



Agenda for CU-CSU Summit 2026
Advancing Neurosciences: From Molecules to Mind

Thursday, August 13, 2026; 8:00 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.
Donald M. Elliman Conference Center in the Anschutz Health Sciences Center

- 8:00 a.m.** **Breakfast**
- 8:15 – 8:30 a.m. *Opening Remarks:* Ron Sokol, MD, FAASLD, Janine Higgins, PhD, Kevin Messacar, MD, PhD
- 8:30 – 9:40 a.m. **Session 1: Neuroimmunology and Neuroinfectious Disease**
- 8:30 – 8:50 a.m. Keynote: Amanda Piquet, MD, Professor of Neurology, CU Anschutz
- Stiff Person Syndrome: From the Spotlight to the Science—A New Therapeutic Era*
- 8:50 – 9:00 a.m. Brief Talk: Ron Tjalkens, PhD, Professor of Environmental Health and Radiological Sciences, Colorado State University
- Glial-Neuronal Interactions in Neurodegenerative Disease*
- 9:00 – 9:10 a.m. Brief Talk: Greg Owens, PhD, Research Professor of Neurology, CU Anschutz
- Translational Insights into Demyelinating Diseases*
- 9:10 – 9:20 a.m. Brief Talk: Matt Frank, PhD, Senior Research Associate, Integrative Physiology, CU Boulder
- An Exploration of Neuro-Inflammatory Mechanisms in Long COVID: the Role of SARS-CoV-2 Antigens*
- 9:20 – 9:40 a.m. Session 1 Panel Q&A

9:40 – 10:10 a.m. *Coffee Break with Networking*

10:10 – 11:20 a.m. **Session 2: Chronic Disease**

10:10 – 10:30 a.m. Keynote: Tom Larocca, PhD, Associate Professor,
Health and Exercise Science, Colorado State University

Mechanisms Linking Brain Aging and Neurodegeneration

10:30 – 10:40 a.m. Brief Talk: Allison Shapiro, PhD, MPH, Assistant
Professor, Pediatrics, Endocrinology, CU Anschutz

Cognitive Health in Obesity and Diabetes

10:40 – 10:50 a.m. Brief Talk: Jeff Hebert, PhD, PT, Associate
Professor, Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, CU Anschutz

Chronic TBI: The Clinic-Bench-Clinic Paradigm

10:50 – 11:00 a.m. Brief Talk: Josh Gowin, PhD, Associate Professor of
Radiology, CU Anschutz

Effects of Alcohol and Cannabis on Brain Function

11:00 – 11:20 a.m. Session 2 Panel Q&A

11:20 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Poster Viewing and Networking

12:15 – 1:00 p.m.

Lunch and Networking

1:00 – 1:30 p.m.

Lightning Talks

1:00 – 1:05 p.m. Lightning Talk 1 (Abstract Submission)

1:05 – 1:10 p.m. Lightning Talk 2 (Abstract Submission)

1:10 – 1:15 p.m. Lightning Talk 3 (Abstract Submission)

1:15 – 1:20 p.m. Lightning Talk 4 (Abstract Submission)

1:20 – 1:30 p.m. Lightning Talk Panel Q&A

1:30 – 2:00 p.m.

Ice Cream Break with Networking

2:00 – 3:10 p.m.

Session 3: Brain Health

2:00 – 2:20 p.m. Keynote: Monika R. Fleshner, PhD, Professor, Integrative Physiology, CU Boulder

A Fresh Perspective on Exercise Immunology: It's All in the Brain

2:20 – 2:30 p.m. Brief Talk: Josi Broussard, PhD, Associate Professor, Health and Exercise Science, Colorado State University

Sleep Disruption and the Brain: Implications for Cognition and Brain Health

2:30 – 2:40 p.m. Brief Talk: Andy Hoisington, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, CU Anschutz

Small Microbes, Big Minds: The Gut's Connection to Brain Health

2:40 – 2:50 p.m. Brief Talk: Julie Moreno, PhD, Associate Professor, Health and Radiological Sciences, Colorado State University

Integrating Translational Models to Study Neurodegeneration in Geriatric Dogs with Cognitive Dysfunction

2:50 - 3:10 p.m. Session 3 Panel Q&A

3:10 – 3:15 p.m.

Closing Remarks