmed that Gutis had younger-onset Alzheimer's.

As a member of the Alzheimer's Association 2017-2018 National Early-Stage Advisory Group, Phil wants to educate others about the benefits of drug trial participation. Currently, he is enrolled in Biogen's phase three trials for Aducanumab. "Participating in trials gives you access to clinical resources that you might not have otherwise," he says. "The rigor of the process was incredible and the costs are covered. You can really help yourself while advancing the research

needed to beat the disease." Gutis lives in New Hope, PA with his husband Tim and their pets – four dogs, two cats, a turtle and a bearded dragon.

Walter J. Koroshetz, MD, serves as Director of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. He joined NINDS in 2007 as Deputy Director and has co-led the NIH's BRAIN Initiative, the Neuroscience Blueprint, the Traumatic Brain Injury Center with the Uniformed Health Services University, the Helping to End Addiction Long Term (HEAL) Initiative, the Undiagnosed Disease, and the Acute to Chronic Pain Transition Programs, NIH Emergency Care Research and the Post Acute Sequalae of COVID-19 Initiative. Before NINDS, Dr. Koroshetz served as the Neurology Vice Chair and Director of stroke and neurointensive care, led neurology resident training at Massachusetts General Hospital as a Harvard professor.

Ekemini A. U. Riley, PhD, is the Founder & President of the Coalition for Aligning Science and Managing Director of Aligning Science Across Parkinson's (ASAP), a research funding initiative designed to accelerate the pace of discovery for Parkinson's disease. Dr. Riley is a molecular biologist by training who is energized by devising creative ways to tackle scientific challenges and facilitating productive collaboration. She has designed and facilitated several multi-sector think tank sessions to inform the strategic deployment of philanthropic capital, crafted research programs, and seeded multi-funder collaboration. She founded the Coalition for Aligning Science (CAS) in 2020, an organization that serves to centralize efforts to design and implement research programs across multiple disease areas. CAS is the managing entity for ASAP. Previously, Dr. Riley was a Director at the Milken Institute Center for Strategic Philanthropy, where she helped shape and co-direct the center's medical research practice. There, she led the incubation and launch of ASAP from 2017-2019 in addition to the Gilbert Family Foundation's Gene Therapy and Vision Restoration Initiatives. Dr. Riley earned her BA in Natural Sciences from Johns Hopkins University and PhD in Molecular Medicine from the University of Maryland School of Medicine.

Shari Wiseman, PhD, joined Nature Neuroscience in 2017, and became Chief Editor in 2021.

Prior to that, she received her PhD from Yale University, where she worked with Dr. Angus Nairn. She employed biochemical, proteomic, and behavioral approaches to examine signal transduction mechanisms that regulate neuronal protein synthesis. She then went on to postdoctoral research at Beth Israel-Deaconess Medical Center/Harvard Medical School investigating animal models of autism spectrum disorders, followed by additional postdoctoral training in Dr. Stephen Moss's lab at Tufts University, where she studied the regulation of GABAB receptors by excitotoxic stimuli. Her research interests include cellular and molecular neuroscience, genetics/genomics, and addiction. Shari is based in the New York office.

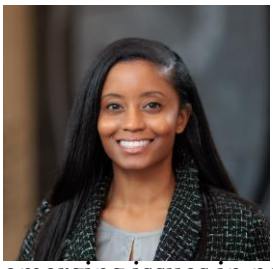
Daniel Weinberger, MD, is Director and CEO of the Lieber Institute for Brain Development

at the Johns Hopkins Medical Center and Professor of Psychiatry, Neurology, Neuroscience and Human Genetics at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. He was formally Director of the Genes, Cognition, and Psychosis Program of the Intramural Research Program, National Institute of Mental Health, National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. Dr. Weinberger's research has focused on brain mechanisms involved in the pathogenesis and treatment of neuropsychiatric disorders. He was instrumental in focusing research on the role of abnormal brain development as a risk factor for schizophrenia. His has identified a number of specific neural and molecular mechanisms of genetic risk for schizophrenia, and genetic effects that account for variation in specific human cognitive functions and in human temperament. In 2003, Science magazine highlighted the genetic research of his lab as the second biggest scientific breakthrough of the year, second to the origins of the cosmos. He is the recipient of many honors and awards, including the Sarnat International Prize of the National Academy of Medicine, The International Neuroscience Prize of the Gertrud Reemtsma Foundation of the Max Planck Society, the NIH Directors Award, The Roche-Nature Medicine Neuroscience Award, The William K. Warren Medical Research Institute Award, the Adolf Meyer Prize of the American Psychiatric Association, and the Lieber Prize of the Brain and Behavior Research Foundation. He is past president of the Society of

Biological Psychiatry, past President of the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology and has been elected to the National Academy of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences.

Moderator

Sheena M. Posey Norris, MS, PMP, is Senior Program Officer on the Board on Health



Sciences Policy at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's Health and Medicine Division. In this capacity, she serves as the Director of the Forum on Neuroscience and Nervous System Disorders, which brings together leaders from government, academia, industry, and non-profit organizations to discuss key challenges and emerging issues in neuroscience research, development of therapies for nervous system disorders, and related ethical and societal issues. Sheena has led the planning of numerous workshops and activities in the areas of basic, translational, and clinical neuroscience; bioethics; training and workforce development; global mental health; treatment for substance use disorders; biodetection; and crisis standards of care. Prior to joining the National Academies, Sheena worked in the Graduate School of Nursing at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland. Working alongside advanced practice nurse researchers, she conducted research focusing on health promoting behaviors of military spouses. Sheena received her M.S. from Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in Experimental Psychology with an emphasis in neuropsychology. Her thesis-driven research during her graduate studies focused on the neurocognitive and balance effects of multiple concussions in young adults. Sheena graduated magna cum laude from Lynchburg College in Virginia with a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology and Spanish (high honors).