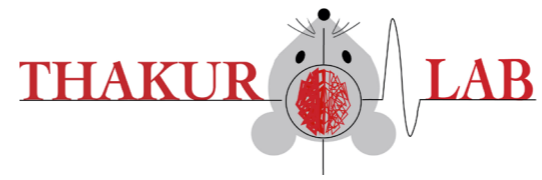




Gala

Many times, over a fresh cup of coffee in the morning, we find ourselves desperately trying to grab onto the fading memory of a dream the previous night. Meanwhile, as we read the newspaper the dream lies forgotten, only to be replaced by a burning curiosity to know what is going on in the world around us, followed by an anticipation of solving the daily Sudoku and crossword puzzles. Have you ever wondered how we accomplish these seemingly mundane tasks of brewing up a hot cuppa, trying to remember dreams, reading newspapers, solving puzzles, seeing the world and everything else that you seem to do every single day, as if you were on auto-pilot? What is this mysterious organ that allows you to go about your day the same way in a routine, yet at the same time pulls off extraordinary feats like building vehicles that can fly, machines that can work like humans,



-Anushree Krishnamurthy

and even put together ships that shoot off to outer space (and come back!)? As you would have guessed by now, all of this is achieved by one ~3 pound organ sitting on top of your shoulders—the brain.

The brain is a uniquely fascinating organ. It determines the responses, choices, and actions required for us to navigate through our surroundings. Neuroscience is a field that studies a multitude of aspects that make the brain the mysterious organ that it is, and aims to solve these mysteries in order to understand the organ better. Neuroscience gives you information about the brain, but where do you find information about neuroscience itself? Well, in today's world, the major sources for students and the general public to gain information on neuroscience are through movies, science fiction, and the news.

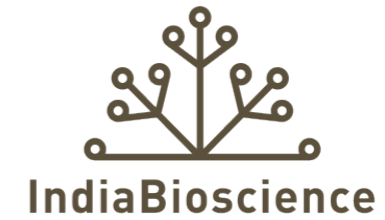




Gala

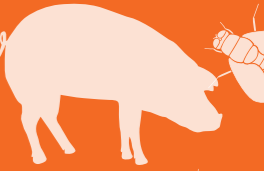
However, these sources often depict a very distorted picture of neuroscience and sometimes even propagate misinformation. Furthermore, neuroscience is rarely taught in undergraduate courses, thus depriving students of the opportunity to learn more about it. While there are plenty of good and reliable sources to access neuroscience-related information, people perceive neuroscience as a difficult topic. This is not untrue, since these scientific resources are full of technical jargon and are difficult for beginners and enthusiasts alike.

In order to find an answer to all your questions on basic neuroscience, bust myths about the brain, and to encourage students to explore the field, Project Encephalon and the Thakur Neurodegeneration Lab have collaborated to organize a year-long neuroscience outreach initiative, The Mind Gala, funded by the second IndiaBioScience Outreach Grant.



“A Celebration of All Things Neuroscience”

As the name suggests, this will be a year long celebration addressing basic aspects of the mind, brain and Neuroscience! The Mind Gala stands among the first science communication initiative that aims to convey the Neuroscience underlying complex yet fundamental neuroscientific concepts such as dreams, sleep, mood, emotions, memory, sensory perceptions, AI etc., in a simple and an easily comprehensible manner. In an attempt to spark curiosity among students as well as the general public, The Mind Gala hopes to cater to a generation of Neuroscience enthusiasts whose curious minds can appreciate the beauty of brain sciences. It plans to share useful resources to support this process of learning, exploration and steer a journey to discover more about the brain in the future.



Itinerary for



2022



Bheja Fry:

A monthly webinar series designed to ignite your curiosity about the world of brain sciences!

Tailor-made for newbies in neuroscience.

Elementary topics, electrifying talks, exceptional speakers, a year long cerebral extravaganza!

Virtual Neuroscience Lab Tours all over the country:

Sneak-peek into some of the top neuroscience laboratories in India!

Offer a basic idea about the status quo of Neuroscience research, and a virtual journey through the work being done in the field across India.

Designed to give a practical idea about hands-on Neuroscience research in real time, outside of books and theoretical knowledge.

Panel discussions on important topics in neuroscience:

Panelists with diverse backgrounds shall be invited as dignitaries for an interactive panel discussion which will provide the attendees with exposure to Neuroscience and related topics

Science Communication workshop culminating in a pop-Neurosci book!:

Two-day science communication workshop conducted by leading science communicators in the country for undergraduate students interested in learning the art of communicating science.

An exclusive opportunity to undergo one-to-one mentorship on a merit basis. No prior knowledge or experience in science communication required.

Designed to provide participants with a platform to pen down their very own popular science article, which will be compiled into a popular science book and translated into a few popular Indian regional languages.



Bheja Fry



Series



SP Arun

Topic: If we can make computers play chess, why can't we make them see?

Speaker Bio- SP Arun is an electrical engineer turned neuroscientist at the centre for Neuroscience at IISc and is interested in how sensation becomes perception. He is an Associate Professor at Centre for Neuroscience, Indian Institute of Bangalore.



Shruti Muralidhar

Topic: BrainBasics- A peek into the brain

Speaker Bio- Shruti Muralidhar is a neuroscientist and a science communicator. She is a research scientist at Deep Genomics. She is also the founding member of IndSciComm and Bias-WatchIndia.

Head over to www.themindgala.com to register for upcoming webinars.

