Cognitive Declines in Aging: Triggers and Mechanisms

Ruth Barrientos, PhD, Associate Professor, Psychiatry.
The Barrientos Lab focuses on the vulnerabilities of the normal aging brain that, when challenged, lead to long-lasting memory deficits. The primary focus of the lab uses a rat model of Post-Operative Cognitive Dysfunction (POCD) to examine the mechanisms that may underlie persistent cognitive declines that occur in aged surgical patients, and lead to Alzheimer’s disease. The second major project of the lab is to investigate high-fat (and other unhealthy) diet-induced memory declines in aging. The third major project of the lab is a collaborative project with Dr. Leah Pyter’s laboratory to determine the neuroinflammatory sequelae and associated behavioral declines in aged female mice in a model of breast cancer.

Barrientos Laboratory