

@UlowaNeuro Notes

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Big Ten universities may be competitors on athletic fields, but in science, we have more to gain through collaboration. That's why we are organizing the first Big Ten Neuroscience meeting this summer as an opportunity to connect and build our scientific community.



Across the Big Ten we have a pretty impressive group of neuroscientists and the power of the Big Ten to advance collective knowledge has already been made clear with the [Big Ten Cancer Research Consortium](#) and the [Big Ten-Ivy League Traumatic Brain Injury Research Collaboration](#).

We seek to create additional research collaborations in neuroscience that harness the strengths of the individual institutions to generate outcomes that none of us could achieve alone. Purdue's strength in engineering and Minnesota's reputation for imaging hold the possibility for powerful collaborations. Here at Iowa, we have new centers focused on [neurodevelopment](#) and [neurodegeneration](#) that may benefit from pooling resources and approaches with our Big Ten colleagues.

The ongoing uncertainties of the pandemic will keep the Big Ten Neuroscience meeting virtual this first year. We expect this to become an annual event on a different Big Ten campus each year.

To combat Zoom fatigue, our planning committee has organized the meeting as four short sessions, June 16-17 and July 14-15, from 1-4 p.m. CDT all four days. Registration is now open, and you can attend any or all of the sessions:

<https://iniworkshop.conference.uiowa.edu/big-ten-neuroscience-workshop-registration>

Thanks to **Aislinn Williams**, **Andy Frank**, **Banu Gumusoglu**, **Meghan Lawler**, and **Sam Wasson** for their work with Big Ten colleagues to pull this together.

Our goals for this year are relatively modest—connecting with colleagues and opening trainee pipelines from undergraduate to graduate to postdoc and faculty across the Big Ten. We are really excited about the opportunities for student involvement, and will have a Graduate Student Data Blitz in June and a Slack channel throughout the sessions for ongoing discussions.

Long term, we hope to foster a sense of community among our Big Ten colleagues and develop center grants and consortia that draw on the strengths of our individual institutions.

We have already seen the benefits of connecting across the Big Ten with our monthly Zoom seminars highlighting trainees and new faculty from diverse backgrounds. Don't miss the next installment in this series, [hosted by Northwestern on May 20](#). We'll use the momentum from this fantastic seminar series to drive energy and excitement for our annual meetings. I can't wait to see what develops!

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