BRAINWEST
Broad Research Alliance in Interdisciplinary Neuroscience, West Sweden

2025-11-17

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 Novakova 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

Poster presentations

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.

Sponsored by

Main sponsors: Sanofi, Chalmers Friends Fund
Other sponsors: Merck, Novartis, and Thermo Fisher Scientific.

BRAINWEST
Broad Research Alliance in Interdisciplinary Neuroscience, West Sweden

2025-11-17

Sessions

	Europa	Wallenberg
Session 1	***Psychiatry and behavior***	***Cognition, imaging, tumors***
Talk 1: 10.20-10.40 (15+5 min)	**Lina Jonsson:** *Genomic studies of disease and treatment outcomes in bipolar disorder*	**Gaia Olivio:** *RAPID BRAIN PLASTICITY Insights from high-resolution imaging and task-based structural MRI*
Talk 2: 10.40-11.00 (15+5 min)	**Louise Ademark:** *Non-combustible nicotine: harm reduction or risk factor for psychiatric morbidity and alcohol misuse?*	**Rob Lowe:** *Exploiting Outcome Expectancies in Cognitive Interventions: A Theoretical and Neurocomputational Perspective.*
Talk 3: 11.00-11.20	**Erik Smedler:** *Calcium signaling during development of neural networks in physiology and disease*	**Maryam Ardalan:** *Tiny Infections, Big Consequences: Early-Life Bacteria, Preterm Birth, and Autism-Like Traits*
Talk 4: 11.20-11.40 (15+5 min)	**Julia Morud Lekholm:** *When Receptors Move, Memories Form: The Story of a Serotonin-Gated Channel*	**Thomas Skoglund:** *Neurosurgery as a window to the human brain*
Short talks 1-2: 11.40-12.00 (7+3 min each)	**Bingqing He:** *More or less about 3q29 - dissecting the cellular effects of schizophrenia risk variants, 3q29 CNVs, in neural development and function* **Luisa Klahn:** *Resting-state functional connectivity and cerebrospinal fluid synaptic biomarkers in bipolar disorder and healthy controls*	**Julia Grönros:** *Effects of oligonucleotide drug RBD8088 in mouse models of human glioblastoma* **Petronella Kettunen:** *Neuroinflammation as a shared mechanism in cognitive diseases - improving diagnosis by translational studies in zebrafish and patients*
	Europa	**Wallenberg**
Session 2	***Degeneration and inflammation***	***Technology***
Talk 1: 14.00-14.20 (15+5 min)	**Andrea Benedet:** *Biofluid-based biomarkers for Alzheimer's Disease and related disorders – discovery beyond diagnosis*	**Maria Asplund:** *Micrometer precision for implantable neurotechnology - recording and stimulation of the nervous system down to individual neurons*
Talk 2: 14.20-14.40 (15+5 min)	**Joel Simrén:** *Diagnosing Alzheimer's disease with blood biomarkers: from research to clinical practice*	**Elin Esbjörner:** *Mechanisms and Modulators of Protein Aggregation in Neurodegenerative Disease*

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

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.