

# NEUROSCIENCE

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## 2026 SPRING RETREAT

5.8.2026 | 11AM - 7:30PM

**11am**

Registration & Lunch

**1:00pm**

Director's Introduction  
Axonal Guide Award  
New Student Council Announcement

**1:30pm**

**Keynote**  
Jim Ray, PhD  
UT MD Anderson Cancer Center  
"How to Make Drugs for Alzheimer's Disease"

**2:30pm**

Group Photo & Break

**2:45pm**

**Workshops**  
Chalk Talks for Candidacy and Beyond  
Publication-Worthy Figure Making  
How to Build a Successful Lab

**3:45pm**

Break

**4pm**

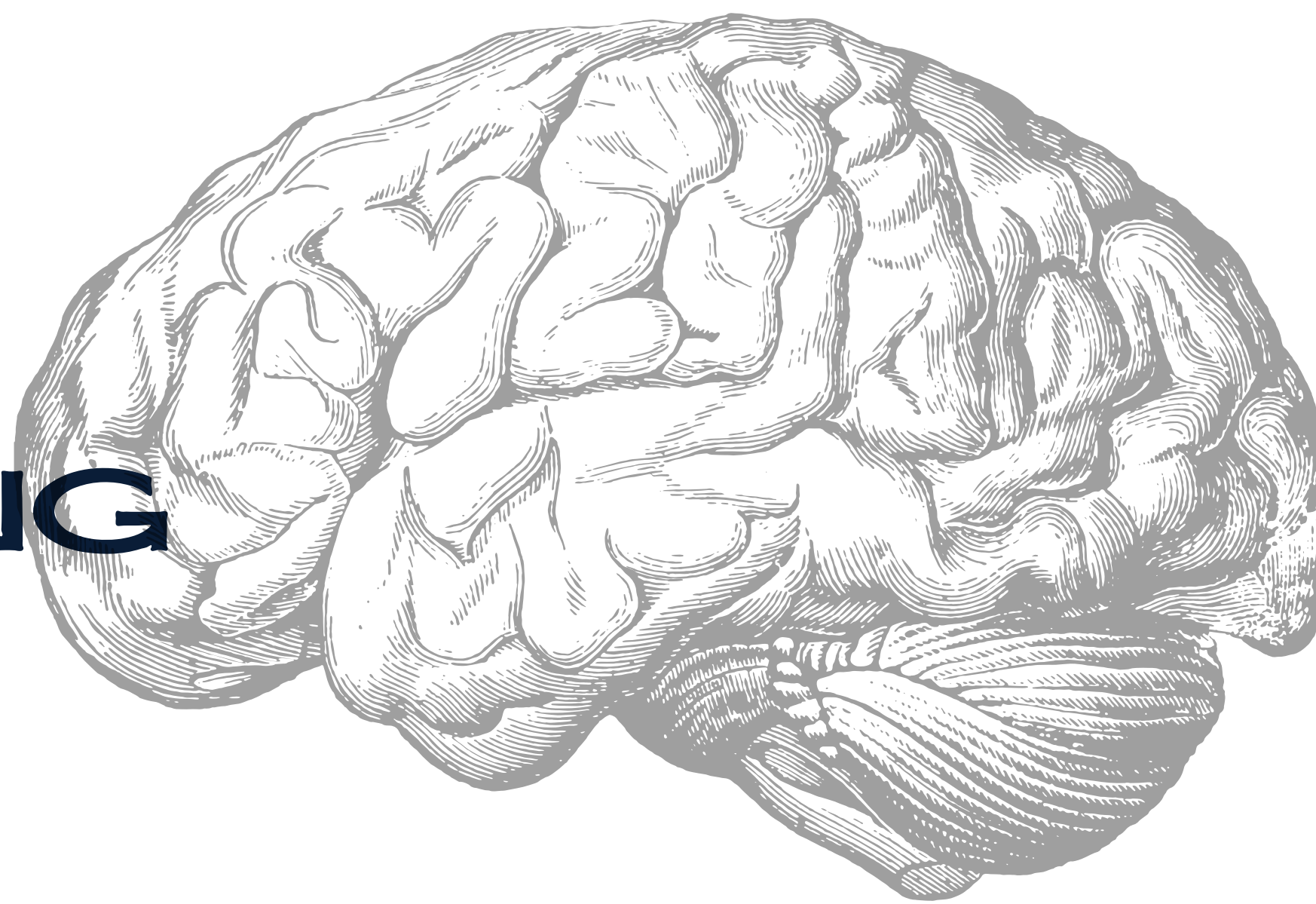
Dee S. and Patricia Osborne Research  
Scholarship Winner Talks  
Pre-candidacy: Haoyi Yang  
Post-candidacy: Mya Rodriguez

**5:30 - 7:30pm**

**"Beyond the Bench" Networking Social**  
Unwind after the retreat with refreshments and connect with GSBS alumni across a range of career paths in academia and industry!

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## 2026 SPRING RETREAT

SPEAKERS & WORKSHOP  
LEADERS



**Jim Ray, PhD**

*Keynote Speaker*



**Oscar Woulough, PhD**

*Publication-Worthy Figure Making*



**Neal Waxham, PhD**

*Chalk Talks for Candidacy & Beyond*



**Phillip Urbanczyk**

*Chalk Talks for Candidacy & Beyond*



**Heather Tsong**

*Chalk Talks for Candidacy & Beyond*



**Andrea Stavoe, PhD**

*How to Build a Successful Lab*



**Long-Jun Wu, PhD**

*How to Build a Successful Lab*



**Mya Rodriguez**

*Research Scholarship Speaker*

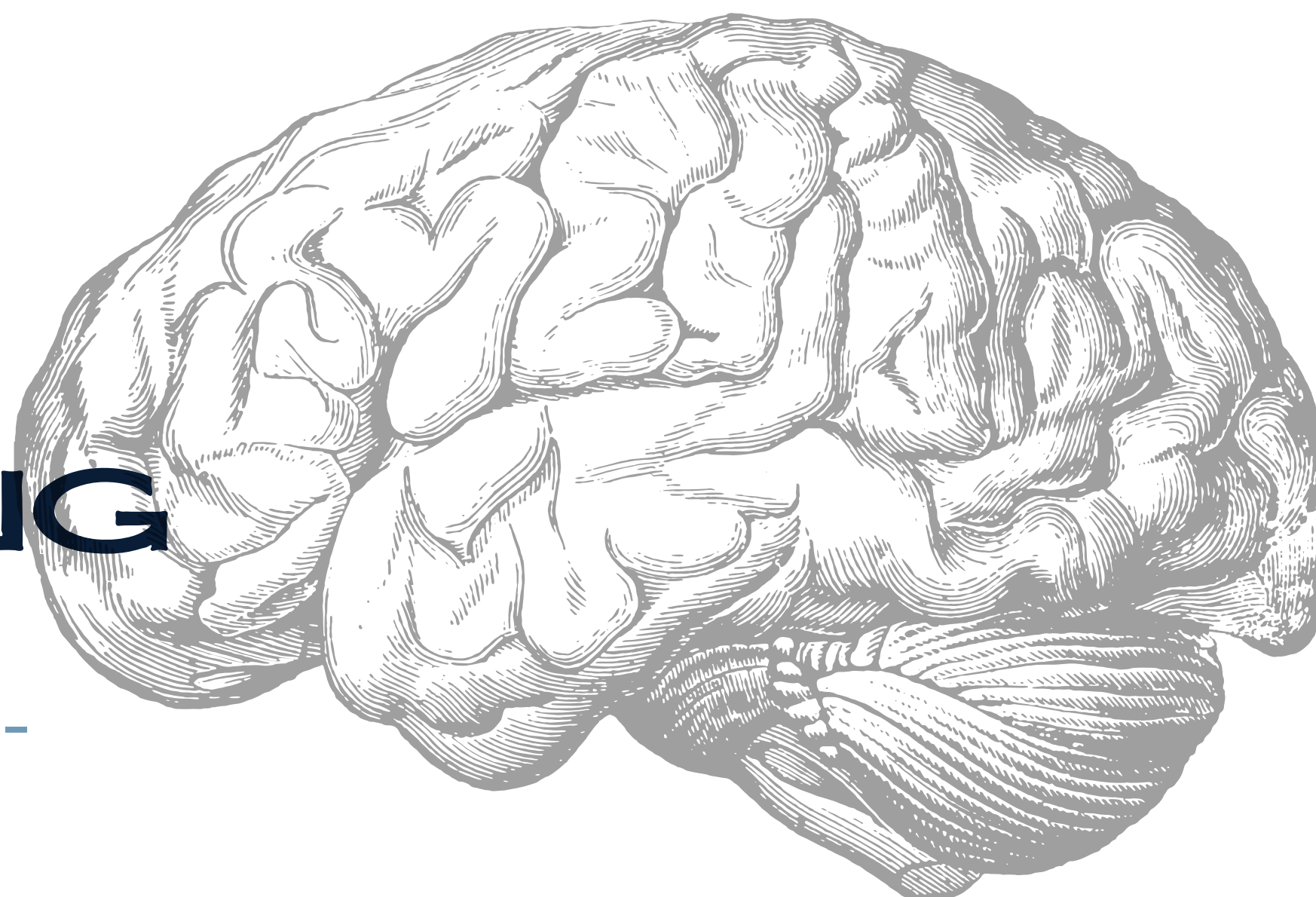


**Haoyi Yang**

*Research Scholarship Speaker*

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## 2026 SPRING RETREAT

ALUMNI ATTENDING THE POST-  
RETREAT SOCIAL



**Jeanne Manalo,  
PhD**

Dr. Manalo is an NGP alumna who was advised by Dr. Yang Xia. She received her PhD in 2020. She has held multiple industry positions at Enventure, saleSEER, and is currently the Head of Scientific Innovation at Avandra Imaging.



**Eyad Ziyad  
Shihabeddin, PhD**

Dr. Shihabeddin is an NGP alumnus who was advised by Drs. Jiaqian Wu and John O'Brien. He received his PhD in 2025 and he is now a post-doctoral fellow in Dr. Melanie Samuel's lab at Baylor College of Medicine.



**Iman Sahnoune,  
PhD**

Dr. Sahnoune is a GSBS alumna who was advised by Dr. George Calin. She received her PhD in 2021. After graduating from GSBS, she joined AbbVie as a Clinical Scientist II and has since transitioned to the role of Associate Scientific Director.



**Natalie  
Sirisaengtaksin, PhD**

Dr. Sirisaengtaksin is an NGP alumna who was advised by Dr. Andrew Bean. She received her PhD from the GSBS in 2017 and now serves as the Director of Academic Affairs at GSBS, where she serves as one of the primary contacts for all PhD students.



**Kendra Carmon,  
PhD**

Dr. Carmon is a GSBS alumna who received her PhD in 2008. She was advised by Dr. David Loose. She is now an Associate Professor in the Center for Translational Cancer Research at the Institute of Molecular Medicine and co-director of the MTB program.