

BRAIN IN ACTION: FROM ENDOGENOUS TO INDUCED BRAIN PLASTICITY

March 26, 2026

Venue: Videoconference auditorium, 2nd floor
Center for Neuroscience and Cell Biology
Universidade de Coimbra, PORTUGAL

Program

Opening Session

09:00 – 09:15 | Welcome & Introduction

Catarina Miranda (GeneT, CNC-UC, CIBB, University of Coimbra)

Luís Almeida (GeneT, CNC-UC, CIBB, University of Coimbra)

Session I – Multi-Scale Plasticity in the Brain: Regeneration, Reprogramming, and Remodeling

Chairs: Catarina Miranda (GeneT, CNC-UC, CIBB, University of Coimbra) and Pedro Perdigão (GeneT, CNC-UC, CIBB, University of Coimbra)

09:15 – 10:15 | Neural Stem Cells and Direct Neuronal Reprogramming: Mechanisms and Therapeutic Potential

Magdalena Götz (LMU Munich, Germany)

10:15 – 10:45 | Coffee Break

10:45 – 11:45 | Induced Neural Plasticity: From Organoids to Translational Applications

Jens Schwamborn (LCSB, University of Luxembourg)

11:45 – 12:15 | Round-Table

Upcoming Challenges and Advances Shaping the Success of Direct Reprogramming in Disease-Associated Adult Neurogenesis

Chair: Luís Pereira de Almeida (GeneT, CNC-UC, CIBB, University of Coimbra)

Speakers: **Jens Schwamborn** and **Magdalena Götz**

12:15 – 13:45 | Lunch

Session II – From Brain Plasticity to Repair

Chairs: Sara Xapelli (Faculty of Medicine, University of Lisbon, Lisbon) and Lino Ferreira (University of Coimbra, CNC-CIBB)

13:45 – 14:15 | Brain Circuits and Neuron-Glia Adaptations in Neuropsychiatric and Neurodegenerative Disorders

Luísa Pinto (ICVS, University of Minho, Braga)

14:15 – 14:45 | Mechanistic Insights into Neural Stem Cell Differentiation and Repair Strategies

Liliana Bernardino (University of Beira Interior, Covilhã)

14:45 – 15:15 | Epigenetic (dys)regulation in neurodevelopment and disease

Simão Rocha (IBB, Instituto Superior Técnico, Lisbon)

Session III – Adult Neurogenesis, Brain Plasticity, and Lifestyle Modulation

Chair: Cristina Rego (University of Coimbra, CNC-CIBB)

15:15 – 16:15 | Microglia: modulators of a healthy brain

Jorge Valero (University of Salamanca, Spain)

16:15 – 16:45 | Coffee Break

Session IV – Round Table Discussion – Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Neurosciences

16:45 – 18:15 | Fostering a Diverse Community in Neurosciences in Difficult Times: Tips and Practical Solutions

Moderator: **Susana Solá** (Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Lisbon, Lisbon)

Speakers: **Catarina Miranda**, **Jorge Valero**, **Sara Xapelli** and **Simão Rocha**

18:15 Closing Remarks

Sara Xapelli (Faculty of Medicine, University of Lisbon, Lisbon)

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