

THALAMUS CONTE CENTER ANNUAL MEETING AUGUST 17-19, 2026



MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2026

LOCATION: MOSAIC AT PRINCETON ART MUSEUM

6:00PM **WELCOME RECEPTION**

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2026

LOCATION: PRINCETON NEUROSCIENCE INSTITUTE A32

08:30AM **BREAKFAST**

09:00AM **SABINE KASTNER – PRINCETON UNIVERSITY**
Introduction to Conte Center.

THEME: ATTENTION
09:45AM **MARTY USREY – UC DAVIS**
Introduction to morning session.

10:10AM **MELISSA STROUD, Graduate Student – UC DAVIS**
"The effects of proximity and uncertainty in divided spatial attention"

10:30AM **BREAK**

11:00AM **XIAOYI LIU, Graduate Student – PRINCETON UNIVERSITY**
"Thalamocortical coupling supports attention under cue uncertainty."

11:20AM **Alex Doran, Graduate Student – NYU**
"A digital twin brain approach to model cognitive thalamocortical dynamics"

11:40AM **ROBER BOSHRA, Ph.D. – PRINCETON UNIVERSITY**
"Pulvino-cortical dynamics during shape processing"

12:00PM **LUNCH + POSTER SESSION**

01:30PM **CORE B: MODELING**
"Rhythms and pathways in a visual attention task: an interlocking set of models"
NANCY KOPELL, BOSTON UNIVERSITY
KEES MCGAHAN, Ph.D. – BOSTON UNIVERSITY
STEVEN BRANDT, Graduate Student – BOSTON UNIVERSITY
AMELIE AUSSEL, Ph.D. – BOSTON UNIVERSITY

02:30PM **BREAK**

03:00PM **ROUND TABLE**
MODERATORS: Michael Arcaro, Sabine Kastner, Nancy Kopell, Marty Usrey

4:30PM **VAN TO GROUNDS FOR SCULPTURE AND TOUR**
6:00PM **DINNER AT RAT'S RESTAURANT**



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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2026

LOCATION: PRINCETON NEUROSCIENCE INSTITUTE A32

08:30AM **BREAKFAST**

09:00AM **MICHAEL HALASSA – VIRGINIA TECH**
Introduction to Day 2.

THEME: DECISION MAKING
10:00AM **CHIARA CALDINELLI, Ph.D. – UC BERKELEY**
“The role of the thalamus in dynamic decision making”

10:20AM **JIANCAO HUANG, Ph.D. – PRINCETON UNIVERSITY**
“Hidden rule changes reveal the anatomy of human flexibility”

10:40AM **BREAK**

11:00AM **MARJORIE XI, Ph.D. – NYU**
“Human behavior modeling”

11:20AM **SAHIL SURESH, Ph.D. - TUFTS UNIVERSITY**
“D2-Dependent thalamocortical neuromodulation of flexible decision-making”

12:00PM **LUNCH + POSTER SESSION + EXECUTIVE MEETING**

CLINICAL BLOCK:
01:30PM **XINGYU LIU, Ph.D. – UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA**
“Thalamic hubs support flexible routing within a common thalamocortical architecture”

01:50PM **ANNA HUANG, Ph.D., Assistant Professor – VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY**
“Personalized intrinsic network topography mapping of thalamocortical and cortical circuits in schizophrenia”

02:10PM **CLAIRE HANSON, Graduate Student – VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY**
“Diagnostic specificity of a thalamocortical biomarker for psychosis”

02:30PM **BREAK**

03:00PM **ROUND TABLE**
MODERATORS: Sage Chen, Michael Halassa, Anna Huang, Neil Woodward

04:30PM **BREAK**

04:45PM **EAB+NIMH MEETING**

6:00PM **LOCAL DINNER**



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POSTERS:

RAUNAK AHMED, Graduate Student – NYU

“Inferring effective connectivity of thalamocortical circuits from fMRI data”

FELIX BARTSCH, Ph.D. – PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

“Widespread cortical high-frequency activity during spatial attention is aligned to pulvinar theta phase in human iEEG”

LAUREN BOWEN, Ph.D. – VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

“Thalamic activation during working memory across the full spectrum of psychopathology”

DIANA KING, Graduate Student – UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

XINGYU LIU, Ph.D. – UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

“Brainana: an end-to-end preprocessing framework for macaque neuroimaging”

ALISA SCHEIBE, Graduate Student – PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

“Rhythmic dynamics of overt attention shifts during naturalistic search”

EMMY SHI, Graduate Student – PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

“Waveform and functional cell classes in macaque pulvinar during spatial attention”

YUJIE WU, Ph.D. – PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

“Superior colliculus shapes pulvinar-mediated theta rhythms in the thalamocortical attention network”

MARJORIE XIE, Ph.D. – NYU

“Behavioral data modeling”

XIAOHAN ZHANG, Ph.D. – NYU

“Multiplicative gating”

