

9th Schram Foundation Symposium

FROM CELLULAR IDENTITY TO CIRCUIT REGULATION

Date

Tuesday, 16 March 2027
1pm - 7pm

Venue

Max Planck Institute for
Multidisciplinary Sciences (City Campus)
Hermann-Rein-Straße 3
37075 Göttingen

Chairs:

Tomohisa Toda (FAU/MPZPM)
Marisa Karow (FAU)
Thomas Frank (GAU)

Speakers:

Ruth Beckervordersandforth (UKER/FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg)
Anna Karpova (Leibniz Institute for Neurobiology, Magdeburg)
Angelika Harbauer (MPI for Biological Intelligence, Munich)
Thomas Frank (GA University Göttingen)

Keynote Lectures:

Christian Mayer

(MPI for Biological Intelligence, Munich)

Sonia Garel

(École Normale Supérieure, Paris)

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The Schram Foundation, founded by Dr. Armin Schram, has been supporting basic neuroscience research for more than 25 years. Traditionally held as a satellite event of the biennial meeting of the German Neuroscience Society, the 9th Schram Foundation Symposium will feature a selection of recently funded projects, contributions from former awardees, and two distinguished keynote speakers who will enrich the scientific program. Reflecting the interdisciplinarity of modern neuroscience, the symposium "From Cellular Identity to Circuit Regulation" will explore how the identities, heterogeneity, and functions of neural cells are established, maintained, and adapted to support brain development and behavior. The program will connect mechanisms operating across multiple levels of organization - from gene-regulatory programs, cellular metabolism, organelle function, and protein homeostasis to neuronal activity, synaptic plasticity, distributed neural dynamics and computations, and neuroimmune interactions. Together, the six speakers will provide complementary perspectives on how the molecular and cellular properties of neurons and glia, as well as their patterns of activity, shape the formation, maintenance, and dynamic regulation of neural circuits and, ultimately, behavior.

The symposium will begin with a keynote lecture by Christian Mayer, whose research investigates how developmental and gene-regulatory programs generate the remarkable diversity of neuronal cell types, with a particular focus on inhibitory neurons. Ruth Beckervordersandforth will present work at the interface of adult neurogenesis and adult gliogenesis, addressing how glial heterogeneity influences brain plasticity. Anna Karpova will provide insights into molecular mechanisms of neuroplasticity, including the roles of neuronal autophagy and activity-dependent signaling in synaptic function. Angelika Harbauer will discuss how local protein synthesis, RNA transport, and mitochondrial plasticity maintain neuronal compartments and support synaptic function in health and disease. Thomas Frank will examine how sensory information is assigned behavioral significance and transformed into action across distributed brain networks, including how this assignment is shaped by internal states and experience. The symposium will conclude with a keynote lecture by Sonia Garel, whose work reveals how developmental programs, environmental signals, and brain-resident immune cells interact to shape the assembly and plasticity of forebrain circuits.