Quick Guide to the Neuroscience Department

Contact information:
Department Chair:
Marc Tetel
mtetel@wellesley.edu
(781) 283-3003

Academic Administrator and Grant Coordinator:
Ann Ross
aross5@wellesley.edu
(781) 283-3153

Website:
http://wellesley.edu/neuroscience

WELLESLEY COLLEGE
NEUROSCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Professor: Barb Beltz (Row 1L), Marc Tetel (Row 1M)  
Associate Professors: Michael Wiest (Row 2L), Sharon Gobes (Row 2M)  
Assistant Professors: Sara Wasserman (Row 1R)  
Lecturer in Neuroscience: Deborah Bauer (Row 2R)  
Instructor in Neuroscience Laboratories: Ginny Quinan (row 3L)  
Laboratory specialist: Kailee Silva (Row 3M)  
Neuroscience Advisory Committee:  
Christen Devney (Row 4L, Psychology) Ellen Hildreth (Row 4M, Computer Science), Yui Suzuki (Row 4R, Biological Sciences)  
Student Representatives: Rosalie Grijalva, Mayaa Appiah

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What is neuroscience?

Neuroscience explores how the brain and nervous system function to generate behavior, emotion and cognition. Neuroscience is highly interdisciplinary, integrating biology, psychology, chemistry, physics and computer science. Exploring the complexity of the nervous system requires analyses at multiple levels. Neuroscientists investigate how genes and molecules regulate nerve cell function (cellular/molecular neuroscience), explore how neural systems produce integrated behaviors (behavioral neuroscience), seek to understand how neural substrates create mental processes and thought (cognitive neuroscience) and use mathematics and computer models to comprehend brain function (computational neuroscience). In studying how the brain and nervous system function normally, neuroscientists also hope to better understand devastating neurological and psychiatric disorders.

Wellesley Neuroscience majors and alumni

To learn more about what Neuroscience students and alumni are doing in the field, visit our website.

Research in neuroscience

All of the neuroscience faculty are actively engaged in laboratory research, and we encourage students to become involved in research as early as possible in their time at Wellesley. Information about specific faculty research projects is found on the neuroscience website. The research endeavor is supported by modern instrumentation such as a laser confocal microscope, an MRI for small animal imaging, and a suite of instruments for genomic and proteomic analyses.

The major in Neuroscience offers three areas of concentration:

- cellular and molecular neuroscience
- cognitive neuroscience
- systems and computational neuroscience

See the Wellesley course catalog for additional information about specific courses.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion in Neuroscience

The Neuroscience website offers information and resources pertaining to diversity, equity and inclusion, including summer research opportunities.