

Course Title: Our Brains: An Operator's Manual

Course Organizer: Rebecca Ihrie, Assistant Professor of Cell and Developmental Biology and Neurological Surgery, Vanderbilt University

Thursdays, March 29- May 3

11:00 am- 12:15 pm

Commons Center

Week 1

DATE: March 29

TOPIC: Sensory System Synergy: Putting Information Together, and What Happens When Inputs Decline

SPEAKERS: Iliza Butera and Jane Burton, graduate students in Neuroscience, Vanderbilt University

Week 2

DATE: April 5

TOPIC: What could longevity possibly have to do with the brain?

SPEAKER: Suzana Herculano-Houzel, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biological Sciences and Psychological Sciences

Week 3

DATE: April 12

TOPIC: Sex, drugs, and potato chips: the pleasure system of the brain

SPEAKER: Christine Konradi, Ph.D., Professor of Pharmacology and Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences

Week 4

DATE: April 19

TOPIC: The Brain in Trouble: Addiction, Motivation, and Learning, and Neuroscience in the Courtroom

SPEAKERS: Ismini Mangafas, undergraduate student in Neuroscience and Cara Schornak, Interdisciplinary Graduate Program at Vanderbilt University

Week 5

DATE: April 26

TOPIC: Stress in the Organism and Stress in the Cell: Neuroscience of Stress and Neurodegeneration

SPEAKERS: Oliver Vranjkovic, Ph.D., Molecular Physiology and Biophysics and Anna Pfalzer, Ph.D. Pediatric Neurology, postdoctoral researchers

Week 6

DATE: May 3

TOPIC: Learning and Memory: Research, Unknown Areas and Strategies

SPEAKERS: Alice Li, Andrew Bender, Raunak Pillai, undergraduate students in Neuroscience