

Welcome to the Team iNeuron Spring/Summer Newsletter!

We are excited to share the latest updates from Team iNeuron as we move into the second half of 2025. This issue celebrates our recent milestones, new collaborations, trainee achievements, and outreach initiatives. From scientific breakthroughs to inclusive engagement efforts, this edition highlights the diverse work and growing impact of our team.

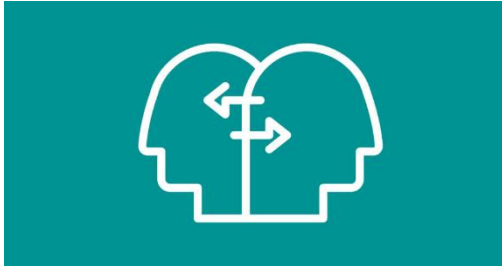


ABLE Poster Award: Celebrating Accessible Science Communication

At our January 2025 Annual Symposium, ABLE members adjudicated the inaugural Accessible Science Communication Poster Award. This trainee-led competition recognized posters that prioritized clarity, accessibility, and engagement for non-specialist audiences.

Congratulations to Dr. Jack Hickmott for their outstanding presentation and thank you to all trainees who participated with creativity and thoughtfulness. We are excited to see this award grow in future years!





Neuroscience Workshop led by Dr. Guang Yang

High school students from the Urban Society for Aboriginal Youth joined Dr. Guang Yang's lab for an engaging workshop that introduced them to career paths in STEM. The day featured interactive lab tours and hands-on activities, including DNA extraction from strawberries, micro pipetting exercises, and viewing neural stem cells under the microscope. This outreach initiative helped demystify neuroscience and foster greater accessibility to scientific learning for Indigenous youth.



Welcome Dr. Giacomo Masserdotti as a Collaborator!

We are delighted to officially welcome Dr. Giacomo Masserdotti as a collaborator on Team iNeuron. Giacomo has been an engaged and valued contributor since the project's inception, attending all three annual symposia and participating actively in Pillar 1 meetings. His formal addition to the team reflects the important role he has already played in advancing our shared goals.



Save the date! NFRF Team iNeuron Annual Symposium 2026

We are excited to announce that the next NFRF Team iNeuron Annual Symposium will take place from May 4–8, 2026! Please mark your calendars and join us as we gather for our third in-person symposium to reflect on our progress and celebrate the achievements from the first half of the project.

Annual Report 2025 Submission

Thank you to everyone for your thoughtful contributions to the 2025 Annual Report. The completed report is now available on the website intranet. We have made significant strides in Year 2, and your dedication continues to drive the project forward. We are excited for what lies ahead in the coming year and deeply appreciate your ongoing efforts.

Exciting Updates on the Horizon

- **TMM Grand Challenges Workshop**

We are proud to share that Team iNeuron is being recognized by the Stem Cell Network for our cutting-edge research in the field of regenerative medicine and its potential impact. Several team members will be presenting our team goals and achievements at the upcoming 2025 Till & McCulloch Meetings (TMM) in Ottawa, and that's not all! Our team members will also be participating in a private Grand Challenges Workshop following the main event, aiming to bring together leaders in the field to tackle pressing challenges and shape future directions in regenerative medicine. Stay tuned for a white paper highlighting the outcomes of this exciting workshop!

Interested in [attending TMM](#)? Registration is open, we would love to see you there!

- **Strategic review: Preparing for the Midterm Review**

As we prepare for the NFRF Midterm Review, we are taking proactive steps to ensure the continued success of our project. With the support of external experts, we will be undergoing a strategic review process designed to sharpen our focus and position us strongly for the next phase of the grant.

Stay tuned for updates as this process unfolds!

- **EDI Strategy in the Works**

Team iNeuron is collaborating with Christopher Townsend, Director of Social Accountability, Organizational Development, and Leadership at Sunnybrook Research Institute, to develop an Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) strategy that aligns with our team's unique goals. We are excited to announce that a series of EDI workshops will be rolled out soon, including an in-person session at our next annual symposium!

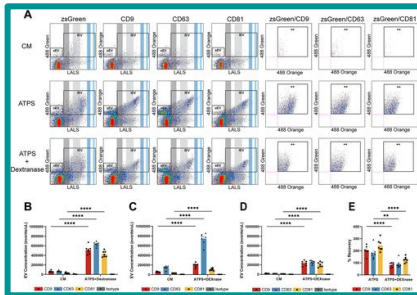
More details to come!

- **Introducing: ABLE and the Scientists series**

We are launching a brand-new initiative to foster deeper collaboration between iNeuron researchers and the ABLE team. Each iNeuron PI will present a 10-minute plain language overview of their research, followed by a 10-minute Q&A, during ABLE's bi-monthly meetings.

These sessions will create space for knowledge-sharing, meaningful dialogue, and a better understanding of our diverse research streams. Keep an eye on your inbox, an email will be sent soon to help schedule your session!

Celebrating Our Research Highlights

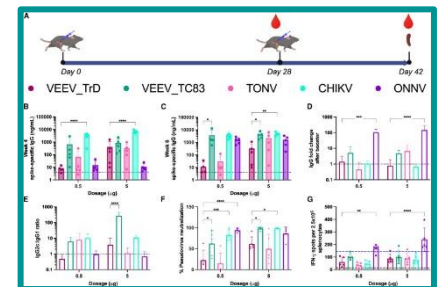


Next Generation Aqueous Two-Phase System for Gentle, Effective, and Timely Extracellular Vesicle Isolation and Transcriptomic Analysis

Hon Leong, Pillar 2

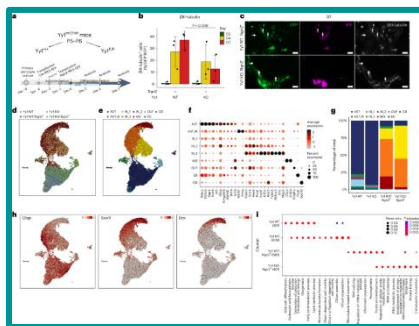
Alphaviral backbone of self-amplifying RNA enhances protein expression and immunogenicity against SARS-CoV-2 antigen

Anna Blakney, Pillar 2



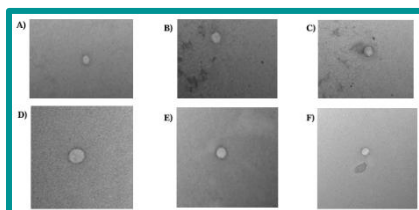
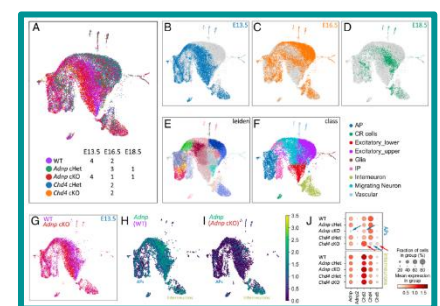
Direct neuronal reprogramming of mouse astrocytes is associated with multiscale epigenome remodeling and requires Yy1

Magdalena Götz, Giacomo Masserdotti, Carol Schuurmans, Pillar 1



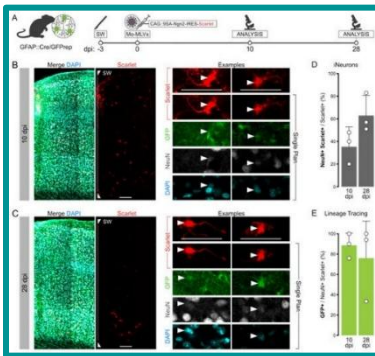
The chromatin remodeler ADNP regulates neurodevelopmental disorder risk genes and neocortical neurogenesis

Pierre Matter, Pillar 1



An *E. coli*-based platform for the production and assembly of anellovirus vectors

Rod Slavcev, Pillar 2

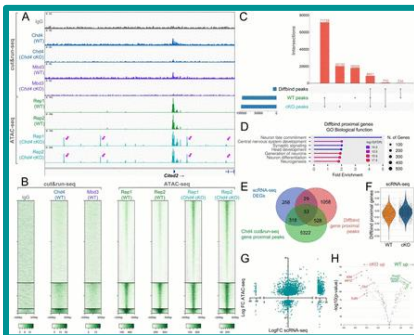
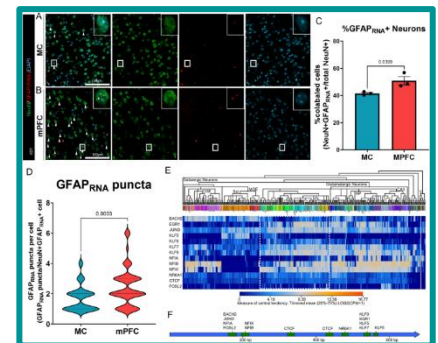


Comparing Viral Vectors and Fate Mapping Approaches for Astrocyte-to-Neuron Reprogramming in the Injured Mouse Cerebral Cortex

Magdalena Götz, Giacomo Masserdotti, Pillar 1

Regionally distinct GFAP promoter expression plays a role in off-target neuron expression following AAV5 transduction

Cindi Morshead, Pillar 3

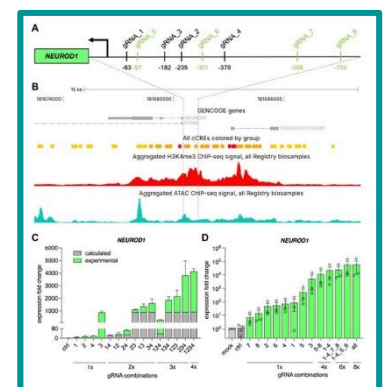


Chd4 remodels chromatin to control retinal cell type specification and lineage termination

Pierre Mattar, Pillar 1

Efficient DNA- and virus-free engineering of cellular transcriptomic states using dCas9 ribonucleoprotein (dRNP) complexes

Stefan Stricker, Pillar 1



Thank you for your ongoing dedication and contributions. Together, we are advancing the frontiers of science and making impactful progress. Let's head into year 3 of the project with as much inspiration and drive!