

**Meet-and-Speak Event**Friday, April 29th, 2022 in BOUS A106

- 2:05 PM **Holly Fitch**, Director, CT Institute for the Brain and Cognitive Sciences
Welcome
- Faculty Talks** (10 min talks)
- 2:10 PM **Roeland Hancock**, Psychological Sciences, Associate Director of BIRC
Projects at the Brain Imaging Research Center
- 2:20 PM **Naghm Khouri-Farah**, Grad Student in Genetics and Genome Sciences (UCH)
FOXP function in cerebellar development (James Li Seed Grant Project)
- 2:30 PM **Marie Coppola**, Psychological Sciences
Adapting the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS) for Deaf People: Linguistic and Cultural Considerations
- 2:40 PM **Alex Paxton**, Psychological Sciences
Data science meets cognitive science: What GitHub can tell us about interpersonal communication
- 2:50 AM **Questions – 10 minutes**
- Graduate Student Data Blitz** (5 min talks)
- 3:00 PM **Gianna Raimondi**, Physiology & Neurobiology
A standardized approach to the estrous cycle: applications for neuroscience
- 3:05 PM **Jeffrey Crawford**, Psychological Sciences
The Effects of Ketamine on Hippocampal and Prefrontal Neural Oscillations
- 3:10 PM **Madeline Quam**, Psychological Sciences
The role of language in object tracking: Evidence from deaf, hard-of-hearing, and typically hearing children
- 3:15 PM **Ruth McLeod**, Psychological Sciences
Sex differences in the protective mechanism of action of caffeine on microglia in a rodent model of preterm hypoxic ischemic injury
- 3:20 PM **Questions – 10 minutes**
- 3:30 PM **Keynote Speaker – Dr. Takao Hensch, Harvard University**
Talk Title: *Balancing Brain Plasticity/Stability*
Abstract: Brain function is largely shaped by experience in early life, creating windows of both great opportunity and vulnerability. Our work has focused on the biological basis for such critical periods, identifying both “triggers” and “brakes” on plasticity. Strikingly, the maturation of particular inhibitory circuits is pivotal for the onset timing of these windows. Manipulations of their emergence can either accelerate or delay developmental trajectories regardless of chronological age. Notably, many neurodevelopmental disorders are linked to alterations in excitatory-inhibitory balance, suggesting shifted critical period timing as part of their etiology. Closure of critical periods in turn reflects an active process, rather than a purely passive loss of plasticity factors. Lifting these brakes allows the reopening of plastic windows later in life, but may also underlie instability in disease states. Thus, understanding how brain plasticity and stability are balanced throughout life offers new insight into mental illness and novel therapeutic strategies for recovery of function in adulthood.
- 4:30 PM **Panel Discussion** – featuring Takao Hensch, Erika Skoe, Natale Sciolino with Holly Fitch as moderator
Innovations and the intersections of technology in cognitive neuroscience.
- 5:00 PM **Social**