



SCIENCE FOR THE BENEFIT OF HUMANITY

## 2026 Kavli NSI Spring Symposium

# Age-Old Wisdom: Lessons from Neuronal Systems with Remarkable Longevity

May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026 8:30am-6:30pm Carson Auditorium

Everyone wants to age gracefully. A critical component of successful aging is the maintenance of cognitive integrity until the end of life. Fortunately, mammalian neurons are inherently long-lived cells – in the absence of pathological insults, neuronal survival typically aligns with the organism’s maximal lifespan. However, neurons become increasingly susceptible to damage with advancing age. This vulnerability contributes to the etiology of several age-related neurodegenerative disorders. This raises key questions: Is lifelong preservation of neuronal functions feasible? How do certain species or individuals within species sustain neural performance across extended lifespans? Nature offers strikingly diverse strategies for escaping neuronal aging. By highlighting organisms and individuals with extraordinary neuronal resilience, this symposium aims to deepen our understanding of longevity in neural systems and inspire novel approaches to promote healthy aging in humans.



Scan For Registration

Registration link: <https://registration.rockefeller.edu/kavlisymposium2026>

Location	Time	Activity
Carson basement lobby	830-945	Morning reception with breakfast
Carson auditorium	945-1200	Morning session: <i>Neuronal immortality in regenerative organisms</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Dr. Celina Juliano (University of California Davis)</b> “Nervous System Maintenance and Regeneration in Hydra”</li><li>- <b>Dr. Elly Tanaka (Vienna Biocenter)</b> “Stem cells to behavior: CNS regeneration in a tetrapod nervous system”</li></ul>
Abby/CRC basement	1200-1315	Lunch with speakers
Carson auditorium	1315-1530	Afternoon session: <i>Neuronal longevity in mammalian systems</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Dr. Tomohisa Toda (FAU Erlangen)</b> “Exploring the role of long-lived molecules in brain maintenance and plasticity”</li><li>- <b>Dr. Claudia Kawas (University of California Irvine)</b> “Old Brains, New Insights: The 90+ Study”</li></ul>
Faculty Club	1730-1830	Happy hour