



National Institute of Mental Health

**Inspiration & Aspiration: Future Perspectives
in Mental Health Research
Symposium**

Friday, September 20, 2024

National Archives Building
701 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington DC



Greetings from the Acting NIMH Director

It is an honor to welcome you to the third and final symposium in our 75th Anniversary series, “Inspiration and Aspiration: Future Perspectives in Mental Health Research.” While this symposium marks the end of our yearlong celebration, it also heralds the beginning of a bright future for mental health research—a future where, through our collective efforts, mental illnesses can be prevented, treated, and cured.

Today, we gather to look ahead to this future. The presentations you will hear represent the cutting edge of mental health research, showcasing the brilliance, dedication, and diversity of rising stars and trailblazers in the scientific community. These talks will cover a range of topics and offer a glimpse at the exciting new approaches and advances that lie ahead.

For 75 years, the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) has been at the forefront of transforming the understanding and treatment of mental illnesses. We are proud of our progress, mindful of the challenges ahead, and motivated by the hope that drives us forward. We hope today’s conversations light a spark, spurring innovative science that will make a meaningful difference to the millions of people who are impacted by mental illnesses.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this symposium by sharing their time, expertise, and experiences, as well as those who have joined us in the spirit of NIMH’s inspirational and exciting mission.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shelli Avenevoli".

Shelli Avenevoli, Ph.D.
Acting Director, National Institute of Mental Health

AGENDA

9:30–9:45 a.m.

Opening Remarks

Shelli Avenevoli, Ph.D.

Acting Director, National Institute of Mental Health

Monica A. Bertagnolli, M.D. (virtual)

Director, National Institutes of Health

9:45–10:45 a.m.

Introduction by Dr. Avenevoli

Keynote 1: Embracing Lived Experience as the Future for Research

Chyrell Bellamy, Ph.D., M.S.W.

Professor, Department of Psychiatry, Yale School of Medicine; Director, Yale Program for Recovery and Community Health; Associate Director, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility, Yale Center for Clinical Investigation

10:45 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Session 1

Moderator: Maura Landers

Michael Wells, Ph.D.

An Atlas of Human Vulnerability

Assistant Professor, Department of Human Genetics
University of California Los Angeles

Antonio Fernandez-Ruiz, Ph.D.

On-Demand Neural Intervention to Restore Cognitive Impairments

Assistant Professor, Department of Neurobiology and Behavior
Cornell University

Nicole Provenza, Ph.D.

Next-Generation Neuromodulation Strategies for Mental Illness

Assistant Professor, Department of Neurosurgery
Baylor College of Medicine

Brielle Ferguson, Ph.D.

Creating Space: How Grassroots Movements are Changing the Face of Science

Assistant Professor, Department of Genetics and Neurology, Harvard Medical School;
Assistant Professor, Department of Neurology Research, Boston Children's Hospital

(15 minutes) Panel with Q&A from Audience

12:00–12:40 p.m.

Lunch

12:40–1:55 p.m.

Session 2

Moderator: Serena Chu, Ph.D.

Silvia Lopez-Guzman, M.D., Ph.D.

Living Up to the Promise of Individualized Care for Mental Health Disorders
Chief, Unit on Computational Decision Neuroscience
National Institutes of Health

Alexandra Rodman, Ph.D.

Coming of Age in a Digital World: Advancing Smartphone Measurement to Predict Adolescent Mental Health
Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology
Northeastern University

Ashley Hagaman, Ph.D., M.P.H.

Futures for Suicide Prevention Research: Pragmatic Innovations Around the World
Assistant Professor, Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences
Yale School of Public Health

Jane Zhu, M.D., M.P.P., M.S.H.P.

Beyond Insurance: Addressing Supply Side Barriers to Mental Health Access
Associate Professor, Division of General Internal Medicine
Oregon Health and Science University

(15 minutes) Panel with Q&A from Audience

1:55–2:15 p.m.

Break

2:15–3:30 p.m.

Session 3

Moderator: Dan Handwerker, Ph.D.

Jahn Jaramillo, M.P.H.

Advancing Mental Health for All: Future Research Directions for a Healthier Tomorrow in LGBTQ+ and Latino/x/e Communities
Doctoral Candidate, Division of Prevention Science and Community Health
University of Miami

Alessandra Angelino, M.D., M.P.H.

See Us. Hear Us. Celebrate Us. – Supporting the Mental Health of Indigenous Adolescents
Pediatrician and Fellow, Department of Adolescent Medicine
Johns Hopkins and the Center for Indigenous Health

AGENDA continued

2:15–3:30 p.m.

Session 3 – Continued

Brittany Rudd, Ph.D.

Time to Move the Needle: Envisioning a Community-Engaged Public Mental Health Research Agenda

Assistant Professor, Departments of Psychiatry, Psychology and Law
University of Illinois Chicago

Oladunni Oluwoye, Ph.D.

Thinking Upstream: Equitable Mental Health Services and Research

Associate Professor, Department of Community and Behavioral Health
Washington State University

(15 minutes) Panel with Q&A from Audience

3:30–4:30 p.m.

Introduction by Susan Amara, Ph.D.

Keynote 2: Mapping and Editing Brain Circuits for Emotions

Kafui Dzirasa, M.D., Ph.D.

A. Eugene and Marie Washington Presidential Distinguished Professor, Departments of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Neurobiology, Biomedical Engineering, and Neurosurgery
Duke University

4:30–4:45 p.m.

Closing Remarks

Shelli Avenevoli, Ph.D.

Acting Director, National Institute of Mental Health

Lunch was graciously provided by the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health.*

This event will be videotaped and photographed.

*Appropriated funds were not used for this purchase.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Alessandra Angelino, M.D., M.P.H., is a board-certified pediatrician and second-year Adolescent Medicine fellow with a dedicated interest in Indigenous health from the clinical, research, and advocacy perspectives. Dr. Angelino began her research career at Georgetown University where she studied international health. Her undergraduate thesis was completed within an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in rural Australia, which inspired her to continue pursuing a career in Indigenous health. Dr. Angelino earned a medical degree from Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and a M.P.H. from University of Washington, and she completed a Pediatric Residency Training Program at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Her research has focused on the health of Indigenous children and adolescents, including work related to sexual violence and trafficking in Indigenous communities.

She has also worked with the Indian Health Service, Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board, and The Fenway Institute on educational sessions and clinical care guideline publications for this unique population. Since matriculating to fellowship, she has also begun actively working with the Johns Hopkins Center for Indigenous Health on adolescent focused health and policy research. Dr. Angelino has demonstrated commitment to a career focused on empowering Indigenous and other vulnerable adolescents and young adults through advocacy, clinical practice and research.



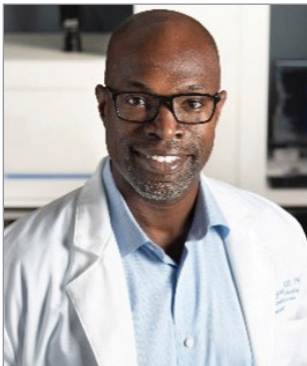
Chyrell Bellamy, Ph.D., M.S.W., is a Professor at the Yale University School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry; Director of the Yale Program for Recovery and Community Health (PRCH); and Associate Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility at the Yale Center for Clinical Investigation. At PRCH, Dr. Bellamy is the co-founder and Director of Peer Support Services and Research and the Director of the Lived Experience Transformational Leadership Academy (LET(s)Lead). She is a Senior Policy Adviser for the Office of the Commissioner for the State of Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (CT DMHAS). Her research and practice examine sociocultural experiences and pathways to wellness and recovery in the prevention and treatment of mental illness and addictions; peer support effectiveness; organization and leadership transformation with a focus on

antiracism, cultural humility, and responsiveness; lived experience leadership; and community-based participatory research and co-design methods.

Dr. Bellamy has served as principal investigator or co-investigator on more than 42 National Institutes of Health (NIH), Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, and private foundation-funded grants nationally and internationally. She has worked to develop leaders and researchers doing participatory work focused on lived experience involvement in research. She has mentored or collaborated with scholars from the United States and internationally on career awards from NIH, the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR), Fulbright, and international funding sources. She has been a mentor and sponsor for faculty, fellows, interns, and community members throughout her career, including on diversity supplements and K awards and to lived experienced and community scholars. Dr. Bellamy openly identifies as a person with lived/living experience of multiple marginalized and minoritized identities, including mental illness, trauma, and addictions. She uses this personal connection in her role as

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES continued

a service provider and academic researcher in the health and behavioral health fields. She has received the Pearl Johnson Advocacy Award from the National Association for Rights Protection and Advocacy, the Steve Harrington Award from the National Association of Peer Support, the Celia Brown Advocacy Award from the Alliance for Rights and Recovery, and the Museum of African American Addiction, Treatment, and Recovery Hall of Fame Award.



Kafui Dzirasa, M.D., Ph.D., completed a Ph.D. in Neurobiology at Duke University. Dr. Dzirasa obtained an M.D. from the Duke University School of Medicine in 2009 and completed residency training in general psychiatry in 2016. He is the A. Eugene and Marie Washington Presidential Distinguished Professor at Duke University with appointments in the Departments of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Neurobiology, Biomedical Engineering, and Neurosurgery. His research interests focus on understanding how changes in the brain produce neurological and mental illness. His goal is to combine his research, medical training, and community experience to improve outcomes for diverse communities suffering from neurological and psychiatric illnesses.

Dr. Dzirasa is an Investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and recipient of the NIH Pioneer Award. Dr. Dzirasa has received the Charles Johnson Leadership Award, and he was recognized as one of Ebony magazine's 30 Young Leaders of the Future. He has also been awarded the International Mental Health Research Organization Rising Star Award, the Sydney Baer Prize for Schizophrenia Research, and his laboratory was featured on CBS 60 Minutes. In 2016, he was awarded the inaugural Duke Medical Alumni Emerging Leader Award and the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers. He was recognized as 40 under 40 in Health by the National Minority Quality Forum, and the Engineering Alumni of the Year from University of Maryland, Baltimore County. He has been inducted into the American Society for Clinical Investigation, the National Academy of Medicine, and the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering. Dr. Dzirasa has served as an Associate Scientific Advisor for the journal Science Translational Medicine, as a member of the NIH Next Generation Research Initiative, and on the Editorial Advisory Board for TEDMED. He currently serves on the Advisory Committee to the NIH Director.



Brielle Ferguson, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Genetics at Harvard Medical School and Neurology at Boston Children's Hospital. As a systems neuroscientist, her lab focuses on characterizing circuit mechanisms of attention and cognition with the goal of identifying novel biomarkers that can be used to inform treatment approaches in a broad range of disorders. Prior to joining the faculty at Harvard Medical School, Dr. Ferguson completed a Ph.D. at Drexel University College of Medicine, followed by a postdoctoral fellowship at Stanford University. Her postdoctoral work provided one of the first examples of attention dysfunction in a genetic model of epilepsy and serves as the foundation of her independent lab. Dr. Ferguson has been the recipient of NIH funding at each career stage, with awards from NIMH and the National Institute of Neurological Disorders

and Stroke (NINDS) as a graduate student, postdoc, and in her transition to faculty. She has also received numerous awards including The Root 100 Most Influential African Americans, Forbes Under 30 Science, and Drexel University College of Medicine 40 Under 40.

Outside of the lab, Dr. Ferguson is passionate about creating opportunities for underrepresented minorities in science. She co-founded and served as program director for Black In Neuro, an organization that builds community, provides resources, and increases visibility for Black scholars in neuroscience. In her role as program director, she has overseen extensive programming including the organization's seminar series, professional development workshops, and their annual virtual conference, Black In Neuro Week.



Antonio Fernandez-Ruiz, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor at Cornell University. He studied physics and biology at the Universities of Sevilla and Madrid, in Spain. He completed his Ph.D. at the University of Madrid, where he developed and applied machine learning methods to study the biophysical basis of brain dynamics. He then moved to New York University to work as a postdoctoral fellow in the laboratory of Gyorgy Buzsaki, M.D., Ph.D. His research focused on the neural circuit mechanisms of learning and memory in rodents. His work elucidated how the temporal coordination of excitatory and inhibitory inputs mediates communication between brain areas and supports learning. He developed a novel approach to causally probe the role of specific patterns of neural activity in behavior and used it to demonstrate the key function of neuronal sequences in memory formation.

The mission of his lab at Cornell is to understand how neuronal dynamics in distributed brain circuits support complex cognitive functions and how small imbalances can lead to pathological states. His group investigates the algorithmic and mechanistic underpinnings of learning, memory, and decision making in health and disease at the computational, circuit, and cellular levels. His lab investigates detailed cellular and circuit mechanisms of cognitive dysfunction in animal models with the aim of improving the understanding of human diseases and developing more precise therapeutic strategies. Dr. Fernandez-Ruiz is the recipient of the Gruber International Research Award in Neuroscience (SfN), the Blavatnik Award for Young Scientists in the Life Sciences, the Freedman Prize for Exceptional Basic Research (BBRF), the New Innovator Award (NIH), and the MIND Prize (PSF).



Ashley Hagaman, Ph.D., M.P.H., is an Assistant Professor of Public Health in the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences at Yale School of Public Health. She is also a qualitative methodologist with the Center for Methods in Implementation and Prevention Science and holds a secondary appointment in the Department of Anthropology. Her work focuses on systems integrated interventions in global contexts to address suicide, mental health, and the life course impacts of interpersonal relationships on health and psychosocial wellbeing. She collaborates with interdisciplinary teams around the world to develop and test innovative strategies to treat depression and enhance maternal health systems, with field sites in Nepal, Pakistan, and Ethiopia. She also contributes to the development of

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES continued

innovative qualitative and mixed-methods to improve the study and implementation of evidence-based health practices, incorporating and testing new passive data collection strategies and rapid analytic techniques.

Professor Hagaman currently leads three suicide prevention implementation trials funded by NIMH: one in Pakistan focused on suicide prevention among women, a primary healthcare systems-focused suicide prevention intervention in Nepal, and a youth and family-engaged suicide prevention intervention in Nepal. She is also co-principal investigator of a Department of Defense suicide prevention implementation research program with the Connecticut Army National Guard. All of her projects establish community advisory boards to elicit collaboration and advisement on study and instrument design, research implementation, ethics, analysis, and dissemination. She seeks to build career pathways for women in research in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC). She leads qualitative and mixed methods research designs and analytic strategies and has trained hundreds of LMIC-based qualitative researchers around the world.



Jahn Jaramillo, M.P.H., is a Ph.D. candidate in the Division of Prevention Science and Community Health at the University of Miami in Miami, Florida. His public health journey began at an HIV/AIDS community-based organization in New York City as a case manager. Across 10 years of international public health experience at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization, and RTI International, Mr. Jaramillo worked on HIV prevention, infectious disease surveillance, and health communications. Currently, Mr. Jaramillo is a Flagship Scholar with the Point Foundation and was previously a Fulbright Scholar in Thailand. His research is centered on the health of sexual and gender minorities, with a particular focus on integrating identity and cultural considerations into health promotion and HIV prevention strategies. He is also dedicated to developing and testing HIV interventions

that provide medically appropriate and culturally competent care to Latinx/e communities in South Florida.

Recently, Mr. Jaramillo was awarded a Predoctoral Fellowship to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research (F31-Diversity) from NIMH, which supports his work in adapting an evidence-based “employment as prevention” intervention to meet the specific needs of immigrant Latino sexual minority men (LSMM), particularly in South Florida—a recognized HIV epicenter and a focal point in the Ending the HIV Epidemic initiative. His research aims to culturally adapt the intervention, ensuring the intervention is HIV-status neutral and tailored for Spanish-speaking LSMM with recent immigration histories, addressing the structural factors that contribute to HIV disparities, and ultimately, enhancing the effectiveness of HIV prevention and treatment services for immigrant LSMM.



Silvia Lopez-Guzman, M.D., Ph.D., received her M.D. degree from Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Bogotá, Colombia. She then completed her Ph.D. in neuroscience at New York University's Center for Neural Science, thanks to a Fulbright Commission award, working in the lab of Paul Glimcher, Ph.D. Her doctoral dissertation entitled "Neuroeconomic markers of opioid use disorder outcomes: a computational psychiatry approach" centered on the use of computational markers of decision-making for the identification of outcomes and clinical states in opioid addiction treatment. Dr. Lopez-Guzman was a faculty member at the School of Medicine and Health Sciences at Universidad del Rosario in Bogotá, before joining NIMH as Chief of the Unit on Computational Decision Neuroscience and becoming a 2021 NIH Distinguished Scholar. She also holds a joint appointment with the

National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), where she is part of the Translational Addiction Medicine Branch. Her lab studies the computational and neurobiological bases of decision-making and how this process is altered in depression, anxiety, addiction, and pain.



Oladunni "Dunni" Oluwoye, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor in the Department of Community and Behavioral Health in the Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine at Washington State University, Spokane. She received her bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, a master's degree in clinical psychology from Alabama A&M University, a HBCU, and her Ph.D. in health promotion and education from the University of Cincinnati. She is a health services and disparities researcher that utilizes culturally- and community-informed approaches to address inequities in mental health care. Dr. Oluwoye also serves as the lead evaluator for New Journeys, a network of coordinated specialty care programs for early psychosis in Washington State. She is the recipient of funding from NIMH, SAMHSA, and through state-funded contracts. She is the recipient of a mentored

research scientist award (K01) and two R34s from NIMH, which are focused on the development and implementation of strategies to increase engagement and address inequities and disparities across the continuum of care for early psychosis.



Nicole Provenza, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery and McNair Scholar at Baylor College of Medicine (BCM). She received her Ph.D. in biomedical engineering from Brown University and completed her postdoctoral fellowship at BCM. Dr. Provenza's research focuses on the neurophysiology underlying cognition and emotion and the effects of neuromodulation on neural activity and behavior. Her work integrates neural activity and deep phenotyping approaches to inform neural signatures underlying real-world functional deficits in cognitive and emotional disorders. An improved understanding of the relationship between neural activity and behavior will enable the development of improved neuromodulation strategies that more effectively guide brain activity and behavior toward healthy states.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES continued



Alexandra Rodman, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor at Northeastern University, where she directs the Social Development and Wellbeing Lab. Her work centers on the social interactions of teens, examining how social experiences interact with ongoing cognitive and brain development. Her work integrates novel behavioral tasks, neuroimaging (fMRI), and digital phenotyping of real-world behavior via smartphones. Her lab examines how social processes shape mental health during adolescence, with a focus on understanding risk and resilience in the face of stress. This work lays the foundation for future translational clinical research, ultimately aimed at improving the wellbeing of adolescents. Dr. Rodman completed her Clinical Psychology Ph.D. and Postdoctoral fellowship at Harvard University. Her research has been funded by foundation and federal grants, including the John Templeton Foundation, American Psychological Foundation, and NIMH.



Brittany Rudd, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, Psychology, and Law at the University of Illinois Chicago. Dr. Rudd completed her doctoral training in clinical science at Indiana University, pre-doctoral clinical internship at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, and postdoctoral training in implementation science at the University of Pennsylvania. The central theme of her research is to accelerate research-to-practice implementation in settings that support young people who are marginalized due to race, socioeconomic status, and other factors. She is especially focused on efforts to transform the current legal system into one that enacts equitable justice and promotes mental health. As a former NIH Mixed Methods Research Training Program scholar and Implementation Science Institute fellow, a cornerstone of Dr. Rudd's work is the aim to develop partnerships with community members from

complex service settings and ensure that end-user feedback is integrated into interventions and implementation tools so that they are primed for adoption and implementation within those systems.

Since 2013, she has been funded by the Indiana Supreme Court to engage in research that supports the mental health of families in civil family law cases, including work on digital mental health tools to promote mental health among family members accessing family law services. She also works to develop and evaluate a model of family law navigation that connects low-income divorcing or separating parents with needed mental health, legal, and social services to promote health equity. Dr. Rudd is the recipient of an NIMH career award that builds upon a 5-year partnership with juvenile legal practitioners across the nation who are concerned about the rising rate of suicide among Black youth. Dr. Rudd will work with an advisory board of Black, formerly detained young people and juvenile-legal practitioners from the National Partnership for Juvenile Services to build a Zero Suicide Model for juvenile detention that centers the needs and voices of young Black people.



Michael Wells, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor in the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) Department of Human Genetics. He earned a B.S. in biological sciences from the University of Notre Dame in 2008, and a Ph.D. in neurobiology from Duke University in 2015 under the guidance of Guoping Feng, M.D., Ph.D. In 2021, he completed his postdoctoral training in the laboratory of Kevin Eggan, Ph.D. at Harvard University before launching an independent research program at UCLA. The Wells Lab uses in vitro stem cell models of the brain to understand the mechanisms underlying neurodevelopmental disorders of genetic and environmental origin and specialize in the construction and analysis of “cell villages” that capture genetic, molecular, and cellular phenotypic variation in a single dish. This tool enables rapid and simultaneous characterization of dozens of donor cell lines and illuminates the relationships between genetic and phenotypic diversity. Dr. Wells’ work has been published in such high-impact journals as *Nature*, *Cell*, *Neuron*, and *Cell Stem Cell*, and has been funded by a K99/R00 Pathway to Independence award, the NIMH SSPsyGene Consortium, and most recently a California Institute for Regenerative Medicine Funding Opportunity for Discovery Stage Research award.



Jane Zhu, M.D., M.P.P., M.S.H.P., is a primary care physician and Associate Professor of Medicine in the Division of General Internal Medicine at Oregon Health and Science University. She is core faculty at the Center for Health Systems Effectiveness and an adjunct Senior Fellow at the Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Zhu’s research centers on health care access and quality, particularly for mental and behavioral health services, as well as the effects of provider incentives and organization on health care delivery. Funded by foundation grants and NIH, her work has been published in high-impact journals, including *JAMA*, the *New England Journal of Medicine*, and *Health Affairs*; covered in media including *The New York Times*, *Reuters*, *The Washington Post*, and *CBS News*; and, cited in government and legislative reports.

Dr. Zhu obtained her B.Sc. degree in global health and international development from Duke University, where she was awarded a Fulbright fellowship. She received dual degrees in medicine and public policy from Harvard Medical School and Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government. After internal medicine residency training at the University of California, San Francisco, she was selected as a National Clinician Scholar at the University of Pennsylvania where she completed a two-year fellowship. She is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians (FACP) and serves on regional and national committees for the Society of General Internal Medicine, the American College of Physicians, and the National Academy of Medicine.

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| Larry Silver (Acting) | 1984 | 1984 |
| Herbert Pardes | 1978 | 1984 |
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NIMH 75TH ANNIVERSARY

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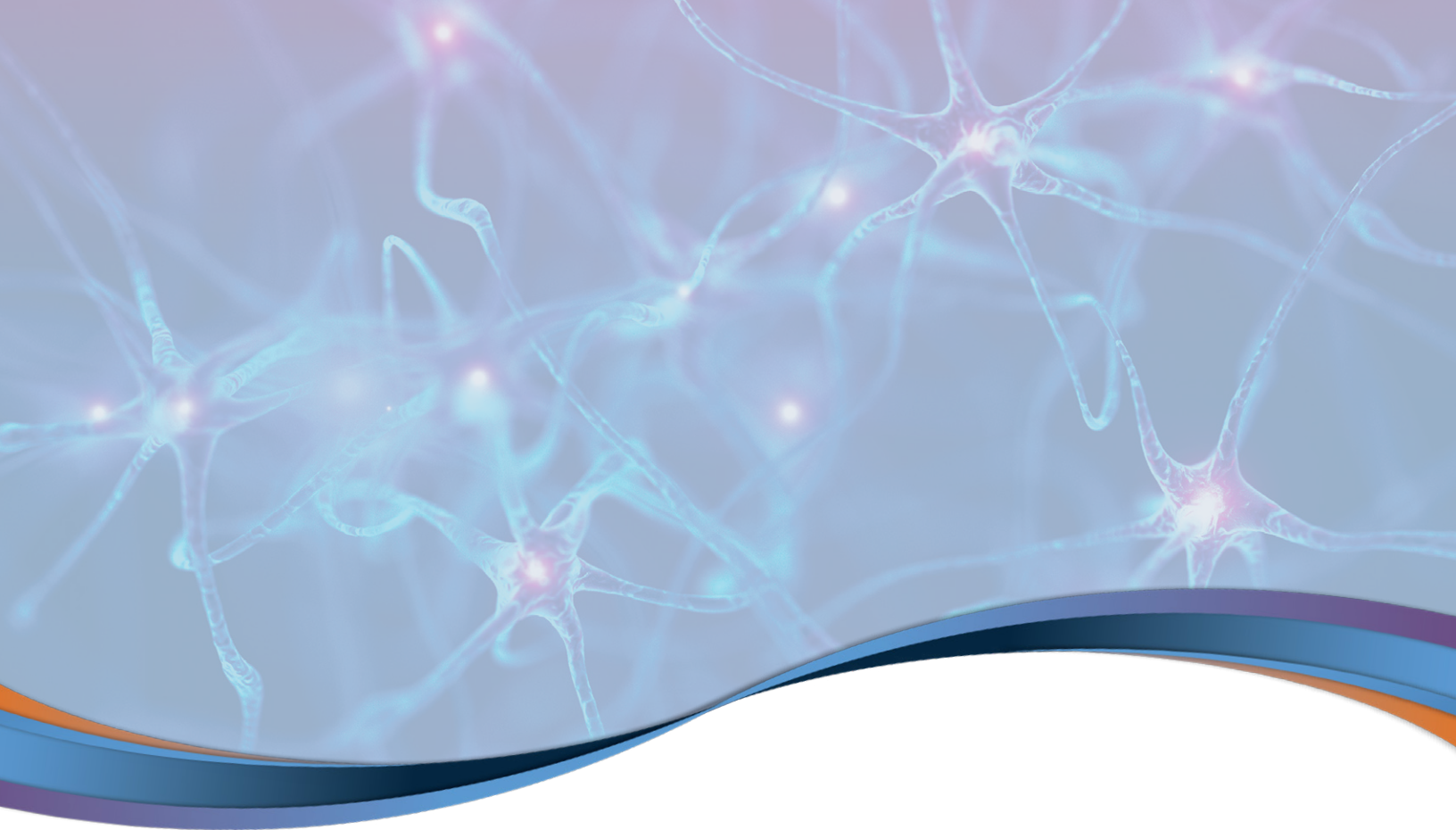
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Special Support

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