VolkswagenStiftung

FEBRUARY 16–18, 2027 – HERRENHAUSEN CONFERENCE ~ HANOVER, GERMANY

Rethinking Neurodegeneration – Challenging Established Paradigms and Exploring New Paths

Tuesday, February 16th

Time	Program
08:30 (onwards)	**Coffee Available**
09:00 – 10:30	Registration (& poster hanging)
10:30 – 11:00	Welcome & Introduction *Henrike Hartmann & Christian Behl*
11:00 – 12:00 (talk ca. 45 min)	**Keynote Speech** | A Synaptic Perspective on Alzheimer's Disease *Thomas Südhof – School of Medicine, Stanford University Stanford, USA*
12:00 – 13:00	**Lunch & Coffee**
13:30 – 14:00	Synaptic-Resolution Connectomics: Densely Mapping Brain Networks in Health and Disease *Moritz Helmstaedter – Department of Connectomics, Max Planck Institute for Brain Research Frankfurt am Main, Germany*
14:00 – 14:30	Towards Integrating Circuit Dysfunction and Reserve Into the Clinical Management of Early Alzheimer's Disease *Emrah Düzel – Clinical Neurophysiology and Memory, German Center of Neurodegenerative Diseases (DZNE) Magdeburg, Germany*
14:30 – 15:00	Discussion – Talks 1-3

15:00 – 15:20	**Coffee Break**
15:20 – 15:50	From Function to Dysfunction: Amygdala Circuits in Health and Disease *Sabine Krabbe – Functional Diversity of Neuronal Circuits, German Center of Neurodegenerative Diseases (DZNE) Bonn, German*
15:50 – 16:20	Capturing State Transitions in Cognitive Aging *Anders Fjell – Department of Psychology, Faculty of Sciences, University of Oslo Oslo, Norway*
16:20 – 16:40	Discussion – Talks 4 & 5
16:40 – 17:30	**Coffee & Posters** (presenters should be at their posters)
17:30 – 19:00	**Welcome Reception | Dinner**

19:00 – 21:00 (admission start 18:15)	**Herrenhäuser Forum | Public Event** Demenz – Stehen wir vor einem Sieg über das Vergessen oder muss die Forschung umdenken? *Panel Discussion with Prof. Dr. Christian Behl & Prof. Dr. Emrah Düzel, moderated by Dr. Catherine Newmark | DLF Kultur*

Wednesday, February 17th

Time	Program
08:30 (onwards)	**Coffee Available**
08:50 – 09:00	Wrap Up of Day 1 *Christian Behl / Jürgen Götz / Tia Powell*
09:00 – 09:30	Beyond Waste Disposal: Lysosomes as Drivers and Targets in Neurodegeneration *Paul Saftig – Institute of Biochemistry, Christian Albrecht University Kiel* *Kiel, Germany*
09:30 – 10:00	Balancing Autophagic Degradation and Secretion in the Healthy and Aging Brain *Vassiliki Nikoletopoulou – Department of Fundamental Neurosciences, University of Lausanne* *Lausanne, Switzerland*
10:00 – 10:20	Discussion – Talks 6 & 7
10:20 – 10:40	**Coffee Break**
10:40 – 11:10	Cryo-EM Structures of Amyloid Filaments From the Human Brain *Michel Goedert – MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Cambridge Biomedical Campus* *Cambridge, UK*
11:10 – 11:40	From Old Skin to Old Brain: Direct Conversion to Explore the Interface Between Aging and Alzheimer's Disease *Jerome Mertens – Neural Aging Laboratory, Department of Neurosciences, University of California San Diego* *San Diego, USA*
11:40 – 12:00	Discussion – Talks 8 & 9
12:00 – 13:30	**Lunch & Coffee** Optional 30 min **Funding & Networking Seminars** during coffee

13:30 – 14:00	Dementia and Peripheral Immune Deviations: After All, a Systemic Disease? *Joachim Schultze – Clinical Single Cell Omics (CSCO), Systems Medicine, German Center of Neurodegenerative Diseases (DZNE)* *Bonn, Germany*
14:00 – 14:30	Biofluid-Based Biomarkers for Neurodegenerative Dementias—Beyond Amyloid and Tau *Henrik Zetterberg – Department of Psychiatry and Neurochemistry, Institute of Neuroscience and Physiology, University of Gothenburg* *Gothenburg, Sweden*
14:30 – 14:50	Discussion – Talks 10 & 11
14:50 – 15:10	**Coffee Break**
15:10 – 15:40	Targeting Innate Immunity to Treat Neurodegenerative Disease *Michael Heneka – Luxembourg Center of Systems Biomedicine, University of Luxembourg,* *Esch-sur-Alzette, Luxembourg*
15:40 – 16:10	Mixed Pathologies of the Aging Brain *Johannes Attems – Institute of Neuropathology and Neuromolecular Pathology* *Medical University Innsbruck,* *Innsbruck, Austria*
16:10 – 16:30	Discussion – Talks 12 & 13
16:30 – 16:50	**Coffee Break**
16:50 – 18:30	Lightning Talks Volkswagen Foundation Grant Recipients "NEXT: Rethink Neurodegeneration!"
18:30 – 21:00	**Conference Dinner**

Thursday, February 18th

Time	Program
08:30 (onwards)	**Coffee Available**
08:50 – 09:00	Wrap Up of Day 2 *Christian Behl / Jürgen Götz / Tia Powell*
09:00 – 09:30	Neuroprotection for Glaucoma-Tackling Age-Related Loss of Neuronal Resilience *Jonathan Crowston – Save Sight Institute, Faculty of Medicine and Health, The University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia*
09:30 – 10:00	The Neural Exposome: What is it and Why is it Relevant to the Study of Neurodegeneration? *Pamela Lein – Molecular Biosciences, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California Davis, Davis, USA*
10:00 – 10:20	Discussion ~ Talks 14 & 15
10:20 – 10:40	**Coffee Break**
10:40 – 11:10	Herpes Simplex Type 1 Virus (HSV-1) and Alzheimer's Disease: The Enemy Within *Ruth Itzhaki – The Oxford Institute of Population Ageing University of Oxford, Oxford, UK*
11:10 – 11:40	17 – Title TBA *Cornelia van Dujin – Oxford Population Health University of Oxford - Oxford, UK*
11:40 – 12:00	Discussion – Talks 16 & 17
12:00 – 13:30	**Lunch & Coffee**
13:30 – 14:00	Midlife as a Window of Opportunity for Dementia Prevention and Early Neurodegeneration *Kristine Yaffe – Center for Population Brain Health University of California San Francisco San Francisco, USA*

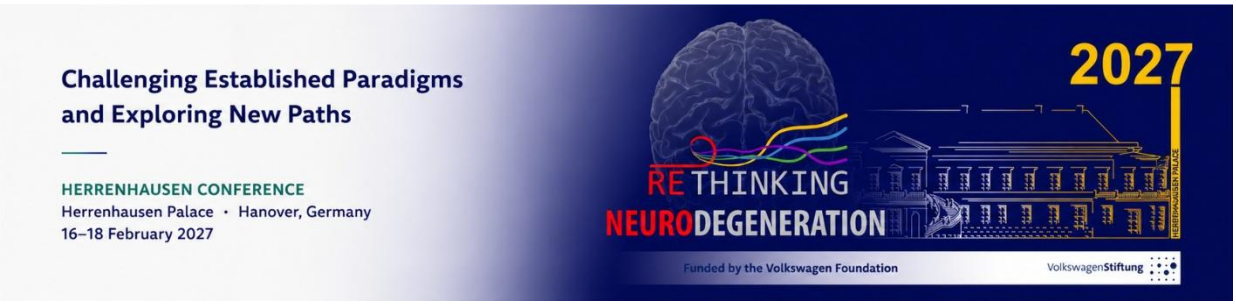
14:00 – 14:30	The Promise: Caregiving and Moral Dilemmas *Tia Powell – Department of Epidemiology & Population Health & Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences* *Albert Einstein College of Medicine* *New York, USA*
14:30 – 14:50	Discussion – Talks 18 & 19
14:50 – 15:00	Wrap Up of Day 3 *Jürgen Götz / Christian Behl / Tia Powell*
15:00 – 15:30	Conference Wrap Up *Henrike Hartmann, Tia Powell, Jürgen Götz & Christian Behl*
15:30 – 16:30	**Farewell Coffee**
16:00	**End of Conference**

Funding & Networking Seminars

Room 1: Mentoring and Funding from the DFG Perspective with Prof. Heiko Luhmann (UMC Mainz)

Room 2: Funding Acquisition with Dr. Laura Hausmann (Deutsches Stiftungszentrum | DSZ), Dr. Anne Pfitzer-Bilsing (Alzheimer Forschung Initiative e. V. | AFI) and Networking with Dr. Fazilet Bekbulat (ni²n)

Room 3: Show & Tell with the NEXT: Rethink Neurodegeneration! grant recipients

Posters

Posters will be showcased during the entire conference, feel free to view and discuss during coffee breaks. Weather permitting, the Herrenhausen Gardens are beautiful grounds for a Walk & Talk.