U. of Oslo | U. of Copenhagen | Chinese U. of Hong Kong | Norwegian U. of Science and Technology | K.G. Jebsen Centre for Alzheimer's Disease | Kavli Institute for Systems Neuroscience | NO-Age | NO-AD | MIT-AD

The NO-Age and NO-AD Seminar Series 067

Social-emotional aspect of aging in humans (tentative)

by

Associate Prof. Maryam Ziaei

Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, NTNU, Norway

Opening up new frontiers in Alzheimer's Disease drug discovery

by

Prof. John B. Davis

Alzheimer's Research UK Oxford Drug Discovery Institute,Oxford, UK

at

14:00-16:30 (CET), Monday, 15th May. 2023

Ahus S1: Seminarrom S102.014

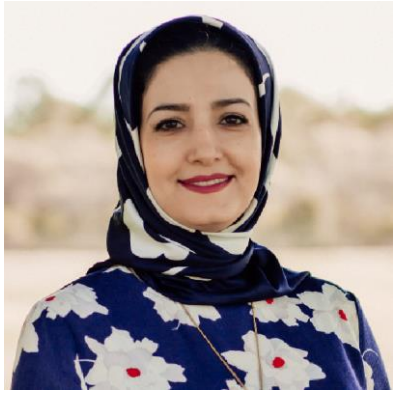
Register in advance:

https://uio.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_kXSlrjNHQrWJnPFf9Mincg

Evandro F. Fang (UiO), Jon Storm-Mathisen (UiO), Lene Juel Rasmussen (KU), W.Y. Chan (CUHK)

Queries: e.f.fang@medisin.uio.no

Previous recorded talks are available here: https://noad100.com/videos-previous-events/



Name: Associate Prof. Maryam Ziaei

Institute: Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, NTNU, Norway

Email: maryam.ziaei@ntnu.no

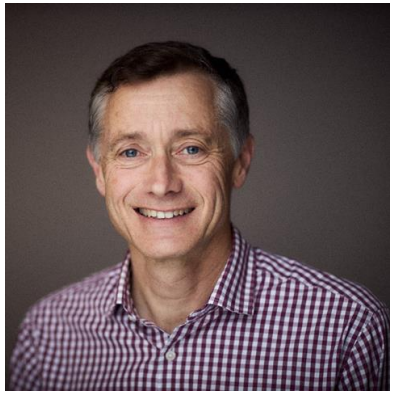
Lab website: https://www.ntnu.edu/employees/maryam.ziaei

Speaker: Associate Prof. Maryam Ziaei

Title: Social-emotional aspect of aging in humans (tentative)

Abstract:
To be updated

Biography:
Maryam Ziaei obtained her Bachelor of Clinical psychology from Isfahan University in Iran and pursued her master's in clinical neuropsychology at Shahid Beheshti University, Iran. After a short stay in Sweden, she then moved to Australia and received her PhD in cognitive neuroscience from the School of Psychology, at the University of Queensland (UQ). Following the completion of her postdoctoral fellowship at the Centre for Advanced Imaging, UQ, she joined Kavli Institute for Systems Neuroscience in Norway to establish her research group. She is currently an associate professor and group leader, and the primary focus of her group is to understand neurocognitive mechanisms underlying social and emotional processing in aging. Having lived and worked in four different cultures, Maryam is passionate about promoting diversity and inclusion in science and currently serves on the Diversity and Inclusivity committee of the Organization for Human Brain Mapping. She is actively engaged in the strategic decisions for the DEI issue exampled by a recent blog on this topic from the OHBM committee.



Name: Prof. John B. Davis

Institute: Alzheimer's Research UK Oxford Drug Discovery Institute, Oxford, UK

Email: john.davis@cmd.ox.ac.uk

Lab website: https://www.tdi.ox.ac.uk/research/research/aruk-oxford-drug-discovery-institute

Speaker: Prof. John B. Davis

Title: Opening up new frontiers in Alzheimer's Disease drug discovery

Abstract:

The task of discovering new therapeutic approaches for chronic CNS diseases remains one of the significant hurdles to be faced if we are to successfully meet these unmet clinical needs. Although there are notable exceptions, over the past decade and a half many pharma have reduced their investment in R&D for CNS disorders and the gap has had to be met by academia and biotech funding. The 'valley of death' has grown deeper and wider. In 2015 the UK charity Alzheimer's Research UK established a drug discovery initiative (the ARUK Drug Discovery Alliance (DDA)) in order to help bridge this gap and this talk will describe the development of this approach and highlight some of the areas of focus and success.

Uniquely, this enterprise has involved embedding drug discovery teams within higher education institutions where they have been able to evolve alongside the academic investigators and clinicians within the surrounding research institutes and hospitals.

Within the ARUK Oxford Drug Discovery Institute we have focused on validating the functional consequences of risk variants, establishing the protein roles in human cellular signalling mechanisms, and have tackled more technically challenging targets by using novel approaches with an emphasis on structural biology. The DDA has a particular interest in proteostasis, endo-lysosomal dysfunction and neuroimmune mechanisms.

Partnership with industry has enabled the institutes to accelerate the development of target chemistries and to expand their project portfolios. This, in turn, is allowing the ARUK Drug Discovery Alliance to seek academic and industrial partners from across the globe.

Biography:

John Davis is Professor of Pharmaceutical Discovery in the Nuffield Department of Medicine, University of Oxford and is Director of Business Development for the Alzheimer's Research UK Drug Discovery Alliance. He continues to serve on the Oxford Drug Discovery Institute's leadership team since stepping down as CSO in 2022. John is a biochemist with a PhD from the University of Cambridge, postdoctoral training carried out at the Ludwig Institute (Middlesex Branch) and an EMBO fellowship at The Salk Institute. In 1993 he joined SmithKline Beecham as part of the establishment of a neurology research unit within the company and, following the merger to form GlaxoSmithKline, led non-clinical pharmacology research departments for pain and neurodegenerative diseases. In 2010 John co-founded Convergence Pharmaceuticals, subsequently acquired by Biogen, and has since co-founded a further three start-up companies. In 2015 he joined the University of Oxford to set up and lead the ARUK Oxford Drug Discovery Institute. The institute has developed a portfolio of early drug discovery programmes for Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease, with an emphasis on genetically validated targets, and has forged multiple industrial alliances to ensure progression of these projects. John has 25+ years of drug discovery expertise from target to phase IIa and has helped steer a dozen drug candidates into development.