

Neurokolloquium, EPN monthly lunch seminars: Seminars for doctoral students, postdocs and PIs 2026

An event of the European Psychoneuroimmunology Network (EPN, <https://pnieurop.eu/>) and the Center for Mind, Brain and Behavior (<https://www.cmbb-fcmh.de/de/cmbb-info>).

Joint seminar on topics in neuroscience for doctoral students, postdocs and other members participating universities including Justus-Liebig-University Giessen, and Philipps-University Marburg, with accreditation of **Karolinska Institutet Stockholm, University of Belgrade**, and the **International Giessen Graduate Centre for the Life Sciences (GGL)** section "Neuroscience".

Aim of the Neurokolloquium, JLU Gießen: Interdisciplinary exchange between doctoral students, postdocs, and other members of institutes that work in fields related to neurosciences including technical and methodological aspects, developing a network for everyone with an interest in neurosciences, to benefit from the experience of a variety of laboratories and external speakers, to foster research in neurosciences, for trainee career development.

Concept: Lab presentation including discussion

Location: Meetings are held as Zoom online-seminars

Zoom link: <https://uni-giessen.zoom-x.de/j/65371473218?pwd=OFBuTnFtbzdXOGIVZ1ZqZ2ZWS0REUT09>
Meeting-ID 653 7147 3218; Code 162192

Time: If not announced differently **12:15 – 13:45**

Meeting schedule:

Lunch seminar series on methods used in PNI.

13.01.2026: Prof. Dr. Dr. nat. med. Miguel A. Alejandre Alcázar, Department of Pediatrics and Excellence Cluster for Aging CECAD, University of Cologne; Institute for Lung Health (ILH), Justus Liebig University Giessen, DEU
"Intergenerational metabolic stress primes offspring's health across life span."

27.01.2026: **(date changed)** Prof. Dr. Asya Rolls, Technion- Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa, ISR
"Physiological mechanisms of brain-body interactions; neuronal networks regulating the immune system"

03.02.2026: **(date and speaker changed)** Prof. Håvard Skjellegrind, The Trøndelag Health Study (HUNT) Center for Molecular and Clinical Epidemiology, Department of Public Health and Nursing, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), NOR:
"Neurocognitive associations with immune response to pathogens in the Trøndelag Health Study"

14.04.26: Prof. Dr. Colm Cunningham, School of Biochemistry and Immunology, Trinity Biomedical Sciences Institute & Trinity College Institute of Neuroscience. Trinity College Dublin, IRL:
"Delirium: at the end of the psychoneuroimmunological spectrum"

EPN trainees highlight seminar series:

- 12.05.26:** Dr. Estherina Trachtenberg, 4D lab, MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit, University of Cambridge, UK
"The social cure: How human connection protects mental, cognitive, and physical health"
- 02.06.26:** Dr. Lina Hansson, Division of Psychology, Karolinska Institutet, Sweden
"Scare or care? How immunological processes shape perception of sickness-relevant stimuli in humans"
- 07.07.26:** Justine Schmidt, Institute of Medical Psychology and Behavioral Immunobiology, Essen University Hospital; Institute for Medical Education, University Hospital Essen, Germany.
"Positive expectation effects on sickness symptoms - insights from human experimental endotoxemia"
- 13.10.26:** **exceptionally at 16:00!** Dr. Itay Ricon-Becker, Cousins Center for Psychoneuroimmunology, UCLA, USA
"Clinical Social Genomics: Using Gene Expression Profiles to Guide Psychosocial Interventions"
- 03.11.26:** Dr. Jens-Bastian Eppler, Postdoctoral Researcher in Theoretical Neuroscience Centre de Recerca Matemàtica, Barcelona, Spain:
"Representational Drift: How Can Changing Neuronal Patterns Support Stable Memory?"
- 01.12.26:** Dr. Eimear Foley, MRC Integrative Epidemiology Unit, University of Bristol, UK.
"Understanding the role of inflammation in depression using epidemiological cohort studies, genetic analysis, and experimental medicine approaches"
- 12.01.27:** Prof. Dr. med. Woo Ri Chae, Department of Psychiatry and Neurosciences, Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Germany
"Depression and metabolic health"
- 02.02.27:** Dr. Izan Chalen Peredes, Animal Sciences Laboratory, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign:
"On the Fetal Origins of Neurological Disease"
- 13.04.27:** Benjamin Smart, MD, MMSc, BSPH, Department of Clinical Neuroscience | Karolinska Institutet, Sweden:
"Inflammatory and immuno-metabolic depression: Theory testing with a population-based longitudinal cohort study"