

Alcino J. Silva, PhD

MIND Institute Distinguished Lecturer Series – June 11, 2014

Biographical Information

Alcino J. Silva, PhD, pioneered the field of Molecular and Cellular Cognition, and in 2002 founded and became the first president of the Molecular and Cellular Cognition Society, an international organization with more than 5000 members and with branches in North America, Asia and Europe. In 2006 and 2007, Dr. Silva served as Scientific Director of the Intramural Program of NIMH. He is currently Professor of Neurobiology, Psychiatry and Psychology at UCLA, where he also heads the Integrative Center for Learning and Memory. His laboratory studies mechanisms and develops treatments for learning and memory disorders, such as those associated with ASD. Recently, his studies of NF1 and TSC in mice have led to clinical trials for the first targeted treatments for learning disabilities. He has been awarded a number of prizes and distinctions, including most recently the Order of Prince Henry, a MERIT award from NIA, the Marco Canavezes Medal of Science, the Senior Roche Award for Translational Neuroscience, and election as fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Presentation Abstract (4:30 pm presentation)

Mechanisms and Adult Treatments for Neurodevelopmental Disorders

Mouse model studies in the Silva laboratory have uncovered mechanisms and treatments for learning and memory disorders, including Neurofibromatosis type I, Tuberous Sclerosis, Noonan Syndrome and DISC1. These and other related findings illustrate how insights into the biology of molecular and cellular processes in the brain are changing the way we understand and envision treating learning and memory disorders. They suggest that adult treatments could one day help the millions of people affected with neurodevelopmental and other learning and memory disorders.