



# Brain Awareness



# Week Faculty Common



# Hour Lecture Series



## Monday 03/06/17 NAB 1100 A & B

**Presenter:** Dr. Seojung Jung  
*Dept. Psychology SUNY-OW*



**Title:** The Positivity Effect and The Aging Brain

**Description:** As people get older, they may experience undesirable changes, such as declining health and forgetfulness, but their emotional well-being tend to remain stable. In old age, people tend to prefer more positive over negative emotions and process positive emotions better than negative ones, which is termed the “positivity effect.” With the progress in the cognitive neuroscience of aging, researchers have proposed the underlying neural mechanisms for this age-related positivity effect.

**Discussant:**  
Dr. B. Runi Mukherji, Dept. Psychology, SUNY-NRI SUNY-OW

## Tuesday 03/07/17 Student Union Multipurpose Room A & B:

**Key Note Presenter:**  
Chuhyon Corwin, Doctoral Candidate  
*Dept. Biology, Hunter College CUNY & Dept. Biology/Neuroscience CUNY-Graduate Center*



**Title:** A Rat model of Neuroinflammation Exhibiting Parkinsonism-like Pathology Induced by Prostaglandin J2

**Description:** Upregulation of cyclooxygenase-2 has emerged as an important determinant of the cytotoxicity associated with neuroinflammation in Parkinson's Disease (PD). Prostaglandins (PGs) are major products of cyclooxygenases, yet their role in neurodegeneration are poorly understood. We established a rat model exhibiting Parkinsonian-like pathology induced by PGJ2 chronic neuroinflammation. The PGJ2 rat model may serve as an invaluable tool to test Positron Emission Tomography (PET) diagnostic radioligands and to identify and optimize therapeutics counteracting neuroinflammation as a strategy to prevent or delay the progression of PD.

**Discussant:**  
Dr. Lorenz Neuwirth, Dept. Psychology, SUNY-NRI SUNY-OW

## Wednesday 03/08/17 NAB 1100 A & B

**Presenter:** Dr. Wei Zhu  
*Empire Innovation Program, SUNY-NRI-SUNY-OW*



**Title:** Neurobiological Functions of Endogenous Morphine

**Description:** Our research has shown that both animal and human neurons produce endogenous morphine. The biosynthetic pathway of morphine within invertebrate and human tissues is very similar. The possible functions of morphine in the immune and neuronal cell populations will be described to promote investigation for novel therapeutic approaches.

## Wednesday 03/08/17 NAB 1100 A & B (continued)

**Discussant:**  
Dr. Lillian Park, Dept. Psychology, SUNY-NRI, SUNY-OW

## Thursday 03/09/17 NAB 1100 A & B

**Presenter:** Dr. Patrick Cadet  
*Dept. Biology, SUNY-NRI, SUNY-OW*



**Title:** The Neuroprotective Effects of Morphine

**Description:** Millions of Americans suffer from some form of neurological disorder. Alzheimer's Disease (AD) progressively destroys a person's memory, learning/reasoning ability, and capability of carrying out daily tasks. AD is characterized by senile plaques, neurofibrillary tangles, aggregation of tau protein in neurons and neuronal loss. Currently, there is no known cure for AD. Overproduction of reactive oxygen species (ROS) have been implicated in various neurodegenerative diseases. Endogenous morphine via nitric oxide release can counteract the effects of ROS as a novel mechanism producing neuroprotection.

**Discussant:** Dr. Youngjoo Kim,  
*Dept. Chemistry & Physics-SUNY-OW*

This year's theme is “Brain Health & Age-Related Neurodegenerative Disorders” Students are highly encouraged to stop by each lecture during common hour 2:30pm-3:30pm to learn from our speakers.

