

ANA2019 Leadership and Media Roundtable Speakers



David M. Holtzman, MD

ANA President

*Andrew B. and Gretchen P. Jones Professor and Chairman,
Department of Neurology, Washington University School of
Medicine in St. Louis.*

holtzman@wustl.edu

Specialization: Cellular/Molecular/Biomarker studies of
Alzheimer's Disease and other neurodegenerative diseases

Interview topics: Alzheimer's disease, treatments on the horizon; review of ANA presidency

ANA2019 Symposium Chair: "Presidential Symposium: Dominantly Inherited and Late-Onset Alzheimer's Disease: Genetics, Biomarkers, Timecourse, and Treatments"

David M. Holtzman, MD, is President of the American Neurological Association and Andrew B. and Gretchen P. Jones Professor and Chairman, Department of Neurology at the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. Dr. Holtzman's research focuses on understanding the pathogenesis of Alzheimer's disease and other neurodegenerative disorders.

In addition to his laboratory, administrative, and teaching duties, Dr. Holtzman is involved in clinical and research activities at the Washington University Alzheimer's Disease Research Center and is scientific director of the Hope Center for Neurological Disorders.



Justin McArthur, MBBS, MPH

ANA Incoming President

*Professor of Neurology and Director, Department of Neurology, Johns
Hopkins Medicine*

Email: jm@jhmi.edu

Specialization: HIV/AIDS associated neuropathies, multiple sclerosis,
neuroimmunology and general neurology

Interview topics: Overview of the 2019 ANA Annual Meeting; discussion of the ANA and plans for leadership

ANA President-Elect Justin McArthur, MBBS, MPH, is nationally and internationally recognized for his work in studying the natural history, development and treatment of HIV infection, multiple sclerosis and other neurological infections and immune-mediated neurological disorders. Dr. McArthur has also developed a technique to use cutaneous nerves to study sensory neuropathies, including those associated with chemotherapy, HIV and diabetes. Dr. McArthur is the founding Director of the Johns Hopkins/National Institute of Mental Health Research Center for Novel Therapeutics of HIV-associated Cognitive Disorders.



M. Elizabeth Ross, MD, PhD

Chair, ANA2019 Scientific Program Advisory Committee

*Nathan Cummings Professor of Neurology and Neuroscience and
Director, Center for Neurogenetics (CNG), Weill Cornell Medicine*

Email: mer2005@med.cornell.edu

Specialization: Neurogenetics, single gene and polygenic causes of brain disorders in development and aging

Interview topics: Science of the 2019 ANA Annual Meeting

M. Elizabeth Ross, MD, PhD is Chair of the ANA's 2019 Scientific Program Advisory Committee and Director of the Center for Neurogenetics (CNG) at Weill Cornell Medicine. The CNG supports research into the genetic causes of and potential therapeutics for neurological disorders in children and adults, encompassing both basic science and clinical arms, and operates the biobank for the neurological and neuroscience community at Weill Cornell. Her own research group focuses on finding gene mutations associated with monogenic and complex genetic disorders, to investigate how these genes direct building the brain and serve its function during development and aging. Studies are approached from a basic science perspective, using biochemical, cell biological and mouse genetic tools that engage clinical genetics as a guide to discovery toward improved diagnosis and therapy.

Media Roundtable Speakers



Conrad (Chris) Wehl, MD, PhD

ANA2019 Plenary Chair, “Optimizing Clinical Trial Design”

Professor of Neurology, Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis

Email: weihlc@neuro.wustl.edu

Specialization: Protein degradation pathways and their relation to aging, muscle weakness and neurodegeneration

Interview topics: Design issues in neurology clinical trials; neuromuscular disease, ALS, muscular dystrophy, genetics, emerging therapeutics

Conrad Wehl, MD, PhD, studies how a cell’s failure to maintain quality control over its proteins — and, especially, to dispose of or reshape deformed and clumped proteins — can lead to degenerative diseases. He studies a group of rare genetic diseases that causes muscle weakness, bone breakdown and dementia, and has linked these disease’s diverse signs and symptoms to an inability to properly identify and destroy malformed proteins. His research also supports the idea that snags in the cell’s protein waste-disposal system may contribute not only to normal aging but also to a range of neurodegenerative diseases including Huntington’s disease, Parkinson’s disease and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, commonly known as Lou Gehrig’s disease. His clinical interests relate to both acquired and inherited muscle diseases including limb girdle muscular dystrophy and inclusion body myositis.



Steven Small, MD, PhD

ANA2019 Pre-Meeting Symposium Chair, “Brain-Computer Interfaces in Neurological Disease”

Professor Emeritus of Neurology, University of California, Irvine; Dean, School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences, University of Texas at Dallas

Email: small@uci.edu

Specialization: Neurobiology and rehabilitation of language disorders and hand motor function

Interview topics: Brain-computer interfaces and therapeutic applications to neurological damage and disease

Dr. Small's work focuses on understanding the anatomy and physiology of the human brain and its relation to function. His research involves direct investigation of human subjects, particularly in speech and language, and clinical and fundamental neurobiological aspects of mild traumatic brain injuries like concussions, particularly in sports. He has used computer models of human cognitive function to study cognitive dysfunction, particularly stroke, as well as conducting empirical studies of language and motor function in the brain using functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI). His work in the neurobiology of language has taken a network approach, emphasizing the multifactorial relation between behavior and brain regions and connections.



S. Thomas Carmichael, MD, PhD

**ANA2019 Plenary Chair, “Advances in Regenerative Medicine:
Cellular Memory Systems in Brain Repair”**

*Professor of Neurology, Geffen School of Medicine, University of
California, Los Angeles*

Email: scarmichael@mednet.ucla.edu

Specialization: Molecular and cellular mechanisms of neural repair
after stroke and other forms of brain injury

Interview topics: Regenerative medicine for neurologic injury and disease

S. Thomas Carmichael is a Professor of Neurology at the Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and an attending physician in Neurorehabilitation and Stroke clinical services at UCLA. He has an active laboratory and clinical interests in stroke and neurorehabilitation, and how the brain repairs from injury. Dr. Carmichael's laboratory studies the processes of axonal sprouting and neural stem cell responses after stroke, and on neural stem cell transplantation. Recent research has led to the surprising discoveries that the adult brain is capable of forming new connections after stroke (termed axonal sprouting) and is capable of recruiting adult brain stem cells to areas of injury (termed post-stroke neurogenesis). If properly harnessed, these two processes hold the promise of regenerating and reconnecting brain cells near areas of injury. Dr. Carmichael's lab is determining the molecules that control axonal sprouting and neurogenesis, so that new therapies can be developed that promote brain repair after stroke, as well as identifying areas of brain plasticity after stroke as candidate regions for neural stem cell transplantation to promote recovery and restoration of function. Their research has defined a novel environment in the brain that supports repair and regeneration after stroke. Present work focuses on developing drugs that will influence this environment to further its natural recovery.



Rachel Saunders-Pullman, MD, MPH
**ANA2019 Plenary Chair, “Emerging Role of Microbiome in
Neurological Disease”**

*Associate Professor of Neurology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount
Sinai*

Email: rachel.saunders-pullman@mssm.edu

Specialization: Epidemiology of Huntingdon’s and Parkinson’s disease;
related movement disorders

Interview topics: New advances in understanding the role of the gut microbiome in
neurodegenerative disease

Rachel Saunders-Pullman, MD, MPH, MS, Associate Professor of Neurology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, is a clinical researcher whose focus is the study of genetic and epidemiologic factors relating to Parkinson’s disease (PD) and dystonia, especially the development of predictors and markers of PD. She is a recognized leader in research into the genetic basis of dystonia and PD, with a major focus on mutations in the LRRK2 and GBA genes, as well as identifying novel genes that confer disease risk.



Argye Hillis, MD
ANA2019 Plenary Co-Chair, “Language Disorders Across the Lifespan”
*Professor of Neurology and Director, Cerebrovascular Division of
Neurology, Johns Hopkins University*

Email: argye@jhmi.edu

Specialization: Stroke Cognitive Outcome and Recovery (SCORE);
cognitive and language deficits and recovery after stroke

Interview topics: New research and treatments for primary progressive aphasia and post-stroke
aphasia

Dr. Hillis’ current research combines longitudinal task-related and task-free functional imaging and structural imaging from the acute stage of stroke through the first year of recovery, with detailed cognitive and language assessments to improve our understanding how language and other cognitive and emotional functions recover after stroke. She is investigating the most effective timing of neuromodulatory treatments, such as transcranial direct current stimulation and medications, to augment behavioral therapies post-stroke. Her other avenue of research involves novel treatment studies and longitudinal imaging and language studies of primary progressive aphasia (PPA), a progressive problem with language function. Some types of PPA are

caused by a neurodegenerative disease called frontotemporal lobar degeneration (FTLD) or related diseases, whereas others are caused by an atypical form of Alzheimer’s Disease. Dr. Hillis has published numerous articles on the nature of primary progressive aphasia, and how it changes over time. She is currently studying two forms of treatment of PPA, language therapy and transcranial direct current stimulation.

About the American Neurological Association (ANA)

From advances in stroke and dementia to movement disorders and epilepsy, the American Neurological Association has been at the vanguard of research since 1875 as the premier professional society of academic neurologists and neuroscientists devoted to understanding and treating diseases of the nervous system. Its monthly *Annals of Neurology* is among the world’s most prestigious medical journals, and the ANA’s *Annals of Clinical and Translational Neurology* is an online-only, open access journal providing rapid dissemination of high-quality, peer-reviewed research related to all areas of neurology. The acclaimed ANA Annual Meeting draws faculty and trainees from the top academic departments across the U.S. and abroad for groundbreaking research, networking, and career development. For more information, visit www.myana.org or follow @TheNewANA1 on Twitter, @AmericanNeurologicalAssociation on Facebook, or @ananeurology on Instagram.