



Neuroscience Training: Developing a Nimble and Versatile Workforce— A Virtual Workshop Series

Topic #2: Neuroscience Training in Challenging Times

January 19, 2021
Virtual via Webcast

About this Workshop

The COVID-19 pandemic has introduced tremendous challenges for neuroscience training, including those related to lab closings, class disruptions, and reduced job postings, in addition to the challenges currently faced by everyone in society. The past year has also seen a collective awakening around issues related to race, diversity and inclusion, with the crisis also putting a spotlight on systemic issues that predated the pandemic. This virtual workshop—the second in a series—will lay out a broad framework and highlight some of the specific dimensions contributing to the current time of uncertainty, disruption, and stress for many neuroscience trainees, postdoctoral researchers, and their mentors, and consider changes needed across the ecosystem. Subsequent workshops in the series will take a deeper dive into each one of these dimensions.

About the Workshop Series on Neuroscience Training

Cutting-edge neuroscience research increasingly demands extensive technological, computational, and statistical skills, and involves large collaborations. Trainees are pursuing a broad range of careers in academia, private sector industries—which has evolved beyond pharmaceutical and biotech companies, to include engineering, data science, venture capital firms, and finance—policy, publishing, and non-profit organizations. Moreover, traditional boundaries between sectors are becoming less rigid, with more extensive partnerships among the private sector and academia and more academics helping to found biotech companies. Taken together, these factors raise important questions about how to design training programs that foster innovation across a dynamic ecosystem and ensure that a diverse next generation of neuroscientists has the knowledge, skillset, and support needed to pursue multiple career paths devoted to advancing biomedical science.

The [Action Collaborative on Neuroscience Training: Developing a Nimble and Versatile Workforce](#), an initiative associated with the National Academies' [Forum on Neuroscience and Nervous System Disorders](#), brings together a wide range of stakeholders, representing different sectors and career stages, to examine current and future workforce needs within and outside of academia and explore how these should inform neuroscience training programs.

The action collaborative's virtual workshop series aims to illuminate critical issues and provide a venue for sharing ways to move forward. Workshops in this series have and may address topics such as:

- [Racial justice, diversity, equity, and inclusion in neuroscience training](#) (August 20, 2020);
- [Fostering inclusion, equity, and diversity in neuroscience training](#) (January 25, 2021);
- [Re-envisioning postdoctoral training in neuroscience](#) (February 16, 2021); and
- [Evolving the culture of science and training to meet a changing world](#) (February 22, 2021).

January 19, 2021

12:00pm Welcome and Workshop Overview

RITA BALICE-GORDON, Muna Therapeutics, Inc., *Action Collaborative Co-chair*;
Panel Moderator

**Panel I: Personal Perspectives on Neuroscience Training in Challenging Times –
A Conversation**

12:05pm Session overview

RITA BALICE-GORDON, Muna Therapeutics, Inc., *Action Collaborative Co-chair*;
Panel Moderator

12:15pm Panelists

HUDA AKIL, University of Michigan
AZA STEPHEN ALLSOP, Yale School of Medicine
DANIEL GONZALES, Purdue University
CRISTIN WELLE, University of Colorado

12:55pm BREAK

Panel II: Institutional Perspectives on Potential Changes Needed in Neuroscience Training

1:00pm Session overview

KATJA BROSE, Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, *Action Collaborative Co-chair*; Panel Moderator

1:10pm Panelists

CORI BARGMANN, Chan Zuckerberg Initiative
WALTER KOROSHETZ, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke
KELSEY MARTIN, University of California, Los Angeles
MARC TESSIER-LAVIGNE, Stanford University

1:35pm General discussion and Q&A

1:55pm Final remarks

2:00pm Adjourn Workshop

Continue the conversation and join select workshop participants and members of the action collaborative on *Neuroscience Training: Developing a Nimble and Versatile Workforce* in an online chat discussion immediately following the workshop on Slack. Additional information available upon registration.

Action Collaborative Members

Rita Balice-Gordon (Co-Chair), Muna Therapeutics
Katja Brose (Co-Chair), The Chan Zuckerberg Initiative
Rosalind Segal (Co-Chair), Harvard University
Huda Akil, University of Michigan
David Cox, IBM Research AI
Sara Fenstermacher, New York University
Ayana Jordan, Yale School of Medicine
Stephen Korn, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke
Walter Koroshetz, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke
John Krystal, Yale School of Medicine
Alan Leshner, American Association for the Advancement of Science (CEO Emeritus)
Peter MacLeish, Morehouse School of Medicine
Carol Mason, Columbia University
Gentry Patrick, University of California, San Diego
Todd Sherer, The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research
Kaela S. Singleton, Emory University
M. Morgan Taylor, The Broad Institute
Ashlee Van't Veer, National Institute of Mental Health
Cristin Welle, University of Colorado, Denver
Andrew Welchman, Wellcome Trust