An event organized by the UCONN Interdisciplinary Neuroscience Program Steering Committee

with the support of the UCONN OVPR Scholarship Facilitation Fund

and the contribution of the departments of **Biomedical Engineering**

Electrical & Computer Eng.

Pharmaceutical Sciences

Physiology & Neurobiology

Psychological Sciences

and the CT Institute for the Brain and Cognitive Sciences



For more info visit http://neuroscience.uconn.edu/

5:00 pm – 8:30 pm University of Connecticut Storrs Campus – Laurel Hall, First Floor

ITINERARY

5 pm – 6 pm Keynote Lecture

David Ginty, Ph.D. Professor, Harvard Medical School, Boston MA

6 pm – 8^{:30} pm**Poster Session** & Reception

During the poster session, Ph.D. students, postdoctoral fellows, and researchers from across campus will present their work in poster format. Everybody is welcome to interact informally over food and drinks.

7 pm – 8 pm Data Blitz

The Data Blitz is a fun way for trainees to present their research in a concise manner to a diverse audience by encapsulating their work in a 3 minute-long presentation and limited to only 3 PowerPoint slides. The bell will be rung at the end of the 3 minutes. There will be 2 minutes for Q & A. A prize will be given for best presentation.





Keynote Lecture

A Molecular-genetic Approach to Decoding the Sense of Touch

Abstract: The somatosensory system endows us with a remarkable capacity for object recognition, texture discrimination, sensory-motor feedback, and social exchange. Innocuous touch of the skin is detected by a large group of physiologically distinct low-threshold mechanoreceptors (LTMRs) whose cell bodies are in dorsal root and cranial ganglia. The lecture will present results of the research on the mechanisms of development of spinal cord and brainstem LTMR circuits that underlie the perception of touch, and a locus of LTMR circuit dysfunction during development that underlies aberrant tactile sensitivity in mouse models of autism spectrum disorders.

Keynote Speaker



David Ginty, Ph.D.

Professor, Harvard Medical School Investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute http://gintylab.hms.harvard.edu/

Bio: *Dr. Ginty received a degree in biology from Mount* Saint Mary's College (1984) and a Ph.D. in physiology from East Carolina University School of Medicine (1989), and was a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard Medical School (1989-1994). In 1995, he joined the Department of Neuroscience at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, and in 2013 he moved to the Department of Neurobiology at Harvard Medical School. In 2014. he was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Ginty is currently an investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and the Edward R. and Anne G. Lefler Professor of Neurobiology at Harvard University. Dr. Ginty and colleagues discovered mechanisms of development, function, and organizational logic of the neural circuits that underlie the sense of touch.