

The Brain and Your Senses

Thursday, September 28, 2023

5:00–9:00 pm

A Collaboration of the Harvard Museums of Science & Culture and the Harvard Brain Science Initiative

MINI-LECTURES IN CLASSROOM B

6:00 pm

Emerging Therapies for Genetic Hearing Loss

Jeffrey Holt. F.M. Kirby Neurobiology Center, Boston Children's Hospital & Harvard Medical School

6:45 pm

How Sensory Experiences Shape Brain Development

Takao Hensch. Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology, Harvard University; F.M. Kirby Neurobiology Center, Boston Children's Hospital

EXPLORE VISION

EARTH & PLANETARY SCIENCES

5:30–7:00 pm

A Vision for the Future: Gene Therapies for Neurodevelopmental Disorders

Discover the incredible plasticity of the human brain and how our knowledge of vision can unlock groundbreaking gene therapies for disorders like Rett Syndrome. Join us to unravel the secrets!

Xavier Valencia. Hensch/Fagiolini Labs. F.M. Kirby Neurobiology Center, Boston Children's Hospital; PiNBAC, Harvard Medical School Neurobiology Department

Peer Into the Mind's Eye: Artificial Intelligence Reveals How the Brain Represents Vision

Using cutting-edge artificial intelligence, our lab asks cells in the brain to "paint" the visual information they represent from the world. Swing by this booth for an unparalleled glimpse into how the brain makes sense of the complicated visual world around us!

Olivia Rose. Ponce Lab. Department of Neurobiology, Harvard Medical School

7:00–8:30 pm

Window into the Brain: Retinal Ganglion Cells

Come learn how vision works through eye/brain games!

Lillian Byer. Lehtinen Lab. Boston Children's Hospital

EXPLORE TOUCH

SEA CREATURES IN GLASS

5:30–7:00 pm

Not Too Touchy Feely: Understanding the Somatotopy of the Somatosensory Cortex

Come learn about sensory somatotopy and how our brain can determine where touch stimuli is coming from on our body!

Emily Temple, Mckenzie Leahy. Orefice Lab. Molecular Biology Department, Massachusetts General Hospital; Department of Genetics, Harvard Medical School

EXPLORE TASTE

ARTHROPODS

5:30–7:00 pm

Are You a Supertaster?

Come test if you are a supertaster and how well you can distinguish between different tastants!

Karen San Agustin Ruiz. Orefice Lab. Molecular Biology Department, Massachusetts General Hospital

Micro Gastronomics: A Journey into Insect Gustatory Receptors

Come learn how insects taste the environment by touch.

Sanket Walujkar. Gaudet Lab. Molecular and Cellular Biology, Harvard University

EXPLORE SMELL

IN SEARCH OF THOREAU'S FLOWERS

5:30–8:30 pm

The Nose Knows: Can You Smell As Well As Your Dog Can?

How does your sense of smell compare to a dog's? Come and see how human and dog brains differ, and test out your sniffing abilities.

Olivia Reilly, Sophie Barton. Hecht Lab. Department of Human Evolutionary Biology, Harvard University

So You Think You Can Smell?

Coffee, banana, or a container with old food. Show up if you want to know how our brains are able to tell apart these stimuli and make clever decisions about our lives!

Luis Boero, Leannah Newman. Murthy Lab. Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology, Harvard University

EXPLORE INTERNAL SENSES & SENSORY INTEGRATION

VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY

5:30–7:00 pm

Teamwork Makes Sensory Streams

Come find out how multisensory processing allows us to attend to what is important, ignore what isn't, and predict the future.

Joanne (Zhaoran) Zhang, Zahra Ghasemahmad. Garner and Takesian Labs. Department of Neurobiology, Harvard Medical School, Massachusetts Eye and Ear

5:30–8:30 pm

Sense-sational Secrets: Exploring Our Internal Senses

Do you feel your excited heartbeat? Or maybe just hungry or thirsty? Come learn about "interoception" and glimpse into our internal bodily senses.

Mike Schappe, Rachel Greenberg, Rocio D. Saavedra Peña, Shan Lu, Silvia Huerta Lopez, Masa Josipovic. Liberles Lab. Department of Cell Biology, Harvard Medical School

Hannah Choh. Andermann Lab. Endocrinology, BIDMC; Department of Neurobiology, Harvard Medical School

EXPLORE HEARING

NEW ENGLAND FORESTS

5:30–7:00 pm

How to Restore Hearing Function?

From hearing aids to gene therapies, come to learn about solutions to restore balance and hearing disorders!

Evan Ratzan, Olga Shubina-Oleinik, Stephanie Mauriac, Chloe Petit. Holt Lab. F.M. Kirby Neurobiology Center, Boston Children's Hospital

GREAT MAMMAL HALL

5:30–8:30 pm

Music to Our Ears: How Do We Sense Sound?

How does a sound wave travel through the air and become music to our ears? From bats to birds, whales to humans, come learn about how we hear!

Nurunisa Akyuz, Corena (Corey) Loeb. Corey Lab. Department of Neurobiology, Harvard Medical School

MAKE ART

PEABODY MUSEUM

7:00–8:30 pm

Rainbow Scratch Pad Art

Get inspired by brain images to produce your very own bookmark!

CASH BAR IN SHARKS EXHIBIT

HMSC
HARVARD MUSEUMS OF
SCIENCE & CULTURE

HARVARD  Brain Science Initiative

ARTS
THURSDAYS

