



Sudha Gopalakrishnan Brain Centre

BRICS

2026



Neuroscience

III **BRICS** Neuroscience Symposium

13–15 March 2026

Indian Institute of Technology Madras, India

III BRICS Neuroscience Symposium 2026



About the Symposium

Days: Friday–Sunday

Dates: 13–15 March 2026

The III BRICS Neuroscience Symposium aims to bring together leading neuroscientists, clinicians, and researchers from BRICS and extended BRICS nations to address a broad range of topics: human brain organization, function in health and disease, developmental neurobiology, comparative research across diverse model systems, and emerging technologies in neuroscience.

Building on the success of the impactful meetings held in Shanghai (2023) and Moscow (2024), the 2026 edition in Chennai, India, aims to further strengthen international collaboration and promote scientific exchange across the field of neuroscience.

The scientific sessions of the BRICS 2026 Symposium will focus on the following core thematic areas:

- Cognitive Neuroscience
- Comparative Neuroanatomy
- Computational Neuroscience
- Molecular Neuroscience
- Neurodegeneration
- Neurodevelopment
- Neuroimaging
- Neuropsychiatry
- Neurotechnology

III BRICS Neuroscience Symposium 2026

Featured Speakers for the Scientific Sessions

Prof. Muming Pu (China)

Scientific Director, Institute of Neuroscience, Chinese Academy of Sciences, and CAS Centre for Excellence in Brain Science and Intelligence Technology, Shanghai.

Prof. Shubha Tole (India)

Professor, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Mumbai.

Prof. Daniel Gomes De Almeida Filho (Brazil)

National Secretary at the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation of Brazil, Adjunct Professor, SENAI CIMATEC University, SENAI Innovation Institute - Health Advanced Systems (ISI-SAS), Engineering of Biomedical Equipment Area (AEEB).

Prof. Pankaj Seth (India)

Professor, National Brain Research Centre (NBRC), Manesar.

Dr. Leena Ali Ibrahim (Saudi Arabia)

Assistant Professor, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, Thuwal.

Prof. Konstantin Anokhin (Russia)

Director, Institute for Advanced Brain Studies, Lomonosov Moscow State University, Moscow.

Prof. Xingming Zhao (China)

Professor, Fudan University, Shanghai.

Prof. Ganesan Venkatasubramanian (India)

Professor, Department of Psychiatry, National Institute of Mental Health And Neurosciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru.

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Featured Speakers for the Scientific Sessions

Prof. Paul Robert Manger (South Africa)

Professor, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg.

Prof. Mohammad Javan (Iran)

Professor, Department of Physiology, School of Medical Sciences, Tarbiat Modares University, Tehran.

Prof. K. VijayRaghavan (India)

Professor Emeritus and Former Director, National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Bengaluru.

Prof. Yangang Sun (China)

Professor and Deputy Director, Center for Excellence in Brain Science and Intelligence Technology (Institute of Neuroscience), Chinese Academy of Sciences, Shanghai.

Prof. Bruno Coelho César Mota (Brazil)

Professor, Physics Institute, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro.

Prof. Vsevolod Belousov (Russia)

Professor and Director General, Federal Center of Brain Research and Neurotechnologies of the Federal Medical Biological Agency, Moscow.

Prof. José Rodolfo Lopes de Paiva Cavalcanti (Brazil)

Associate Professor, State University of Rio Grande do Norte – UERN/Brazil and Principal Investigator of Laboratory of Experimental Neurology, FACS/UERN/Brazil.

Speakers on Clinical Perspectives

Dr. Biju Viswanath (India)

Associate Professor, National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru.

Prof. George M Varghese (India)

Professor, Department of Infectious Diseases, Christian Medical College (CMC), Vellore.

Prof. Philipp Khaytovich (Russia)

Professor, Skolkovo Institute of Science and Technology, Moscow.

Dr. S. Suresh (India)

Managing Director, Mediscan Systems, Chennai.

Speakers on Computational Neuroscience & Neurotechnology

Prof. Bruno Coelho César Mota (Brazil)

Professor, Physics Institute, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro.

Prof. SP Arun (India)

Professor, Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru.

Dr. Shrikant R. Bharadwaj (India)

Scientist & Network Associate Director - Brien Holden Institute of Optometry and Vision Sciences, LVPEI, Hyderabad.

Prof. Xingming Zhao (China)

Professor, Fudan University, Shanghai.

Dr. Mohammad Reza Abolghasemi Dehaqani (Iran)

Assistant Professor, University of Tehran.

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Panel discussions

Day 1: Career Trajectories and Leadership in Neuroscience: Expert Perspectives

- Dr. Pâmela Billig Mello Carpes (Brazil)
- Prof. Konstantin Anokhin (Russia)
- Prof. Shubha Tole (India)
- Prof. Pankaj Seth (India)
- Dr. Shrikant R. Bharadwaj (India)
- Dr. Jing Zhang (China)
- Dr. Mohammad-Reza A. Dehaqani (Iran)

Day 2: Neuroscience Landscape Across BRICS and Extended BRICS Nations

- Prof. Daniel Gomes De Almeida Filho (Brazil)
- Ms. Natalia Podsoonnaia (Russia)
- Prof. K. VijayRaghavan (India)
- Prof. Muming Pu (China)
- Prof. Paul Robert Manger (South Africa)
- Dr. Leena Ali Ibrahim (Saudi Arabia)
- Prof. James Olukayode Olopade (Nigeria)
- Prof. Mohammad Javan (Iran)
- Prof. Pedro Antonio Valdés-Sosa (Cuba)

Day 3: Building & Strengthening Multidisciplinary Neuroscience Research

- Prof. José Rodolfo Lopes de Paiva Cavalcanti (Brazil)
- Prof. Philipp Khaytovich (Russia)
- Prof. Mohanasankar Sivaprakasam (India)
- Prof. Yangang Sun (China)
- Dr. Joshua Gabriel Davimes (South Africa)

III BRICS Neuroscience Symposium 2026

Day 1 | Friday, 13 March



Time	Programme segment	Speaker	Title of the Talk
08:00 – 09:00 (60 mins)	Participant Registration		
Scientific Session I			
09:00 – 09:45 (45 mins)	Opening Remarks 09.00	Prof. Mohanasankar Sivaprakasam	
	Talk 1 09.15	Dr. Richa Verma	DHARANI and beyond
	Talk 2 09.25	Dr. Mihail Bota	Neuroinformatics as a bridge across different levels of organisation of the nervous system
	Talk 3 09.35	Keerthi Ram	Computational pipeline for 3D high-resolution brain mapping
Scientific Session II			
09:45 – 10:30 (45 mins)	Featured Speaker 9:45	Prof. Muming Pu	International consortium on primate brain mapping: Progress and perspectives
	Talk 1 10:00	Dr. Dhananjay Huilgol	Progenitors in the fate specification and diversification of cortical excitatory neurons
	Talk 2 10:10	Dr. Biju Viswanath	Discovering the biology of neuropsychiatric illness
	Discussion 10:20	Q&A (10 mins)	
10:30 – 11:00 (30 mins)	Tea Break and Networking		

III BRICS Neuroscience Symposium 2026

Day 1 | Friday, 13 March



Time	Programme Segment	Speaker	Title of the Talk
Scientific Session III			
11:00 – 11:45 (45 mins)	Featured Speaker 11:00	Prof. Shubha Tole	A compendium of 25 years of in situ hybridization images in the developing mouse brain generated using a low-cost modified protocol
	Talk 1 11:15	Dr. S Suresh	Fetal neurosonogram - a window to the human brain
	Talk 2 11:25	Dr. Pâmela Billig Mello Carpes	Targeting memory consolidation to promote long-lasting memories
	Discussion 11:35	Q&A (10 mins)	
Scientific Session IV			
11:45 – 12:30 (45 mins)	Featured Speaker 11:45	Prof. Daniel Gomes De Almeida Filho	Modeling cognitive optimization from memory linking mechanisms
	Talk 1 12:00	Dr. Karina Maia Paiva	Hippocampal neuroarchitecture in semi-arid rodents: A comparative morpho-physiological approach
	Talk 2 12:10	Prof. K.V.S Hari	An overview of aging brain research at CBR
	Discussion 12:20	Q&A (10 mins)	
12:30 – 13:30 (60 mins)	Lunch Break		
13:30 – 14:10 (40 mins)	Panel Discussion: Career Journeys, Research Pathways, Mentorship, and Leadership in Neuroscience		

III BRICS Neuroscience Symposium 2026

Day 1 | Friday, 13 March



Time	Programme Segment	Speaker	Title of the Talk
Scientific Session V			
14:10 – 14:55 (45 mins)	Featured Speaker 14:10	Prof. Pankaj Seth	Using 2D and 3D models of human neural stem cells to gain novel insights into RNA virus induced neuropathogenesis
	Talk 1 14:25	Dr. Mohammad Reza Abolghasemi Dehaqani	Computational dynamics of brain networks: Insights from primates, organoids, and NeuroAI
	Talk 2 14:35	Prof. Philipp Khaytovich	TBD
	Discussion 14:45	Q&A (10 mins)	
15:00 – 15:30 (30 mins)	Tea Break and Centre Visit		
Scientific Session VI			
15:30 – 16:30 (60 mins)	Featured Speaker 15:30	Dr. Leena Ali Ibrahim	Developmental integration of bottom-up and top-down inputs onto Layer 1 interneurons.
	Talk 1 15:45	Dr. Achira Roy	Dissecting mechanisms underlying early-onset neurodevelopmental disorders using mouse models.
	Talk 2 15:55	Prof. Aurnab Ghose	Novel cytoskeleton regulators in neurodevelopment
	Talk 3 16:05	Dr. Ekaterina Semina (Virtual)	Biobanks for mental health: a neurobiological approach to personalized psychiatry.
	Discussion 16:15	Q&A (15 mins)	
16:30 – 17:30 (60 mins)	Poster Session		
19:00 onwards	Dinner for Delegates, Novotel, Chennai		

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Day 2 | Saturday, 14 March



Time	Programme Segment	Speaker	Title of the Talk
08:30 – 09:00 (30 mins)	Participant Registration		
09:00 – 09:20 (20 mins)	Mindfulness Practice - Guided by trained professional Ashika Jain		
Scientific Session VII			
09:30– 10:15 (45 mins)	Featured Speaker 9:30	Konstantin Anokhin	Compound conditioning: Systems and cellular mechanisms
	Talk 1 9:45	Dr. Thaise Grazielle Lima de Oliveira Toutain	Convergence across altered states of consciousness from functional brain networks
	Talk 2 9:55	Prof. Supratim Ray	Gamma rhythm as a tool to investigate brain function in health and disease.
	Discussion 10:05	Q&A (10 mins)	
Scientific Session VIII			
10:15 – 11:00 (45 mins)	Featured Speaker 10:15	Dr. Xingming Zhao	Multidimensional data driven exploration of Alzheimer's disease
	Talk 1 10:30	Dr. Poonam Thakur	Metabolic disturbances in Parkinson's disease: Brain and beyond.
	Talk 2 10:40	Prof. Soumya Iyengar	Wiring the human auditory cortex during the sensitive period
	Discussion 10:50	Q&A (10 mins)	
11:00 – 11:20 (20 mins)	Tea Break		

III BRICS Neuroscience Symposium 2026

Day 2 | Saturday, 14 March



Time	Programme Segment	Speaker	Title of the Talk
Scientific Session IX			
11:20 – 12:05 (45 mins)	Featured Speaker 11:20	Dr. Ganesan Venkatasubramanian	Translational neuroscience of Schizophrenia
	Talk 1 11:35	Dr. Ilya Bakulin	Approaches to precision personalized transcranial magnetic stimulation
	Talk 2 11:45	Dr. Lei Han	Applications of cellular multi-omic sequencing technologies in brain science
	Discussion 11:55	Q&A (10 mins)	
Scientific Session X			
12:05 – 13:05 (60 mins)	Featured Speaker 12:05	Prof. Paul Robert Manger	Are elephants as smart as humans ?
	Talk 1 12:20	Prof. James Olukayode Olopade	Environmental pollution and the brain: Lessons from the lab and the field in Nigeria
	Talk 2 12:30	Dr. Prof. Thomas Gregor Issac	Risk factors for cognitive impairment among elderly in the community
	Talk 3 12:40	Dr. Shrikant R Bhardwaj	The pupillary light reflex as an objective marker of brainstem function in neuro-critical care
	Discussion 12:50	Q&A (15 mins)	
13:10 – 14:00 (50 mins)	Lunch Break		

III BRICS Neuroscience Symposium 2026

Day 2 | Saturday, 14 March



Time	Programme segment	Speaker	Title of the Talk
	Scientific Session XI		
14:00 – 14:45 (45 mins)	Featured Speaker 14:00	Prof. Mohammad Javan	Neural Cells in vivo Reprogramming for Therapeutic and Technological Applications
	Talk 1 14:15	Dr. Jing Zhang	Progress in the China Brain Multi-omics Atlas Project
	Talk 2 14:25	Prof. George M Varghese	Brain infections in India: Where diagnostics, technology, and systems design save lives
	Discussion 14:35	Q&A (10 mins)	
15:00 - 15:30 (30 mins)	Release of Human Brainstem Atlas <i>Chief Guest: Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood, Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India.</i> Prof. Mohanasankar Sivaprakasam (Professor and Head, Sudha Gopalakrishnan Brain Centre, IITM) Prof. V. Kamakoti (Director, IITM) Shri Kris Gopalakrishnan (Co-founder, Infosys)		
15:30 – 16:00 (30 mins)	High Tea and Poster Session		
16:00 – 16:20 (20 mins)	Scientific Session XII	Prof. K. VijayRaghavan	TBD
16:20 – 17:10 (50 mins)	Panel Discussion: Neuroscience Landscape Across BRICS and Extended BRICS Nations		
17:15 – 18:15 (60 mins)	Cultural Programme		
19:00 onwards	Dinner for Delegates, ITC Chola, Chennai		

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Day 3 | Sunday, 15 March



Time	Programme Segment	Speaker	Title of the Talk
Scientific Session XIII			
09:00 – 09:45 (45 mins)	Featured Speaker 09.00	Prof. Yangang Sun	Alteration of cellular representation in the central amygdala mediates stress-induced analgesia
	Talk 1 09.15	Prof. Pedro Antonio Valdés-Sosa	TBD
	Talk 2 09.25	Prof. SP Arun	Neural basis of real-world vision
	Discussion 09:35	Q&A (10 mins)	
Scientific Session XIV			
09:45 – 10:30 (45 mins)	Featured Speaker 09.45	Prof. Bruno Coelho César Mota	The cortex from womb to grave: A morphological syntax to map cortical shape across development and evolution
	Talk 1 10.00	Prof. Dr S. SenthilKumaran	Exploring Parkinson's disease through magnetic resonance
	Talk 2 10.10	Prof. Joseph Raimondo	Mapping the protracted functional maturation of human cortical microcircuits
	Discussion 10:20	Q&A (10 mins)	
10:25 – 11:00 (45 mins)	Tea Break		

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Day 3 | Sunday, 15 March



Time	Programme Segment	Speaker	Title of the Talk
	Scientific Session XV		
11:00 – 11:45 (45 mins)	Featured Speaker 11.00	Prof. José Rodolfo Lopes de Paiva Cavalcanti	Building with BRICS - part 2
	Talk 1 11.15	Dr. Adhil Bhagwandin	Building with BRICS - part 1
	Talk 2 11.25	Dr. Joshua Gabriel Davimes	Sleep and mental health in extreme work conditions: Shiftwork and emergency medical responders
	Discussion 11:35	Q&A (10 mins)	
	Scientific Session XVI		
11:45 – 12:30 (45 mins)	Featured Speaker 11.45	Prof. Vsevolod Belousov	Modeling neurodegeneration using redox chemogenetics
	Talk 1 12.00	Dr. Hiya Ghosh	Rewriting the Engram: Functional segregation of writers and readers of memory
	Talk 2 12.10	Prof. Pavel Balaban	Cellular and molecular mechanisms of memory
	Discussion 12:20	Q&A (10 mins)	
12:30 – 13:30 (60 mins)	Lunch Break		
13:30 – 14:10 (40 mins)	Panel Discussion: Building & Strengthening Neuroscience in BRICS Countries		
14:10 – 14:20 (10 mins)	Concluding Remarks		
15:30 onwards	Shore Temple Visit followed by Dinner at Radisson Blu		



Venue: Terrace Hall, Campus Cafe (Second Floor),
Opposite to the Sudha Gopalakrishnan Brain Centre
Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras), Chennai, India

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