Dear Sir/Madame,

I am contacting you regarding a virtual neuroscience conference I am planning for teenagers and would like to invite your class and students.

An online conference is an engaging opportunity to teach high school students more about neuroscience. Well known US neuroscientists and top university professors from Harvard, Yale and more are invited. The live stream will be streamed on Zoom and made available via a YouTube live stream. Short 30 minute lectures will be offered with corresponding PowerPoint presentations on topics attached in the pdfs. The pdfs have the professors listed, their lecture titles and descriptions, and the exact timeline of the day.

The date is May 21st, Thursday from 11am EST.

If you are interested in this conference, please contact me under szintiaszert@gmail.com to confirm and approximate the number of participants. I will send you the YouTube link to the stream the day prior per email.

Thank you for your help, as a past organizer of Brain Awareness Week with over 500 high school participants, I can tell you that neuroscience information is of great interest to teens around the world.

Sincerely,

Szintia Szert

2020 Virtual Neuroscience Conference for Teenagers

SCHEDULE

Location: Youtube stream (link will be sent out to teachers 24 hours earlier)

Date: **May 21st, 2020**

Start time: **11am EST/ 10 am CT/ 8 am PST**

Organizer:

Szintia Szert
szintiaszert@gmail.com
www.teenagebrain.org

Time:

11am – 11:30am	**Dr. Alan Francis, PhD (Harvard University): "Impaired Decision Making in Substance Use Disorders"**
11:30am-12pm	**Prof. Amy Arnsten, PhD (Yale University): "The Brain's Response to Stress - How Our Brains May Be Altered During the COVID-19 Pandemic"**
12pm-12:30pm	**Prof. Alexandra Basilakos, PhD (University of South Carolina): "Language and the Brain: Using Neuroimaging to Understand Aphasia"**
12:30pm-1pm	**Prof. Erik Herzog, PhD (Washington University): "What wakes you up: Networked clocks in the brain"**
1pm-1:30pm	**Prof. James McGaugh, PhD (University of California, Irvine): "Making lasting memories"**
1:30pm-2pm	**Adj. Prof. Stephanie Rogers (Fordham University): "Introduction to mental health and strategies for its maintenance"**

1. **Dr. Alan Francis, PhD (Harvard University)**

Neuroscientist Harvard Medical School
Laboratory of Neuropsychiatry & Neuromodulation
AA Martinos Center for Biomedical Imaging
Massachusetts General Hospital

“Impaired Decision Making in Substance Use Disorders”

This lecture will examine the Neurobiological and cognitive basis of decision making in addictive disorders. We will be examining several case studies as examples.

2. **Prof. Amy Ansten, PhD (Yale University)**

Albert E. Kent Professor of Neuroscience and Professor of Psychology; Member, Kavli Institute of Neuroscience at Yale University

"The Brain's Response to Stress - How Our Brains May Be Altered During the COVID-19 Pandemic”

The presentation by Arnsten will talk about the primitive brain circuits that govern emotion, and the higher brain circuits in prefrontal cortex that mediate cognition, and how these are altered by neurochemical changes in brain during uncontrollable stress. It is hoped that this lecture will provide insight about why our mental states can change during a stressor such as the COVID-19 pandemic, e.g. making us distracted, forgetful and anxious, and why it is so important to strengthen prefrontal cortical functions when facing an invisible threat such as a virus that requires abstract thinking to keep us safe.

3. **Prof. Alexandra Basilakos, PhD (University of South Carolina)**

A. Alexandra Basilakos Kennedy, PhD, CCC-SLP
Center for the Study of Aphasia Recovery (C-STAR)
Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders
Arnold School of Public Health
University of South Carolina

“Language and the Brain: Using Neuroimaging to Understand Aphasia”

Language is a fascinating and complex topic. Early and influential neurologists, like Paul Broca and Carl Wernicke, showed how brain damage can affect communication, which provided some of the first insights into the relationship between the brain and language. Today, advances in technology and neuroimaging

capabilities have expanded our knowledge about the relationship between the brain and language. This technology has helped us understand aphasia, a language disorder that commonly results from stroke. Accordingly, the purpose of this talk will be to discuss aphasia, its neuroanatomical correlates, and how neuroscience has helped clinicians and scientists improve aphasia therapy.

4. **Prof. Erik Herzog, PhD (Washington University)**

Viktor Hamburger Professor of Arts and Sciences
Professor of Biology and Neuroscience
Director, ENDURE Program for Undergraduate Neuroscience Diversity
Associate Director, Division of Biological and Biomedical Sciences
Washington University

"What wakes you up: Networked clocks in the brain"

This talk will discuss the molecules, cells and circuits underlying daily rhythms in the brain and behavior. Using real-time imaging of gene expression and neural activity, these studies reveal how circadian cells synchronize to each other to drive rhythms including sleep-wake, metabolism and hormone secretion.

5. **Prof. James McGaugh, PhD (University of California, Irvine)**

Distinguished Professor Emeritus
Department of Neurobiology and Behavior
Center for the Neurobiology of Learning and Memory
University of California, Irvine

"Making lasting memories"

Most of our experiences are briefly remembered and then forgotten. But, as memories are essential for survival, important experiences must be preserved. My research has investigated, in both animal and human subjects, the neurobiological systems that have the important role of regulating the storage of memories. The research has focussed on stress-activated hormones that influence activity of brain systems involved in regulating the consolidation of memories. These neurobiological systems have the important role of insuring that our emotionally significant experiences are well remembered.

6. **Adj. Prof. Stephanie Rogers (Fordham University)**

Adjunct Professor at Fordham University
Producer of “A Lot on the Mind”

"Introduction to mental health and strategies for its maintenance"

The talk will cover the three major neurotransmitters, serotonin, norepinephrine, and dopamine's role in mental health. We will discuss a few of the major brain regions involved in anxiety and stress and how our environment, both external and internal, can change the balance of these neurotransmitters to affect our mental health. The talk will conclude with some strategies for maintaining mental health.