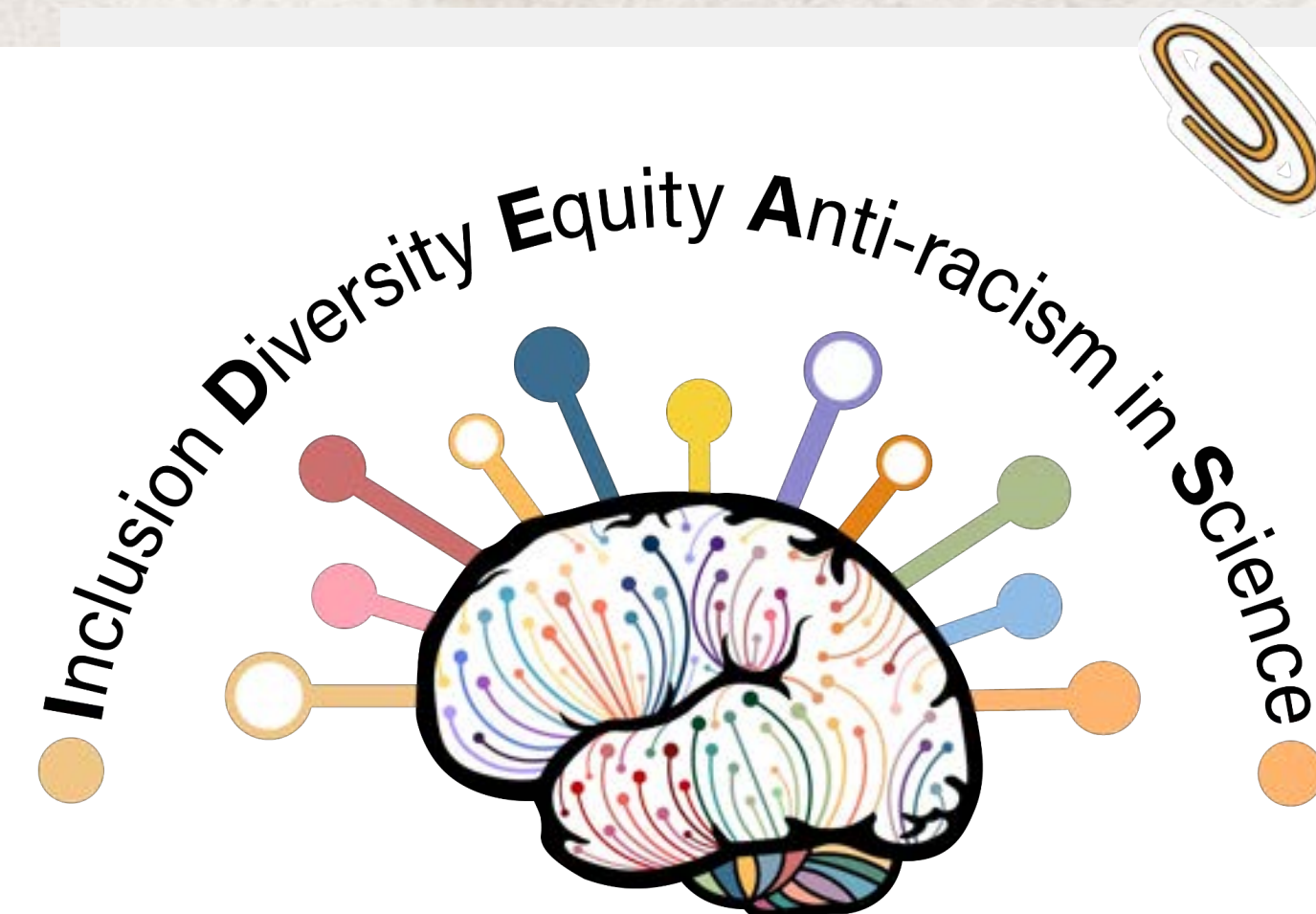


# ideas NEWSLETTER



## Indigenous Neuroscientists

### Dr. Melissa L. Perreault

- Indigenous, citizen of the Métis Nation of Ontario, Canada.

- Studies sex differences underlying neuropsych. disorders

- Lead of Cross-cultural Working group for International Brain Initiative

### Dr. Olivia Matshabane

- From Eastern Cape Province, South Africa.

- International expert on neuroethics (legal, social, & cultural)

- PI of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation grant on neuroethics in Africa

- Member & rep. of many societies, such as African Brain Data Network & IBRO

### Prof. Louise Parr-Brownlie

- From Aotearoa New Zealand

- Studies Parkinson's Disease & neurodegenerative disorders

- Serves as Secretary of the International Basal Ganglia Society Council



Learn more about Indigenous Voices in Neuro [here](#)

## Transgender Day of Remembrance

“Transgender Day of Remembrance is an annual observance in November that honors the memory of the transgender people whose lives were lost in acts of anti-transgender violence.”

— GLAAD



### Org Quick Links

- [Baltimore Safe Haven](#)
- [Trans Maryland](#)
- [GLAAD Transgender Resources](#)
- [GLAAD Transgender FAQ](#) &
- [Tips for Allies of Transgender People](#)

## Native American Heritage Month

“We recognize that UMB is on the ancestral land of the Paskestikweya & Susquehannock peoples in Baltimore city and we humbly offer our respects to the elders, past and present citizens, of the Cedarville Band of the Piscataway Conoy, the Piscataway Indian Nation, the Piscataway Conoy Tribe, & all Algonquian Peoples.”

— UMB Intercultural Center

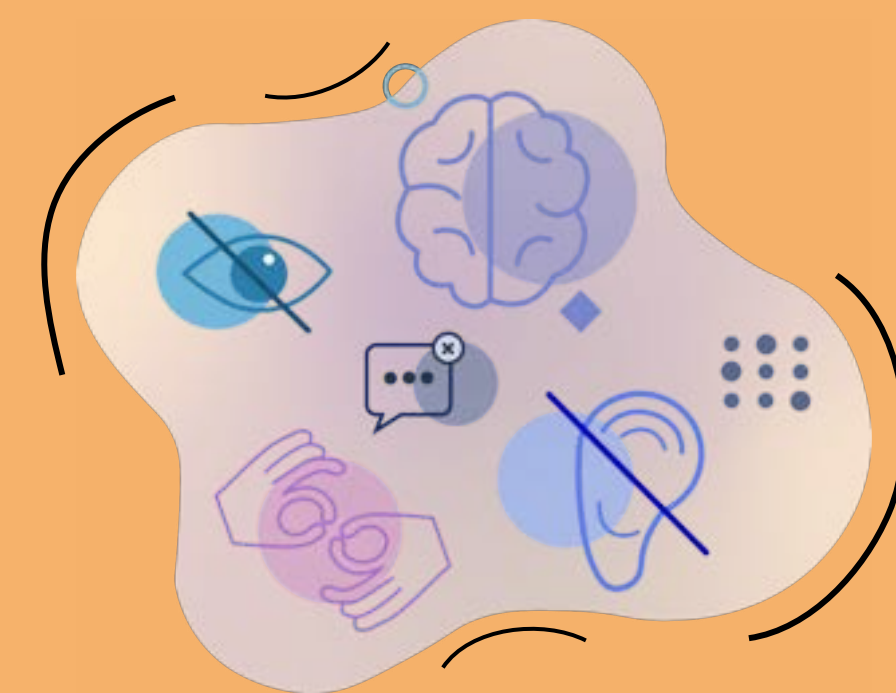


Celebrate and honor Native American Heritage Month by learning the importance of **Land Acknowledgement**, exploring the **Guide to Indigenous Maryland**, & engaging with **national indigenous issues and organizations**

## Intl. Day of People with Disabilities

“The day is about promoting the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities at every level of society and development, and to raise awareness of the situation of persons with disabilities in all aspects of political, social, economic, and cultural life.”

Learn more, advocate, & volunteer locally at [The Arc Baltimore](#)



# PI N COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

Check out summaries of these community highlights in this issue of the IDEAS newsletter

## IDEAS Fall Social

October 25, 2024



Celebrating Global Diversity Awareness Month with the IDEAS Committee

## IDEAS Seminar Speaker

October 31, 2024

Dr. Nii Addy discusses neuroscience advocacy & social justice tools with UMB community



## Greater Baltimore Society for Neuroscience

November 8, 2024



Dr. Pouloupoulos kicks off GBSfN with Baltimore's neuroscience community

# 5

## POINTERS to create Awareness & Promote Diversity & Inclusion

Check out the **Human Rights Campaign: “Facing the Future Together**—With our new resource guide, we are committed to keeping you informed on what you can do now to keep yourselves and your families safe.” Learn about mobilizing, educating, and advocating to build power in our communities.



**Museum Visits: Grab a friend and experience the following cultural treasures. (1)** The Baltimore Museum of Art is showcasing **‘Preoccupied: Indigenizing the Museum’**, **(2)** The **National Museum of the American Indian**, and **(3)** The **National Museum of Women in the Arts** in Washington, DC—“Visit the only museum in the world solely dedicated to celebrating the diverse achievements of women artists. The museum’s collection includes more than 6,000 works dating from the 16th century to the present.”



**Listen to the State of EDI at UMB:** “Featuring presentations from deans at four of its schools—Nursing, Dentistry, Social Work, and Pharmacy—the event focused on strategic plans, success, challenges, and ongoing initiatives aimed at cultivating a culture that prioritizes EDI across all faculty, staff, and student communities.” The Diversity strategic plan highlights trailblazing EDI efforts, historic responsibility to lead, advancing social justice, and building new pathways with the campus community and beyond.



Read the following piece by Muneer Yaqub for Science Magazine: ***I Wish More Fellowships Were Available for International Phd students***—“[I] hope that my dedication, resilience, and passion for science will be enough to overcome [the challenges that lie ahead]. And perhaps, one day, that the barriers I face will no longer exist, allowing future generations of international students to compete on equal footing with their peers.”



**Subscribe to the NINDS Diversity Newsletter:** NINDS Diversity posts a weekly newsletter with upcoming events, announcements, and resources. Subscribe now to stay informed.



### IDEAS Fall Social

The goal of the IDEAS Fall Social was to learn about and socialize with our diverse community. Researchers were asked to describe themselves on an autumn leaf for the interactive art board. Seasonal snacks were enjoyed while we celebrated **Global Diversity Awareness Month**, snapped polaroid pictures, and cultivated space outside of the lab.



### IDEAS Seminar Speaker

**Dr. Nii Addy** is the Albert E. Kent Associate Professor of Psychiatry & Associate Professor of Cellular and Molecular Physiology and the inaugural Director of Scientist Diversity and Inclusion at Yale School of Medicine. Dr. Addy began by sharing his gratitude for community, mentorship, sponsorship, and collaborations that have supported & continue to support his academic and community endeavors. He went on to describe his exciting research program investigating the neurobiological basis of complex behaviors in the context of substance use & mood disorders. Outside of the lab, Dr. Addy is heavily involved on campus organizing programs such as the Minority Organization for Retention and Expansion (MORE)—an initiative to accelerate the appointment & retention of underrepresented minority faculty. In addition to his university work, Dr. Addy hosts the Addy Hour podcast—Conversation at the intersection of brain science, mental health, faith, culture, & social justice. He wrapped up his talk with a video snippet from his podcast highlighting his ability to embrace the use of intersectional, holistic, & integrated tools to address mental health challenges & build community. Dr. Addy continued to share his expertise with UMB trainees & faculty during the post-seminar Cookies & Tea event.



**Reflective Takeaway**  
“How can we interface with community in the lab, department, and local and broader communities?”



# From Chicago to Baltimore — and Beyond

## UM-MIND IDEAS SfN Travel Ambassador Highlights



**Sissi Huang**  
(she/her)

### Main Takeaway

I attended the ENDURE event, worked the graduate school booth, and visited the Theme J posters. My main takeaway is that more & more efforts have been dedicated to fostering DEI values in the neuroscience community, especially for the younger generation.

### SfN Highlight

Listening to the talks given by ENDURE alumni and PIs. Their stories inspired & resonated with me

### UMB Learning Opp.

Foster a more welcoming & diverse environment for post-bacs and technicians, such as our Promoting Belonging in Neuroscience on a larger scale.

### Future SfN Events

Workshops or seminars discussing how to navigate academia as an international student/scholar.



**Amanda Pacheco Spiewak**  
(she/her)

### Main Takeaway

Theme J Poster sessions that focused on ‘public awareness of neuroscience’ & ethical and policy issues in neuroscience.” I got the chance to talk to poster presenters about outreach activities that they currently do and also plan to do in the future.

### SfN Highlight

Discussing research and DEI-related topics with other trainees and mentors at the conference.

### UMB Learning Opp.

Workshops on DEI issues and celebrations of heritage months by planning events, like socials.

### Future SfN Events

Attending more socials at SfN that are for different diverse populations such as LGBTQ+ & Latinos



**Ria Parikh**  
(she/her)

### Main Takeaway

I attended the ENDURE satellite event the first day of SfN and it was interesting to hear about DEI work at other institutions. It was inspiring to see the body of DEI work being done around the country.

### SfN Highlight

Meeting prospective graduate students at ENDURE and graduate school fair

### UMB Learning Opp.

Some DEI subprograms or officers that focused on different groups within their community & I think that might be beneficial to incorporate within IDEAS

### Future SfN Events

I would like to attend the Women in Neuroscience workshop in the future!



**Aditi Biswas**  
(she/her)

### Main Takeaway

“How Storytelling Through Engagement & Advocacy Can Change Approaches to Neuroscience Research” led by Mark Rasenick. The aim was to help scientists frame their research as a story that centers community, especially marginalized communities.

### SfN Highlight

Beyond Birth Control: The Neuroscience of Hormonal Contraceptives led by Jesse Lacasse

### UMB Learning Opp.

DEI learning pathway that focuses on language and communication as tool for scientists, clinicians, and staff to connect better with greater Baltimore community

### Future SfN Events

Social/workshop for immigrant neuroscientists studying/working in the US

## Greater Baltimore Society for Neuroscience

Many thanks to the GBSfN committee, in particular Drs. Alex Pouloupoulos and Ashley Marquardt, and respective sponsors Inscopix, Med Associates Inc., and Nikon

The Greater Baltimore Society for Neuroscience (GBSfN) meeting took place in beautiful Westminster Hall, a historic church on the University of Maryland Baltimore campus. The event kicked off with exciting talks from **JHU’s One Initiative**, **UMSOM’s Kahlert Institute & UM-MIND**, and **Lieber Institute’s Brain Development**. All speakers advocated for greater collaborative efforts, multidisciplinary approaches, and actionable strategies to improve our science and community engagement. An example of this progress is **Lieber Institute’s African Ancestry Neuroscience Research Initiative**, the nation’s first strategy to help address the lack of representation in large-scale genomic studies.



Virtual keynote guest, **George Church PhD**, kick started the second half of the GBSfN describing a wide range of new technologies for neuroscientists. As someone who has been successful generating new scientific tools, he signed off with the following encouraging words: **“Don’t worry about the little failures.”**

The final afternoon events included a **Funding Panel Q&A** session that provided insightful information regarding private and government funding mechanisms & a **lively poster session** from different neuroscience subfields. After a competitive round of **Bar Trivia**, scientists celebrated a great GBSfN at UMB’s local pub, Pickles.

# news

## Local Community Events



**Project Feast** is a student organization at the University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM) that puts together a free Thanksgiving meal on Thanksgiving Day. This year's event will be held **Nov. 28 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Booker T. Washington Elementary School** for the Baltimore community. [Learn more](#) or [volunteer here](#).



**UMB's Staff Senate and Office of Community & Civic Engagement** (with support from WJZ-TV) are excited to launch the **first annual Season of Giving Campaign** to help fund meaningful programming that benefits our West Baltimore neighbors during the holidays. Within the campaign are two fundraising drives: **Polar Express Experience** and **Christmas store**. Donations will be accepted through **Dec. 13**. Learn more [here](#).



**Christmas Village in Baltimore** returns to the Inner Harbor for its 11th season. From **November 23 to December 24, 2024**, the waterfront along the Baltimore Visitor Center through the Maryland Science Center will transform into a magical winter wonderland, bringing over 60 local and international vendors with unique holiday giftware. Learn more [here](#).



**Queer Made Holiday Market**  
Feat. BIPOC, Trans, & Marginalized Artists

**Sunday December 1**  
(1-6 PM) @ Peabody Heights Brewery

**Trans Maryland Volunteer Training**

**November 21**  
(6:30-7:30 PM)

