

**PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE 2026  
PROGRAM AT A GLANCE  
Wednesday, April 15**

TIME	EVENT
14:00 – 17:00	<p>Pre-Conference PI Summit <b>SANS INVESTIGATORS SUMMIT ON FUNDING AND RESOURCES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- \$95 – Advanced registration</li> </ul> <p>Social and affective neuroscience is at a crossroads. We are facing funding cuts for core questions in our field. At the same time, advances in rigor for cutting edge research require strong funding support. The Funding and Resources Summit is designed to bring SANS investigators together to collectively confront these challenges. Key questions motivating the Summit include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What questions and themes should guide the field over the next 5 years?</li> <li>- How do we build new datasets and collaborations when funding is limited?</li> <li>- How can we pursue research lines that are being censored?</li> <li>- How do we prepare for the real costs and infrastructure challenges of running a lab?</li> <li>- How can we unlock more value from the data and resources we already have?</li> <li>- How can we better support and invest in early-career PIs and trainees?</li> </ul> <p>The summit will involve brief talks with extra time reserved for group discussions. Major themes and confirmed speakers include: <b>Scientific direction:</b> Dr. Ralph Adolphs and Dr. Hedy Kober <b>Sustainability and Professional Development:</b> Dr. Kalina Michalska and Dr. Kevin LaBar <b>Building Community Wide Resources:</b> Dr. Jennifer Beer, Dr. Lucina Uddin, Dr. Russ Poldrack</p>
13:00 – 17:00	<p>Pre-Conference Workshop <b>NAVIGATING THE fMRI MULTIVERSE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- \$95 – Advanced registration</li> </ul> <p>Practical tools for robust fMRI preprocessing: Hands-on workshop on best practices in fMRI preprocessing with fMRIPrep and related tools. Explore how analytic variability affects reproducibility through multiverse analyses, guided by MRI experts.</p> <p>The fMRI workshop will feature the following 4 speakers, who are all experts in neuroimaging: <b>Speakers:</b> Dr. Thomas Liu, PhD: <i>Director of the UCSD Center for Functional MRI, UCSD</i> Dr. Alan Simmons, PhD: <i>Professor of Psychiatry &amp; Director, fMRI Research Core, UCSD</i> Dr. Guarav Patel, MD, PhD: <i>Associate Professor of Clinical Psychiatry, Co-Director, NYSPI MRI, Columbia University</i> Dr. Jack Grindband, PhD: <i>Associate Professor of Clinical Neurobiology, Psychiatry &amp; Radiology, Columbia University</i></p>
13:00 – 17:00	<p>Pre-Conference Workshop <b>BUILDING A THRIVING RESEARCH CAREER</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- \$95 – Advanced registration</li> </ul> <p>An Interactive session offering practical guidance on key professional skills for trainees—grant writing, negotiation, writing, lab management—to support long-term success in academic careers.</p> <p>The Career Development workshop will feature next year's program co-chairs: Dr. Peter Sokol-Hessner, PhD: <i>Associate Professor &amp; Director of the Sokol-Hessner Lab, University of Denver</i> Dr. Nina Lauharatanahirun, PhD: <i>Assistant Professor of Biobehavioral Health &amp; Biomedical Engineering, Penn State University</i> <b>Additionally: NIH Participation</b> As part of a pre-conference meeting for early-career investigators staff from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) will highlight recent announcements relevant to career development and new research programs and will be available to answer questions from attendees. <b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Kristin Brethel-Haurwitz, Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research, NIH</li> <li>- Neel Dhruv, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, NIH (main conference)</li> <li>- Layla Esposito, Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, NIH</li> <li>- Emily Hooker, National Institute on Aging, NIH</li> </ul>

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**Thursday, April 16**

TIME	EVENT
8:00 – 9:00	<b>Mentor/Mentee Match Event</b> Complimentary with advanced registration
9:00- 9:30	<b>Opening Session &amp; Welcome Address</b>
9:30- 10:45	<b>Symposium 1</b> <b>New Directions in Social Learning &amp; Memory</b> <b>Speakers:</b> Megan Meyer – Columbia University Anna Vannucci - Columbia University Yi Yang Teoh - Brown University Clara Sava-Segal - Dartmouth College
10:45 -11:15	<b>Early Career Awardee Talk</b>
11:15 – 12:30	<b>Symposium 2</b> <b>Clinical and Translational Perspectives on Affect</b> <b>Speakers:</b> Diego Pizzagali – University of California Brian Sweis - Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York City Hedy Kober -University of California, Berkeley Kevin LaBar - Duke University
<b>12:30 – 14:00</b>	<b>Lunch Break - On own</b>
<b>12:30-13:30</b>	<b>NIH Roundtable.</b> In this roundtable discussion and open Q&A with staff from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) will highlight research programs, funding opportunities, resources, and updates relevant to social and affective neuroscience. Updates and opportunities from the National Institute on Aging (NIA), National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), and National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) will be discussed, in addition to NIH-wide training opportunities, funding procedures and processes, toolkits and data repositories, and other resources.  <b>Hybrid Panel:</b> Kristin Brethel-Haurwitz, Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research, NIH Neel Dhruv, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, NIH Layla Esposito, <i>Eunice Kennedy Shriver</i> National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, NIH Emily Hooker, National Institute on Aging, NIH Liz Necka, National Institute of Mental Health, NIH Matt Sutterer, National Institute on Aging, NIH
<b>13:30 – 14:00</b>	<b>SANS Fellow introduction and Blitz Talk</b>
14:00-15:00	<b>Presidential Speaker</b> <b>Behavioral and Neural Mechanisms of Social Decision-Making</b> <b>Speaker:</b> Steve Chang - Yale University
15:00-17:00	<b>#1 Poster Spotlight (8), Poster session &amp; Opening Reception</b>
17:00 -18:00	<b>Comic Sans</b> Vishnu “Deepu” Murty and guests

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**Friday, April 17**

TIME	EVENT
8:15-9:15	<b>BIOPAC PRESENTATION</b>
9:15- 10:30	<b>Symposium 3</b> <b>Affect &amp; Decision-Making</b> <b>Speakers:</b> <i>Oriel FeldmanHall – Brown University</i> Dean Mobbs - Caltech Robb Rutledge - Yale University Kate Wassum - UCLA
10:30-11:45	<b>DEIJ Talk</b>
11:45 -12:45	<b>Trainee Blitz Talks (8)</b>
12:45 – 14:15	<b>Lunch Break - On own</b>
14:15 – 14:45	<b>Mid Career Awardee Talk</b>
14:45 – 15:45	<b>Keynote Speaker</b> <b>The Human Amygdala, Threat, and Anxiety: Translational Progress and Challenges</b> <b>Speaker:</b> <i>Elizabeth Phelps-Harvard University</i>
15:45-17:45	<b>#2 Poster Spotlight (8) &amp; Poster Session</b>
17:45 -18:45	<b>EDIJ Social Hour Meet-up – Eureka restaurant</b>
18:45	<b>SANS Social Meet-up – Eureka restaurant</b>

**Saturday, April 18**

8:30 – 9:45	<b>Symposium 4</b> <b>Naturalistic Hyperscanning: Mechanisms, Plasticity, and Network Complexity</b> <b>Speakers:</b> Suzanne Dikker - New York University Giacomo Novembre - Italian Institute of Technology Simone Shamay-Tsoory - University of Haifa Anat Dahan - Braude College of Engineering
10:15 – 11:30	<b>Symposium 5</b> <b>Advancing Emotion Regulation Research: Neural Mechanisms and Translational Applications</b> <b>Speakers:</b> <i>Richard Lopez- Worcester Polytechnic Institute</i> Bryan Denny – Rice University Kateri Mcrae - University of Denver Nicole Giuliani - University of Oregon
11:30 - 12:30	<b>Faculty Blitz Talks (5)</b>
12:30 – 14:00	<b>Lunch Break - On own</b>
14:00 – 16:00	<b># 3 Poster Spotlight (8) &amp; Poster Session</b>
16:00 - 17:00	<b>Distinguished Scholar Awardee Talk</b>
17:00 - 17:30	<b>Closing Remarks &amp; Announcements</b>
17:30	<b>SANS Annual Business Meeting</b> (open to all attendees- only members of SANS can vote)