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AXXAM HARNESS
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Neuroimmunology in Drug Discovery

ELRIG's US Forum

DATE

24 June 2025

LOCATION

Merck Research Laboratories, Boston

Recent advances in human biology have shined a spotlight on the critical role of neuroimmune cells in the pathobiology of many neurological diseases. Drug discovery in neurodegenerative and neuroinflammatory diseases including Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and Multiple Sclerosis have increasingly focused on targets in microglia, astrocytes, oligodendrocytes and infiltrating immune cells. Explore the cutting-edge developments in neuroimmunology propelled by advanced tools such as proteomics, transcriptomics, and spatial biology, as well as human translatable models like iPSCs, 2D/3D culture models and humanized mouse models.

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Time - GMT	Title
08:30 - 09:00	Registration and coffee
09:00 - 09:05	ELRIG and host site welcome
09:05 - 09:10	Forum Director welcome - Swarna Balasubramanian (AstraZeneca) and Matthew Fell (Merck Research Laboratories)
09:10 - 09:45	Title TBC - Manuela Polydoro (Muna Therapeutics)
09:45 - 09:50	Technology Spotlight - Alitheia Genomics
09:50 - 09:55	Technology Spotlight - FUJIFILM Corporation
09:55 - 10:20	Alzheimer's disease-linked risk alleles elevate microglial cGAS-associated senescence and neurodegeneration in a tauopathy model - Gillian Carling (Pfizer)
10:20 - 11:00	Refreshment break
11:00 - 11:25	Breaking the ICE: investigating the potential role of peripheral immune cell exhaustion in Parkinson's Disease - Rebecca Wallings (Indiana University)
11:25 - 11:40	Forum partner - Organelle dysfunction in the brain: Key drivers of neuroinflammation and neurodegenerative diseases? - Tom Grammatopoulos (Axxam SpA)
11:40 - 12:05	Validation of NLRP3 inflammasome inhibitors for neurodegenerative diseases - Cheryl Leyns (Merck)
12:05 - 12:10	Technology Spotlight - BrainXell
12:10 - 13:10	Lunch
13:10 - 13:15	Session introduction
13:15 - 13:40	Central inhibition of TYK2 for MS and neuroinflammatory conditions - Arash Rassoulpour (Neuron23)
13:40 - 13:45	Technology Spotlight - Hooke Bio
13:45 - 13:50	Technology Spotlight - Alamar Biosciences
13:50 - 14:15	Key driver of disease progression in multiple sclerosis - Dimitry Ofengeim (Sanofi)
14:15 - 14:20	Technology Spotlight
14:20 - 16:00	Networking