



BRAINWEST

Broad Research Alliance in
Interdisciplinary Neuroscience,
West Sweden

2025-12-11

Meeting program

Thank you for attending the BRAINWEST meeting **12th of December 2025 at Wallenberg conference center!** We are delighted to give you more information on the program as well as speakers.

Organized by:

Steering group (Erik Smedler, Lars Westberg, Asgeir Jakola, Helena Carén, Fredrik Sterky, Michael Schöll) and Ann-Sofie Cans, William Thompson, Francesco Longo, and Lenka Nováková Nyrén.

Schedule

09.00-10.00 **Introduction + Keynote 1** (Wallenberg) Elias Eriksson, GU

Old school psychopharmacology in the age of molecular neuroscience

10.00-10.20 **Fika**

10.20-12.00 **Session 1 + Hackathon** (Europa, Wallenberg, Antarktis)

12.00-13.00 **Lunch**

13.00-14.00 **Poster presentations**

14.00-15.40 **Session 2 + Hackathon** (Europa, Wallenberg, Antarktis)

15.40-16.00 **Fika**

16.00-17.15 **Keynote 2 + concluding remarks** (Wallenberg) Karin Jensen, KI

Predictions of pain and relief using functional brain imaging

17.15-18.00 **Mingle with drinks and snacks**

Please bring your registered posters in the morning to mount them and be prepared for presenting after lunch at 1 PM. You do not need to submit abstracts.

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Sessions

	Europa	Wallenberg
Session 1	Psychiatry and behavior (chair Fredrik Sterky)	Cognition, imaging, tumors (chair Gaia Olivio)
Talk 1: 10.20-10.40 (15+5 min)	Lina Jonsson: <i>Genomic studies of disease and treatment outcomes in bipolar disorder</i>	Gaia Olivio: <i>RAPID BRAIN PLASTICITY Insights from high-resolution imaging and task-based structural MRI</i>
Talk 2: 10.40-11.00 (15+5 min)	Louise Ademark: <i>Non-combustible nicotine: harm reduction or risk factor for psychiatric morbidity and alcohol misuse?</i>	Rob Lowe: <i>Exploiting Outcome Expectancies in Cognitive Interventions: A Theoretical and Neurocomputational Perspective.</i>
Talk 3: 11.00-11.20 (15+5 min)	Erik Smedler: <i>Calcium signaling during development of neural networks in physiology and disease</i>	Maryam Ardalan: <i>Tiny Infections, Big Consequences: Early-Life Bacteria, Preterm Birth, and Autism-Like Traits</i>
Talk 4: 11.20-11.40 (15+5 min)	Julia Morud Lekholm: <i>When Receptors Move, Memories Form: The Story of a Serotonin-Gated Channel</i>	Elin Esbjörner: <i>Mechanisms and Modulators of Protein Aggregation in Neurodegenerative Disease</i>
Short talks 1-2: 11.40-12.00 (7+3 min each)	<p>Bingqing He: <i>More or less about 3q29 - dissecting the cellular effects of schizophrenia risk variants, 3q29 CNVs, in neural development and function</i></p> <p>Luisa Klahn: <i>Resting-state functional connectivity and cerebrospinal fluid synaptic biomarkers in bipolar disorder and healthy controls</i></p>	<p>Julia Grönros: <i>Effects of oligonucleotide drug RBD8088 in mouse models of human glioblastoma</i></p> <p>Petronella Kettunen: <i>Neuroinflammation as a shared mechanism in cognitive diseases - improving diagnosis by translational studies in zebrafish and patients</i></p>
	Europa	Wallenberg
Session 2	Degeneration and inflammation (chair Lenka Nováková Nyrén)	Technology (chair Lars Westberg)
Talk 1: 14.00-14.20 (15+5 min)	Andrea Benedet: <i>Biofluid-based biomarkers for Alzheimer's Disease and related disorders – discovery beyond diagnosis</i>	Maria Asplund: <i>Micrometer precision for implantable neurotechnology - recording and stimulation of the nervous system down to individual neurons</i>



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Talk 2: 14.20-14.40 (15+5 min)	Joel Simrén: <i>Diagnosing Alzheimer’s disease with blood biomarkers: from research to clinical practice</i>	Alba Corell: <i>Neurosurgery as a window to the human brain</i>
Talk 3: 14.40-15.00 (15+5 min)	Ida Pesämma: <i>Biomarkers for microglial activation: why, when, what, and how</i>	Giacomo Valle: <i>Unlocking movements and sensations: helping paralyzed individuals with BCI</i>
Talk 4: 15.00-15.20 (15+5 min)	Lina Bergman: <i>How the brain is affected in pregnancy and preeclampsia – short and long-term impacts for the mum</i>	Justin Schneiderman: <i>On-scalp magnetoencephalography, VMTA, and NeuroXTek: from neuroscience research to national collaborations</i>
Short talks 1-2: 15.20-15.40 (7+3 min each)	<p>Benjamin Cespedes Cortes: <i>Dynamic Transitions of Human Microglia Under Inflammatory and Oxidative Stress</i></p> <p>Alexandra Abrahamsson: <i>From Cilia to Clearance: Using Zebrafish to Uncover Alzheimer’s Disease Mechanisms</i></p>	<p>Ajay Pradhan: <i>Probing fusion pore dynamics of glutamatergic synaptic vesicles in hiPSC-derived neurons using single-site amperometry</i></p> <p>Gaurav Verma: <i>Improving neuronal survival by stem cells mitochondria in ischemic brain injury: A bioenergetic rescue</i></p>

Collaboration/Hackathon Room

During the parallel sessions, we’re opening a space designed for creativity, problem-solving, and spontaneous collaboration. Think of it as a hackathon-style room: part idea lab, part networking hub.

Here’s how it works:

1. *Pitch an idea or problem:* It could be about tools, standards, or challenges that you face.
2. *Listen and connect:* You don’t need to bring a project; you can just join to hear others’ ideas.
3. *Form groups and collaborate:* After short pitches, participants can team up to brainstorm, prototype, or work toward a solution.

For both the morning and afternoon sessions there will be an opportunity to pitch new ideas.

Why join?

- Many challenges are shared across subfields, and solutions may already exist elsewhere.
- It’s a chance to meet new collaborators and let new ideas emerge.
- Outcomes can range from new tools and workflows to papers, prototypes, or longer-term partnerships.

The only rule is simple: it is an open, collaborative space where all voices are welcome.