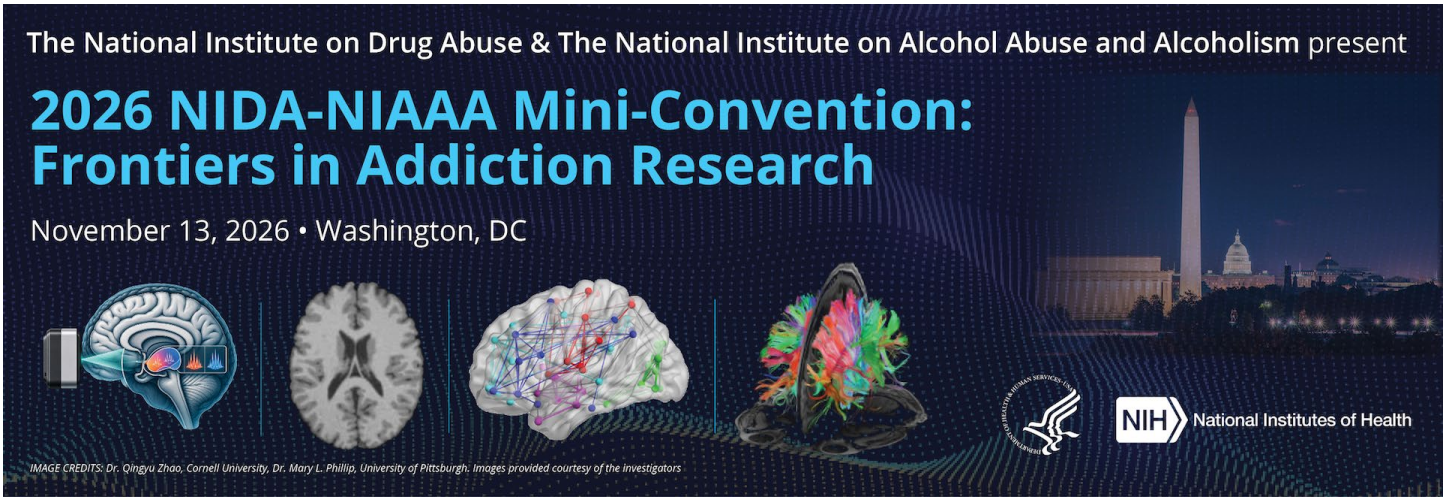

CONFERENCE AGENDA

Friday, November 13, 2026 | Washington, DC

AT A GLANCE

9:00–10:00 AM	Opening Remarks and Waletzky Memorial Award Lecture
10:00–11:40 AM	Scientific Session I: Across Scales and Substances
11:40 AM–1:00 PM	Lunch
1:00–2:00 PM	Early Career Investigator Showcase
2:00–3:30 PM	Scientific Session II: Modulating the Addicted Brain
3:30–3:45 PM	Break
3:45–5:15 PM	Scientific Session III: BRAIN Initiative Resources and Toolkits
5:15 PM	Closing Remarks

EVENT INFORMATION

WALTER E. WASHINGTON CONVENTION CENTER
801 Allen Y. Lew Place NW
Washington, DC 20001
Room 146AB
9:00 AM–5:15 PM ET

ABOUT THE SYMPOSIUM

Hosted by the NIDA-NIAAA Neuroscience Workgroup, the symposium highlights emerging addiction neuroscience through three scientific sessions, the Jacob P. Waletzky Memorial Award Lecture, and the Early Career Investigator Showcase.

Learn about the NIDA-NIAAA Neuroscience Workgroup

ATTENDEE RESOURCES

ONLINE AGENDA

Scan the QR code or click ONLINE AGENDA

EVENT WEBSITE

Event details, updates, and attendee information

Click EVENT WEBSITE to view event details.

Getting there: Room 146AB is on the Street Level of the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. Nearest Metro: Mt Vernon Sq/7th St–Convention Center (Yellow/Green lines). View Room 146 floor plan and virtual tour

Connect with leading scientists, explore emerging research, and support the next generation of addiction neuroscience investigators.

MORNING PROGRAM

Welcome, Award Lecture, and Scientific Session I

9:00–9:10 AM	**Opening Remarks and Introduction** **Introduction:** Shang-Yi Anne Tsai, Ph.D., M.S.P.H., National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) **Opening Remarks:** Nora D. Volkow, M.D., Director, NIDA George F. Koob, Ph.D., Director, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)
9:10–10:00 AM	**Jacob P. Waletzky Memorial Award Lecture** **Introduction:** Tristan McClure-Begley, Ph.D., Acting Director, Division of Neuroscience and Behavior, NIDA **Award Lecture:** David E. Olson, Ph.D. | University of California, Davis | "Psychedelics and Related Plasticity-Promoting Neurotherapeutics"
10:00–11:40 AM	**Scientific Session I** *Across Scales and Substances: Mechanisms, Computational Models, and Trajectories* **Organizers:** Shailesh Kumar, Ph.D. | NIAAA Dominique Lorang-Leins, Ph.D. | NIAAA Jessica Mollick, Ph.D. | NIDA Kiran Vemuri, Ph.D. | NIDA **Chair:** Silvia Lopez-Guzman, M.D., Ph.D. | NIMH (primary); NIDA (adjunct) **Speakers:** Xiaosi Gu, Ph.D. | Yale School of Medicine | "Bridging Craving and Decision-Making across Substances: Shared and Distinct Computations" Elizabeth Goldfarb, Ph.D. | Yale University | "Remembering to Use: Dynamic Mechanisms Supporting Memory for Substance Use" Ryan Smith, Ph.D. | Laureate Institute for Brain Research | "From Learning to Planning: Dynamic Computational Mechanisms in Substance Use Disorders" Qingyu Zhao, Ph.D. | Weill Cornell Medicine | "Quantifying Neurodevelopmental Imbalance: Brain–Behavior Dynamics Underlying Youth Drinking"
11:40 AM–1:00 PM	**Lunch**

AFTERNOON PROGRAM

Early Career Showcase and Scientific Sessions II and III

1:00–2:00 PM	**Early Career Investigator Showcase (ECIS)** **Chair:** Dominique Lorang-Leins, Ph.D. | NIAAA **Awardees:** Gabor Egervari, M.D., Ph.D. | Washington University in St. Louis | "Metabolic-Epigenetic Mechanisms Related to Alcohol Exposure" Victoria Macht, Ph.D. | University of North Carolina Wilmington | "Newborn Neurons, from Death to Dysfunction: How Adolescent Binge Ethanol Remodels the Adult Hippocampus" Kauê Costa, Ph.D. | University of Alabama at Birmingham | "Orbitofrontal Inactivation and Cocaine Self-Administration Impair Model-Based Credit Assignment" Nathan Nakatsuka, M.D., Ph.D. | NYU Grossman School of Medicine | "Widespread Synaptic

	Alterations in Long-Term Oxycodone Intake as Revealed by Whole-Brain Single-Nuclear Transcriptomics” Jennifer Kim, Ph.D. | Lieber Institute for Brain Development | “Characterization of Opioid-Induced Gene Expression in Discrete Habenula Cell Types and Projection Neurons”
2:00–3:30 PM	**Scientific Session II** *Modulating the Addicted Brain: New Frontiers in Treatment* **Organizers:** Jana Drgonova, Ph.D. | NIDA Katrina Foster, Ph.D. | NIDA **Speakers:** Huiliang (Evan) Wang, Ph.D. | The University of Texas at Austin | “Ultrasound-Enabled Neuromodulation: From Genetically Targeted Stimulation to Wearable Neural Interfaces” Claudia Beatriz Padula, Ph.D. | Stanford University | “Discovery to Impact: Neural Predictors of Relapse to Novel Neuromodulation Targets for Addiction” Mary L. Phillips, M.D. | University of Pittsburgh | “Modulating Ventral Striatal Activity with Low Intensity Focused Ultrasound (LIFU) as a Putative Novel Intervention for Cocaine Use Disorder”
3:30–3:45 PM	**Break**
3:45–5:15 PM	**Scientific Session III** *New Resources and Toolkits from the BRAIN Initiative for the Addiction Neuroscience Research Community* **Organizer:** Olivier Berton, Ph.D. | NIDA **Speakers:** Bosiljka Tasic, Ph.D. | Allen Institute | “Mouse Brain: Cell Type Definition and Experimental Access” William R. Stauffer, Ph.D. | University of Pittsburgh | “Investigating the Mechanisms of Higher Cognition and Disease Risk through Cell Type Access in Primate Models” Michael Tadross, M.D., Ph.D. | Duke University | “Understanding the Brain by Manipulating Neurochemical Connections”
5:15 PM	**Closing Remarks**