Plenary Speakers

Laura Cancedda received her Ph.D. in Neurophysiology from Scuola Normale Superiore (Pisa, Italy) in 2003, under the supervision of Dr. Lamberto Maffei, where she investigated the molecular and environmental basis of experience-dependent plasticity in the rat brain. In 2003, she moved to University of California at Berkeley in Dr. Poo's laboratory, where she focused on the mechanisms of GABAergic-transmission modulation. From in 2006, she started a collaboration on a project aimed at studying early determinants of neuronal polarization.

Currently, Laura is team-leader at the Italian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Genoa, and scientist of the Telethon Dulbecco Institute. Laura is also a scholar of the FENS KAVLI network of excellence. Her research focuses on the role of extracellular factors such as GABA in neurogenesis, migration and morphological maturation of cortical neurons under physiological and pathological conditions.
In 2021, Laura launched the start-up IAMA Therapeutics, based on her research.

Laura Cancedda, PhD
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Genova, Italy

Michel Neunlist received his Ph.D. in Electrophysiology in 1994 at University Louis Pasteur in Strasbourg, France. In his postdoctoral position in the laboratory headed by Dr. Michael Scheman in Hannover (Germany) he worked in the field of neurogastroenterology.

Since 2007, Michel directs a laboratory devoted to the study of enteric nervous system and enteric neuropathies "The Enteric Nervous System in Gut and Brain Disorders" (TENS) at INSERM U1235 in Nantes, France.

His scientific interests are the Enteric Nervous System, Parkinson's disease, gut immunology and human gut microbiome, with particular focus on gut viruses. Among his most cited works there are topics like the role of soluble mediators in impaired intestinal barrier integrity, and the use of colonic mucosal biopsies to assess the neuropathology of Parkinson's disease.

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