

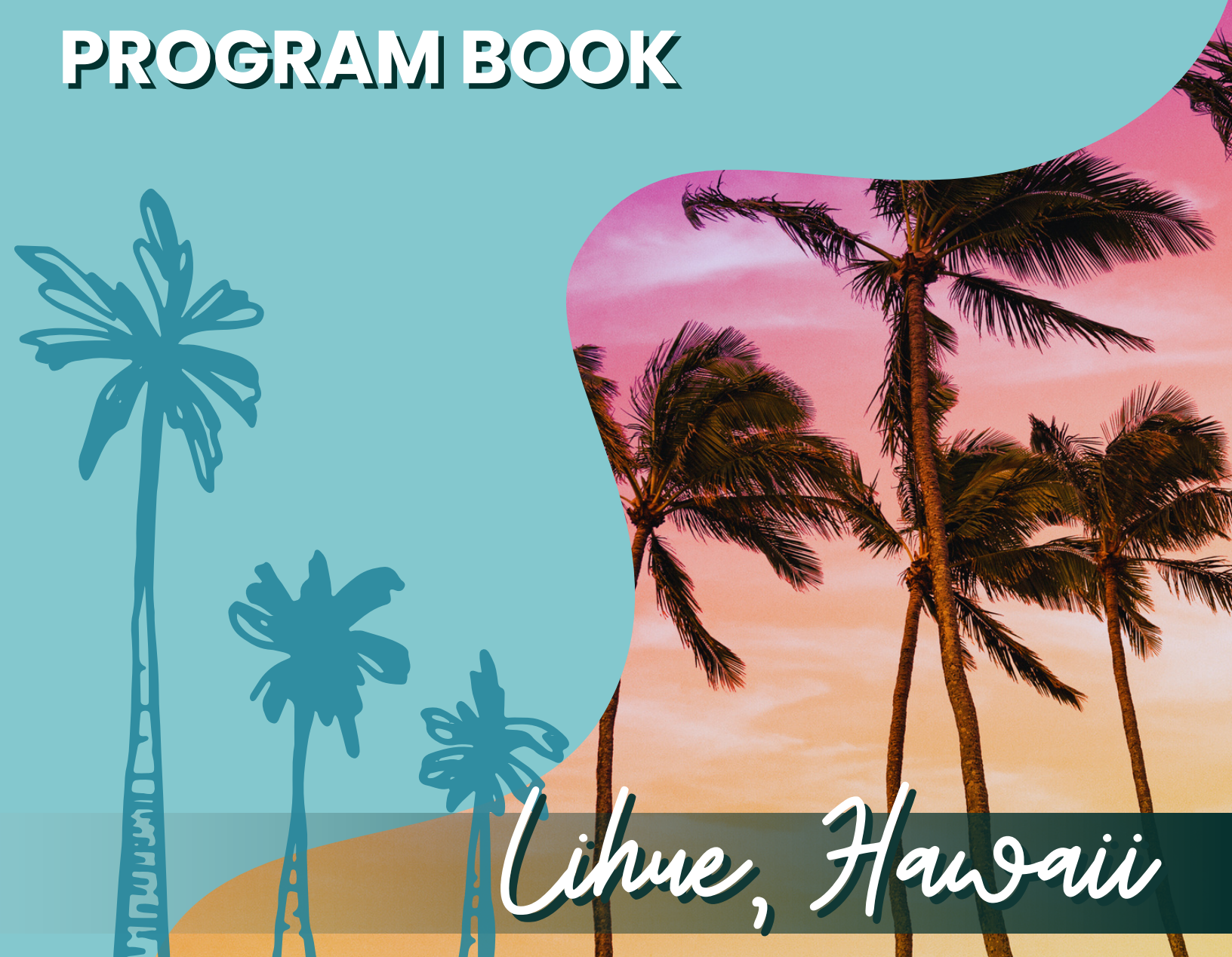
MPA 2026

Molecular Psychiatry Meeting

ROYAL SONESTA KAUA'I RESORT

MARCH 29 - APRIL 01, 2026

PROGRAM BOOK



Lihue, Hawaii



The Molecular Psychiatry Association was founded in 2013 to promote research and communication of research findings that may lead to a better understanding of the molecular basis of psychiatric disorders and the development of new treatments. Various research approaches are being applied including neurobiology, genetics, brain imaging, biomarkers, brain expression, neural stem cells, and animal models. The primary mission of the association is to hold a scientific meeting that is open to all professionals who are interested in the molecular foundations of psychiatric disorders. By bringing together investigators with expertise in various molecular approaches, cross-fertilization and collaborations will take place that will enhance research and improve understanding of the molecular basis of psychiatric disorders.

The society is affiliated with the journal, *Complex Psychiatry*.

2026 Organizing Board

Tracey Petryshen, Ph.D.
William Byerley, M.H., Prof. Dr. med
Erin Calipari, Ph.D.
Zachary Freyberg, Ph.D.
Jens Hjerling Leffler, D.Phil.
Yevgenia Kozorovitskiy, Ph.D.
Conor Liston, M.D., Ph.D.
Robert Malenka, M.D.
Katherine Roche, Ph.D.

MPA *Molecular Psychiatry Association*

VENUE INFORMATION

Address:

The Royal Sonesta Kaua'i Resort
3610 Rice Street
Lihue, Hawaii 96766 USA

[Resort Website](#)

For attendees staying offsite, the Royal Sonesta Kaua'i has a daily self-parking charge of \$20 plus tax, but taxi service and rideshare options are available.



The MPA meeting rooms will be at the Puna & Kaua'i Ballrooms, with registration in the Kaua'i Court.





Registration

LOCATION & HOURS

The registration desk is located in Kaua'i Court, in front of the Kaua'i Ballroom.

Sunday	6:15 AM - 1 PM
Monday	6:30 AM - 1 PM
Tuesday	6:30 AM - 1 PM
Wednesday	6:15 AM - 12 PM

WI-FI

Network: Sonesta Conference
Password: APRIL2026



PLENARY SPEAKERS

Monday, March 30
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Salon I

Closing the Gap: A Rare Variant Window into Disrupted Neurodevelopment

Carrie Bearden, Ph.D.

Professor, Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences, Psychology & Brain Research Institute

Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior

She is also Director, Center for the Assessment and Prevention of Prodromal States (CAPPS)

University of California, Los Angeles



Tuesday, March 31
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

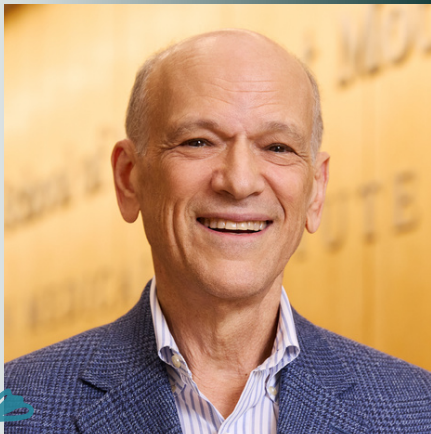
Salon I

Transcriptional and Epigenetic Mechanisms of Drug Addiction

Eric Nestler, M.D.

Nash Family Professor of Neuroscience & Psychiatry

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
University of California, Los Angeles



CONFERENCE AGENDA

Sunday, March 29th



6:15 a.m. - 7:00 a.m. - Breakfast

Kaua'i Court

7:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m. - Concurrent Symposia

The Prenatal Inflammatory Molecular Milieu and Child Neurodevelopment: Mechanisms, Markers, and Meaning

Puna CD

Circuit Mechanism Discovery for Brain Stimulation Treatments in Psychiatry

Salon 1

Emerging Themes in the Regulation of the Molecular Nanoscale Organization of Astrocytes and Neurons and Their Implications in Neuropsychiatric Disorders.

Salon 3

8:45 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. - Day 1 Morning Break

Kaua'i Court

9:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. - Concurrent Symposia

Poster Talk Session

Puna CD

Transient Signals, Lasting Impact: Neuromodulatory Mechanisms in Developing Circuits

Salon 1

Mechanistic Pathways in Suicidality: Evidence from fMRI, MRS, PET, and Postmortem Methods

Salon 3

10:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. - Day 1 Mid-Morning Break

Kaua'i Court

11:00 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. - Concurrent Symposia

Paving the Way for Precision Medicine in Psychiatry through Multi-Modal Strategies

Puna CD

Convergence and Divergence of Mental Health Genes on Function and Phenotype

Salon 1

Structural and Multi-Omic Investigations of Cortical Myelin Abnormalities in Psychiatric and Substance Use Disorders

Salon 3

12:45 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. - Extended Break - Free Time

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. - Welcome Reception

Kaua'i Court



CONFERENCE AGENDA

Monday, March 30th



6:45 a.m. - 8:45 a.m. - Breakfast

Salon 2

7:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m. - Poster Session I

Salon 2

9:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. - Concurrent Symposia

Accelerated Biological Aging in Bipolar Disorder:
Molecular Evidence and Clinical Impact

Puna CD

Autism Spectrum Disorders: From Human
Genetics to Cellular and Animal Models

Salon 1

Functional Consequences and Molecular Repair
of Missense Truncating Variants in Psychiatric
Conditions

Salon 3

10:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. - Day 2 Morning Break

Kaua'i Court

11:00 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. - Concurrent Symposia

Metabolic and Stress Modulation of Neural
Circuits Controlling Appetite and Motivation

Puna CD

From Molecules to Circuits in
Neurodevelopmental Disorders

Salon 1

New Insights into Molecular Mechanisms
Underlying Dopamine Dysregulation in Mania

Salon 3

**12:45 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. - Extended Break/Free
Time**

5:15 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. - Happy Hour

Kaua'i Court

**6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. - Keynote I: Closing the
Gap: A Rare Variant Window into Disrupted
Neurodevelopment - Carrie Bearden**

Salon 1



CONFERENCE AGENDA

Tuesday, March 31st



6:45a.m. - 8:45 a.m. - Breakfast

Salon 2

7:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m. - Poster Session II

Salon 2

9:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. - Concurrent Symposia

Neurotrophic Support in Depression: From Pathophysiological Mechanisms to neuroplastic effects of novel antidepressant agents

Puna CD

Molecular Therapeutic Approaches for Neurodevelopmental and Psychiatric Disorders

Salon 1

Vascular and glial gene dysregulation underlie psychiatric conditions across lifespan

Salon 3

10:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. - Day 3 Morning Break

Kaua'i Court

11:00 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. - Concurrent Symposia

Somatic Genomic Mosaicism in the Human Brain: Implications for Neurodevelopment, Brain Function and Neuropsychiatric Disorders

Puna CD

Linking Molecular Adaptations in Mesolimbic Dopamine Neurons to Altered Reward-Guided Decision Making

Salon 1

Sensitive Periods of Stress: Biological Mechanisms and Neural Circuits Shaping Vulnerability

Salon 3

12:45 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. - Extended Break - Free Time

5:15 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. - Happy Hour

Kaua'i Court

**6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. - Keynote:
Transcriptional and Epigenetic Mechanisms
of Drug Addiction - Eric Nestler**

Salon 1



CONFERENCE AGENDA

Wednesday, April 1st



6:15 a.m. - 7:00 a.m. - Breakfast

Kaua'i Court

7:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m. - Concurrent Symposia

Blueprints of Complexity: iPSC Models
Illuminating Neurodevelopment and
Schizophrenia

Salon 1

Exploring the neural basis of maladaptive
feeding and its translational relevance

Salon 3

8:45 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. - Day 4 Morning Break

Kaua'i Court

9:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. - Concurrent Symposia

The Transcriptional, Neuronal, and Behavioral
Mechanisms Underlying Opioid Use Disorder:
From Brain Circuit to the Genome.

Salon 1

Kinase Signaling Dysfunction in
Neurodevelopmental Disorders

Salon 3

**11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - MPA Business
Meeting**

Salon 1

**Click or Scan to access the complete program and
other conference information**





CODE OF CONDUCT

The Molecular Psychiatry Association (MPA) is dedicated to providing a safe and respectful environment for all participants, including members, staff, vendors, and attendees at all official MPA events regardless of sex, race, color, national origin, religion, age, physical or mental disability, perceived disability, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, or any other basis protected by federal or pertinent state laws. MPA does not tolerate discrimination or any form of prohibited harassment and is committed to enforcing this Code of Conduct at its Annual Meeting or at any other MPA event. As a professional society, the MPA is committed to providing an atmosphere that encourages the free expression and exchange of scientific and educational ideas. Furthermore, MPA upholds the philosophy of equal opportunity for and treatment of all meeting participants and staff in any venue.

[CLICK HERE](#) to continue reading MPA's Code of Conduct.

CONFERENCE EVALUATION

We want your feedback!

We encourage all meeting attendees to complete the meeting survey, which helps us shape future MPA meetings. The survey is completely anonymous.

Your input on MPA 2026 is crucial and will help us improve the meeting each time!

[CLICK HERE TO TAKE THE SURVEY!](#)



Thank you
to our **sponsor!**

SERGEY BRIN FAMILY FOUNDATION

Supporting the Advancement of
Molecular Psychiatry Research and Innovation





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