



Health and Technology District Hosts Three-Day Brain Awareness Week Fair to Celebrate Neuroscience in BC

Features talks by renowned BC Neuroscientists on Understanding Brain Injury, Dementia, Alzheimer's, Mental Health plus a Dedicated School Day for students
Tuesday, March 13 – Thursday, March 15

Surrey, BC – March 2, 2018 – The Health and Technology District will be hosting a series of neuroscience days to celebrate Brain Awareness Week, bringing together researchers, scientists, innovators, entrepreneurs and students to change the way we think about our brain health.

From Tuesday, March 13th to Thursday, March 15th, the District will showcase leading-edge technologies, and host talks focusing on topics like Understanding Brain Injury, Dementia, Alzheimer's, Mental Illness and how the latest science and technologies from renowned neuroscientists are impacting brain health. Activities include a dedicated School Day for grade five, 11 and 12 students, with special guests from Science World, to complement their current human body school curriculum studies.

"Much of BC and the rest of Canada are unaware that we are surrounded here in Surrey by some of the world's leading neuroscientists and resources that can make immediate changes to how we all think about our brain health," says Rowena Rizzotti, Vice President of Healthcare and Innovation at the Health and Technology District. "One of our goals at the District is to help people and healthcare systems to leverage these advances and adopt these ground breaking technologies to significantly improve our approach to the health of our brains. Researchers here in Surrey have actually developed the science, the resources and technologies to change how we think and that is a real asset for BC."

Health and Technology District Brain Awareness Week:

Location: City Centre 1, 13737 – 96th Avenue, 2nd Floor (HealthTech Innovation Hub), Surrey

Tuesday, March 13: Understanding Brain Injury with Neuromotion Physiotherapy & Rehabilitation

- **12:30pm: Yoga Program - *Guided 'Love Your Brain' Yoga***, a yoga and meditation program for people who have experienced mild traumatic brain injury.
- **1:00pm: Demo of MyndMove Technology - *Functional Electrical Stimulation***, the MyndMove functional electrical stimulation (FES) device that combines patient participation and therapist expertise to restore voluntary hand and arm function in patients suffering from upper-limb paralysis.
- **2:00pm: Talk by Alzheimer's Society B.C. - *Dementia Friends***, an education session on brain and dementia, communications, inspirational stories and how to interact with someone with dementia.
- **3:00pm: Talk by Michael Coss - *Living with Traumatic Brain Injury***, Courage to Comeback award winner and inspirational traumatic brain injury survivor who dedicates his life to helping other TBI survivors as a motivational speaker, fundraiser and supporter.
- **3:30pm: Movie Screening – *"The Crash Reel"***, a moving documentary about snowboarding legend Kevin Pearce and his recovery from a traumatic head injury.



Wednesday, March 14: The World of Brain Science Talks (see researchers' bios below)

- 10:00am: Dr. Dan Marigold - *How the Brain Uses What It Sees*
- 10:30am: Dr. Jennifer Mervyn & Dr. Linda Uyeda - *Addressing ACE (Childhood Trauma)*
- 11:00am: Dr. Xiaowei Song - *MRI in Alzheimer's and Dementia*
- 11:30am: Dr. Carlo Menon - *Is Your Brain A Robot?*
- 12:00pm: Innovation HUB Demo Fair - *Try Emerging Health Technologies*
- 12:30pm: Dr. Faranak Farzan - *Technology Tackling Mental Health*
- 1:00pm: Dr. Ralph Mistlberger - *Your Brain and Sleep*
- 1:30pm: Dr. Ryan D'Arcy - *Brain Injury & Hope*
- 2:00pm: Tour of the ImageTech Lab at Surrey Memorial Hospital - *Experience MEG and MRI technology*

Thursday, March 15: "Brain Health is Fun!" School Day

School activities include: Brain science technology and virtual reality demos, brain health exhibition booths, brain games and talks, and a special "Science of Illusion" show from SCIENCE WORLD.

- 9:00am: For Grade 5 students
- 1:00pm: For Grade 11 & 12 students

Companies involved in the Brain Awareness Week Fair include [Neuromotion Physiotherapy & Rehabilitation](#), [West Coast Centre for Learning](#), [HealthTech Connex Inc.](#), [Regent Christian Academy](#), [Surrey Collaborative Outreach and Research Experience \(SCORE\)](#), [Alzheimer Society of BC](#), [Behavioral Neuroscience Student Society](#) at SFU, researchers at SFU and special guests from [Science World](#).

For more information on the Health and Technology District's Brain Awareness Week activities, visit www.HealthandTechnologyDistrict.com/BAW.

About the Health and Technology District:

The Health and Technology District is one of BC's most rapidly growing and dynamic new health tech sectors located in Surrey's emerging innovation ecosystem. The District includes a series of high-tech buildings, developed by Canadian-based Lark Group, located and under expansion immediately adjacent to Surrey Memorial Hospital. It is a unique collaborative cluster of multinational and start-up companies, international partners, clinical and research facilities, scientists, innovators and entrepreneurs, working in partnership to accelerate the implementation of technologies and solutions towards health care impacts and improvements. www.HealthandTechnologyDistrict.com

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Neuroscientists' Bios:

Wednesday, March 14: The World of Brain Science Talks

10:00am: Dr. Dan Marigold - How the Brain Uses What It Sees

Dr. Dan Marigold is an Associate Professor in the Department of Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology at SFU. He runs the Sensorimotor Neuroscience Lab and is co-chair of the Behavioural Neuroscience Undergraduate Program. His research focuses on how sensory information is used to control movement in health and disease.

10:30am: Dr. Jennifer Mervyn & Dr. Linda Uyeda - Addressing ACE (Childhood Trauma)

Dr. Jennifer Mervyn is a registered psychologist who was selected in 2017 by the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health as one of 150 Canadian leaders in mental health, for her work with indigenous peoples. She has worked as Practice Lead with Doctors of BC in the Child and Youth Mental Health and Substance Use Collaborative. She teaches in the Master's program at TWU, and works in private practice. She is currently working in promoting and leading trauma informed practices in BC.

Dr. Linda Uyeda is a family physician practicing medicine in the Lower Mainland with a special interest in mental health, mindfulness, parenting and the neuroscience behind it all. Her focus is in the mind-body connection and how advances in neuroscience can show us how the body worked together to influence our lives, whether its related to human stress, mental illness, epigenetics, or psychoneuroimmunology.

11:00am: Dr. Xiaowei Song - MRI in Alzheimer's and Dementia

Dr. Xiaowei Song is a Senior Clinical Neuroimaging Scientist with the Fraser Health Authority, an Adjunct Professor in SFU's School of Computing Science and MRI program lead at the ImageTech Lab at Surrey Memorial Hospital. Her interest is in aging, especially brain aging and dementia and the risk factors, combining neuroscience, brain imaging, geriatric medicine research and computer science. Her research targeting improving patient care through health science and technology innovations, and using high-performance neuroimaging and computing technologies such as structural and functional MRI and health informatics and datamining. She spent more than 17 years in Halifax, including 10 years working in the neuroimaging research lab of the National Research Council's Canada Institute for Biodiagnostics – Atlantic, before relocating to BC in late 2014.

11:30am: Dr. Carlo Menon - Is Your Brain A Robot?

Dr. Carlo Menon is currently is an Associate Professor at Simon Fraser University where he leads the Menrva Research Group, an international and multicultural research group focusing on biomedical wearable technology, biorobotics (soft robotics, exoskeletons, human-machine interfaces), and smart materials (artificial muscles, polymer-based micro/nano sensors). His focus is on the development of novel robotic technologies for improving the quality of life of individuals with neuromuscular disorders resulting from aging, stroke, injuries, or other diseases, and having weakened or hemiparetic upper extremities.



12:30pm: Dr. Faranak Farzan - *Technology Tackling Mental Health*

Dr. Faranak Farzan is the Chairwoman in Technology Innovations for Youth Addiction Recovery and Mental Health for SFU Surrey. Her research focus is in neuroengineering with application in medical diagnosis and neurotherapeutics. Her work to date has focused on designing new experimental strategies for diagnosis, treatment and ultimately prevention of neuropsychiatric disorders such as schizophrenia and Alzheimer's disease. She is leading this work through multidisciplinary collaboration and combining basic electrophysiology, neuroimaging, neuromodulation, and behavioral training.

1:00pm: Dr. Ralph Mistlberger - *Your Brain and Sleep*

Dr. Ralph Mistlberger is a Professor at Simon Fraser University's Department of Psychology who founded the Sleep and Circadian Neuroscience Lab. The Lab researches the field of chronobiology and neuroscience to gain an understanding of how food availability, behavioural regulation, shiftwork and sleep loss mechanisms influence daily circadian rhythms and their underlying neurobiological mechanisms. Dr. Mistlberger also advises professional and elite amateur athletes to help them overcome the challenges of competing in different time zones.

1:30pm: Dr. Ryan D'Arcy - *Brain Injury & Hope*

Dr. Ryan D'Arcy is a Canadian Neuroscientist and is currently a Professor and the BC Leadership Chair in Medical Technology at Simon Fraser University, and Head of Health Sciences and Innovation at Surrey Memorial Hospital. His work at the National Research Council in Halifax led to the creation of NRC's Institute for Biodiagnostics. Throughout his career, Dr. D'Arcy worked embedded within clinical acute and long-term care environments applying advanced neuroimaging and neurotechnologies for diagnosis, evaluation, and monitoring of brain function. His neuroscience research helped him conceive a new "brain vital signs" terminology for a new way of analyzing brain waves, and a new technology to measure brain health.