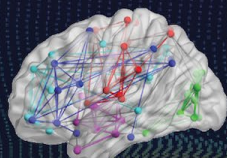
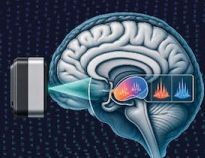


The National Institute on Drug Abuse & The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism present

2026 NIDA-NIAAA Mini-Convention: Frontiers in Addiction Research

November 13, 2026 • Washington, DC



National Institutes of Health

IMAGE CREDITS: Dr. Qingyu Zhao, Cornell University, Dr. Mary L. Phillips, University of Pittsburgh. Images provided courtesy of the investigators

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–5:30 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

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EVENT WEBSITE

Event details, updates, and attendee information

[Click EVENT WEBSITE to view event details.](#)

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
10:00–11:40 AM	Scientific Session I <i>Across Scales and Substances: Mechanisms, Computational Models, and Trajectories</i> 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 Ryan Smith, Ph.D. Laureate Institute for Brain Research Elizabeth Goldfarb, Ph.D. Yale University Qingyu Zhao, Ph.D. Weill Cornell Medicine
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 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 <i>Modulating the Addicted Brain: New Frontiers in Treatment</i> Organizers: Jana Drgonova, Ph.D. NIDA

	Katrina Foster, Ph.D. NIDA Speakers: Huiliang (Evan) Wang, Ph.D. The University of Texas at Austin Claudia Beatriz Padula, Ph.D. Stanford University Mary L. Phillips, M.D. University of Pittsburgh
3:30–3:45 PM	Break
3:45–5:15 PM	Scientific Session III <i>New Resources and Toolkits from the BRAIN Initiative for the Addiction Neuroscience Research Community</i> Organizer: Olivier Berton, Ph.D. NIDA Speakers: Bosiljka Tasic, Ph.D. Allen Institute Michael Tadross, M.D., Ph.D. Duke University William R. Stauffer, Ph.D. University of Pittsburgh
5:15 PM	Closing Remarks