

# Precision Nutrition and Brain Health Symposium

April 15-16, 2021



**Our brains are built and supported by our mothers' diets and then, by our diets. An individual's response to incoming nutrition is programmed and very individualized.**

Maternal nutrition is important for fetal development even before conception: We now know that sufficient nutrition is necessary from the very beginning, even pre-conception, for proper development of the subsequent infant. After birth, the brain continues to rapidly grow. The neural tissue built from maternal diet is expanded by individual diet, but both stages are driven by maternal and individual genetics. At the Nutrition Research Institute (NRI), we strive to understand how the process of brain development and function can be optimized for an individual based on his or her genetic and nutritional background.

To further explore and expand research focused on this area, the NRI will bring together scientists, physicians, students, and funding agency representatives, including from the NIH, for a two-day symposium titled "Precision Nutrition and Brain Health" to be held online on April 15 and 16, 2021.

## Goals

- Start conversations around the theme of how genes and nutrition interact and how this affects brain development and health
- Facilitate discussions around incorporating precision nutrition into research on brain development.
- Lead the advancement of precision nutrition in the field of brain development and health

## Features

- Keynote speakers in each of three areas as they relate to nutrition: brain development and aging, nutrigenetics, and gut-brain axis
- Speakers who are leaders in their fields of the effects of nutrition on brain development and aging, nutrigenetics, and the gut-brain axis
- Networking session to bring together leaders and trainees for organic discussions
- Funding agency expert who will answer questions from attendees

## Keynote Speakers

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### Maternal Nutrition & Infant Gut Microbiome



**Kjersti M. Aagaard, MD, PhD**  
**Baylor University**  
**Houston, TX USA**

Dr. Kjersti M. Aagaard is a Henry and Emma Meyer Endowed Chair Professor and Vice Chair of Research in the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology, Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children's Hospital in Houston, Texas. She earned her MD from the University of Minnesota Medical School in 2000 and went on to complete a PhD at the Mayo Graduate School of Medicine. Dr. Aagaard's clinical and translational research interests focus on the role of the microbiome in pregnancy and early development, and the impact of key exposures in pregnancy (such as diabetes, maternal high fat diet, smoking, and environmental chemical exposures) on fetal development and later in life disease.

### Nutrition & Brain Development



**Michael K. Georgieff, MD**  
**University of Minnesota**  
**Minneapolis, Minnesota USA**

Dr. Michael K. Georgieff is the Martin Lenz Harrison Land Grant Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Minnesota. He is the Director of the Division of Neonatology, the Executive Vice Chair of the Department of Pediatrics, and the Director of the Center for Neurobehavioral Development. He received his MD from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, followed by residency at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and a fellowship in neonatology at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Georgieff studies the effect of nutrient deficiencies on the developing brain. He has published over 225 scientific articles and serves as an advisor to the National Institutes of Health, UNICEF and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

### Aging, Microglial Cell Priming, and Discordant Communication between Immune System and Brain



**Rodney W. Johnson, PhD**  
**University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**  
**Champaign, IL USA**

Dr. Rodney Johnson is professor and head of the University of Illinois Department of Animal Sciences. His research in animal sciences investigates how perinatal insults such as infection, nutrient deficiency, and birth weight affect brain and cognitive development; and how aging results in inflammation in the brain and deterioration of brain health and behavior. A special focus is on how infection and diet influences the communication between the immune system and brain. Dr. Johnson grew up on a crop and livestock farm in west-central Illinois. He earned a B.S. from Truman State University and a M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Illinois. After post doctorate training at Iowa State University, he joined the University of Illinois faculty in 1993. Dr. Johnson has published over 135 peer reviewed papers, is past Director of the University of Illinois Division of Nutritional Sciences, and is a University Scholar.

### Genetics & Brain Development



**Rima Rozen, PhD**  
**McGill University**  
**Montreal, Canada**

Dr. Rima Rozen is a James McGill Professor of Human Genetics and Pediatrics in the Faculty of Medicine at McGill University in Montreal, Canada. Dr. Rozen received her PhD from McGill University and pursued postdoctoral training at McGill University and Yale University. In 1984, Rozen set up her research program on genetics and metabolic disease at McGill University. She has published over 230 papers and has received several awards for her research including the Prix Léo-Pariseau from the Association canadienne-française pour l'avancement des sciences, the CIHR Senior Scientist Award, and the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal. Her research focuses on genetic variation and gene-nutrient interactions in folate metabolism to study their impact on various disorders including reproduction, liver disease, and brain function.

# Precision Nutrition and Brain Health Symposium

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Benefits of Sponsorship	Sponsorship Level			
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Exhibition space in virtual Sponsors Marketplace with designated links	✓	✓	✓	✓
Included in media release about programming	✓	✓		
Presenting sponsor recognition during symposium events	✓			

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- Association with a renowned research university institute specializing in nutrition science
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*\*2013 Cone Communications/Echo  
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***Thank you for the opportunity to present  
this proposal for your consideration.***

***For more information, contact***

**Suzanne Dane**

Director of Development & Community Outreach  
Nutrition Research Institute  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
500 Laureate Way, Room 1142 • Kannapolis, NC 28081  
suzanne\_dane@uncnri.org • 704-250-5008