Collaborators

Virginia Sturm, PhD

Virginia Sturm, PhD, is an Assistant Professor at the UCSF Memory and Aging Center. After undergraduate work at Georgetown University, she received her PhD degree in clinical psychology at the University of California, Berkeley and subsequently completed her clinical internship and postdoctoral fellowship at UCSF. Her research centers on laboratory measurement of emotion and social behavior in patients with neurodegenerative disease. Dr. Sturm directs the Clinical Affective Neuroscience (CAN) Laboratory located in the UCSF Memory and Aging Center and affiliated with the UCSF Center for Psychophysiology and Behavior (CPB).

Suzee Lee, MD

Dr. Lee received a BA degree in English from Harvard and an MD degree from McGill University in Montreal, Canada. She then completed an internal medicine internship at Brown University and neurology residency at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City, serving as Chief Resident in her final year. Dr. Lee completed a behavioral neurology fellowship at the UCSF Memory and Aging Center. She is a neurologist who evaluates and treats patients at the Memory and Aging Center. Dr. Lee's research focuses on neuroimaging in atypical dementias, such as corticobasal degeneration and frontotemporal dementia. Her interests also include understanding genetic susceptibility in atypical dementias. Dr. Lee directs the Dementia Imaging Genetics Laboratory at the UCSF Memory and Aging Center.
Marilu Gorno Tempini, MD, PhD

Dr. Gorno Tempini is a behavioral neurologist with a doctorate degree in imaging neuroscience and currently directs the Language & Neurobiology Laboratory at the UCSF Memory and Aging Center (MAC). She obtained her medical degree and clinical specialty training in neurology in Italy. Dr. Gorno Tempini’s main focus was in behavioral neurology, particularly the neural basis of higher cognitive functions such as language and memory. To pursue this research she worked for three years at the Function Imaging Laboratory, University College London, where she obtained her PhD degree in imaging neuroscience. She was part of the language group, and her thesis work consisted of several positron emission tomography (PET) and functional MRI studies investigating the neural basis of face and proper name processing. In 2001, Dr. Gorno Tempini began her work at the MAC as a fellow and has since become a full professor. For the last 12 years she has applied her expertise in cognitive neurology and neuroimaging to the study of neurodegenerative disease, in particular primary progressive aphasia (PPA) [5] and frontotemporal dementia (FTD) [4]. She has extensive experience in neurology and neuroscience and in the use of behavioral and neuroimaging paradigms to study language symptoms and their neural mechanisms.

Aimee Kao, MD, PhD

Dr. Aimee Kao is a graduate of Brown University and the University of Iowa School of Medicine where she received her medical degree and a doctorate degree in physiology and biophysics studying the molecular mechanisms of insulin signaling. She completed an internship in Internal Medicine at the Beth Israel-Deaconess Hospital in Boston and a residency in Neurology at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), where she was Chief Resident. Dr. Kao participates in patient evaluation and management at the Memory and Aging Center. She is a member of the American Academy of Neurology and the Genetics Society of America.
Gil Rabinovici, MD

Dr. Rabinovici is the Edward Fein and Pearl Landrith Endowed Professor in Memory & Aging. He received his BS degree from Stanford University and MD from Northwestern University Medical School. He completed an internship in internal medicine at Stanford University, neurology residency (and chief residency) at UCSF and a behavioral neurology fellowship at the Memory and Aging Center (MAC).

Kirthana Sukumaran - Staff Research Associate, Spina Lab

Kirthana joined the Spina lab in June 2020. She acquired a Masters in Applied Cognition and Neuroscience from University of Texas at Dallas. She received a Bachelor in Technology degree in Electronics and Communication Engineering from Shiv Nadar University, Delhi. She specializes in Multivariate Statistical Analysis and finds the combination of Data Science and Neuroscience to be quite thrilling.

Collaborating Labs outside UCSF

Stephen Smith, Allen Brain Institute [7]

Greicius Functional Imaging in Neurodegenerative Disease Laboratory, Stanford University [8]

Allman Lab, California Institute of Technology [9]