



# Association of Korean Neuroscientists

재미 한국인 신경과학회

Since 1982

## 7<sup>th</sup> AKN 2026 Research Symposium Meeting Summary Report

April 17-19, 2026, Stanford University, California, USA



### Symposium Organizing Committee

Kevin Park (Chair), UT Southwestern  
Dah-eun (Chloe) Chung, Rutgers University  
Jee-Yeon Hwang, Creighton University  
Seong Su Kang, Emory University  
Jin Hyung Lee, Stanford University  
Wonchan Oh, University of Colorado  
Eunsu Park, UT Health Houston

# Meeting Summary

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The 7th AKN Annual Research Symposium took place on April 17-19 at the ChEM-H / Neuro Research Complex at Stanford University (Stanford, California). Organized by AKN scientists representing institutions across the United States and South Korea, this three-day gathering brought together approximately 60 neuroscientists at all career stages for a rich program of scientific presentations, career mentorship, and collegial exchange.

The main scientific program opened on Saturday, April 18, with welcoming remarks from Drs. Kevin Park and Jee-Yeon Hwang. The scientific program featured five thematic short-talk sessions covering (1) neurodegeneration and cognitive dysfunction, (2) neural development and patterning, (3) circuits and systems, (4) addiction and metabolic dysfunction, and (5) neuroengineering and diagnostics. The breadth of topics and institutional diversity reflected the vibrancy of the AKN community and the scope of contemporary neuroscience research.

A highlight of the program was the Keynote Session by this year's Tong H. Joh Research Innovation Awardee, Dr. Minhyeok Chang (Johns Hopkins University), who presented his pioneering work on dendritic nanotubular networks in the brain. Dr. Chang was introduced by symposium chair Dr. Kevin Park, and the award committee was chaired by Dr. Yushin Kim (University of Alabama at Birmingham).

On Sunday, April 19, the program shifted toward professional development. Attendees engaged in career development discussions led by senior faculty, followed by a trends-in-neuroscience group discussion sessions organized around four thematic areas spanning (1) neurodegeneration, (2) repair and plasticity, (3) circuit function and behavior, and (4) cellular and developmental neuroscience. Trainees and early-career investigators then had the opportunity to attend one of two parallel breakout sessions: one addressing job hunting strategies for trainees, and another covering funding strategies for PIs.

The symposium was organized by Drs. Kevin Park (Chair), Dah-eun (Chloe) Chung, Jee-Yeon Hwang, Seong Su Kang, Jin Hyung Lee, Wonchan Oh, and Eunsu Park, with generous support from sponsors including GJS Dental Group, Dr. Jean J. Kim, K-BIOX Anteamulo, GenDEPOT, and Peet's Coffee.

# Symposium Awardees

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## Tong H. Joh Research Innovation Award



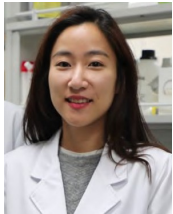
### **Minhyeok Chang, PhD**

*Research Associate | Johns Hopkins University*

“Pioneering Neural Architecture at the Nanoscale: Dendritic Nanotubular Network in the Brain”

## Trainee Presentation Awards

### 1st Place — Best Presentation Award



### **JaeYeon Kim, PhD**

*Postdoctoral Fellow | University of California, San Francisco*

“Regionally Distinct Developmental Trajectories in the Human Cortex and Their Implications for Dyslexia”

### Honorable Mention — Presentation Awards

#### **Amelia Moon, BS**

*Lab Intern | Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School*

“Exploring the Neural and Molecular Landscape of Chemotherapy-Induced Cognitive Dysfunction”

#### **Jade Lee**

*Undergraduate Researcher | Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School*

“Exploring the Neural and Molecular Landscape of Chemotherapy-Induced Cognitive Dysfunction”

#### **Youngdoo Kim, PhD**

*Postdoctoral Associate | Baylor College of Medicine*

“ACSBG1 Depletion in Astrocytes Attenuates  $\alpha$ -Synuclein Pathology in PD Mouse Model, via Lipid-Cytokine Crosstalk”

#### **Donghoon Shin**

*PhD Student | University of California, San Francisco*

“Thoughts to Actions: Behavioral Reports on Self-Generated Activity in a Hippocampal-Cortical Circuit”

#### **Hoseok Choi, PhD**

*Assistant Professional Researcher | University of California, San Francisco*

“Restoring Temporal Separability of Neural Signals: A Mechanistic Framework for Stroke Recovery”

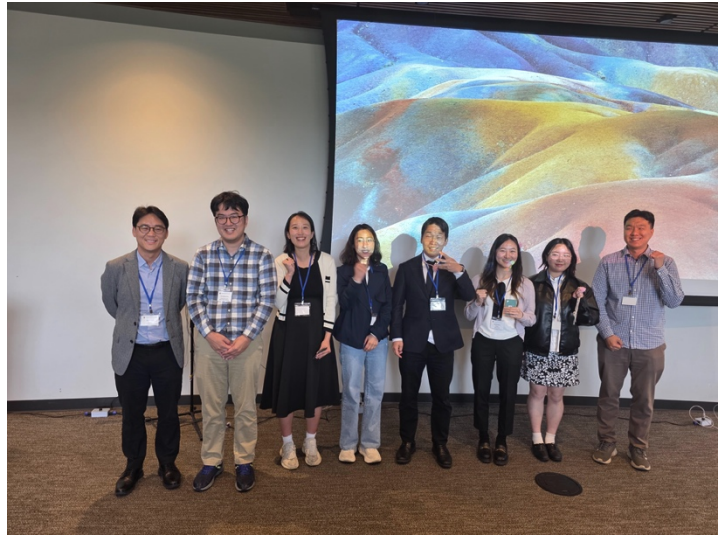
#### **Hansol Lim, PhD**

*Postdoctoral Research Fellow | Stanford University*

“Dissecting and Treatment of the Neural Circuits Underlying Volitional Opioid Seeking”

# Photos







# Symposium Venue

## [Stanford University, ChEM-H / Neuro research complex](#)

**Address: 290 Jane Stanford Way, Stanford, CA 94305**

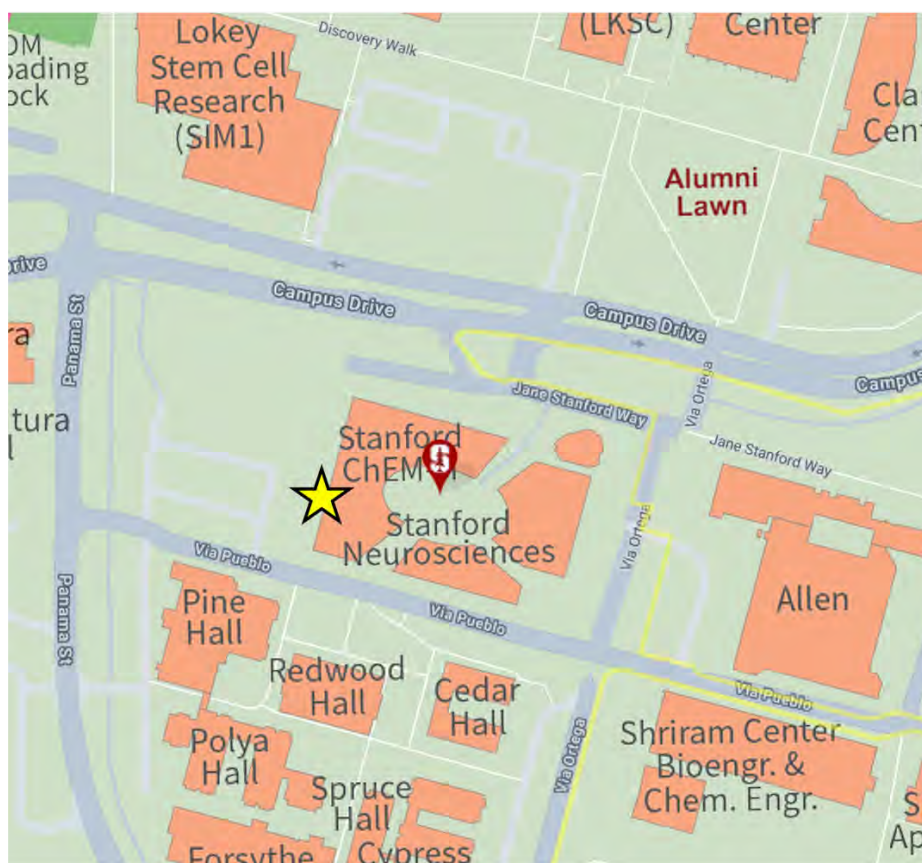
*Travel times may vary with Bay Area traffic; allow extra buffer during AM/PM rush hours.*

The approximate distances from the venue to nearby major airports are below:

- SFO (San Francisco International Airport): ~22 miles (~35-55 min drive)
- SJC (San Jose Mineta International Airport): ~18 miles (~25-40 min drive)
- OAK (Oakland International Airport): ~35 miles (~45-60 min drive)

Visitor parking close to venue may be available at these nearby locations:

- Roble Field Garage, 519 Via Ortega Stanford
- Ortega Garage, 285 Panama Street
- Stock Farm Garage, 360 Oak Road



# 7<sup>th</sup> AKN Annual Research Symposium - Day 1

Friday, April 17, 2026

**9:00 – 17:00**    **Arrival**

**17:00 – 20:00**    **Informal Social Dinner [Optional]**

- 3-4 groups led by senior PIs
- Attendees who RSVP'ed will be notified of the dinner location

# 7<sup>th</sup> AKN Annual Research Symposium - Day 2

Saturday, April 18, 2026

Stanford ChEM-H Building, Room E241

**8:00 – 8:30**      **Registration & Speaker check-in**

**8:30 – 8:45**      **Opening Remarks (Kevin Park, Jee-Yeong Hwang)**

**8:45 – 10:15**    **Short-Talks #1 Neurodegeneration & Cognitive Dysfunction**  
(Moderator: Chloe Chung)

*Unraveling Gene-Exposome Interactions in Dementia*  
Kyung-An Han, University of Texas at El Paso

*Neuroinflammation in Global Cerebral Ischemia*  
Jee-Yeon Hwang, Creighton University

*Liquid-Liquid Phase Separation in Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis and Frontotemporal Dementia*  
Nam Chul Kim, University of Minnesota

*ACSBG1 Depletion in Astrocytes Attenuates A-Synuclein Pathology in PD Mouse Model, via Lipid-Cytokine Crosstalk*  
YoungDoo Kim, Baylor College of Medicine

*Exploring the Neural and Molecular Landscape of Chemotherapy-Induced Cognitive Dysfunction*  
Jade Lee & Amelia Michelle Sojung Moon, Rutgers University

*Glia-Vascular Interaction in Malformed Blood Vessels of the Hemorrhagic Stroke Brain*  
Eunsu Park, UTHealth Houston

**10:15 – 10:45**    **Break**

**10:45 – 11:30**    **Short-Talks #2 Neural Development & Patterning**  
(Moderator: Jee-Yeon Hwang)

*Distinct Spatial Patterning and Transcriptomic Landscapes of Human Neural Organoids by Localized Delivery of Morphogens*  
Deok-Ho Kim, Johns Hopkins University

*Regionally Distinct Developmental Trajectories in the Human Cortex and Their Implications for Dyslexia*

Jaeyeon Kim, University of California, San Francisco

*Shaping Cortical Circuits: Neuromodulatory Control of Synapse Development in the Prefrontal Cortex*

Won Chan Oh, University of Colorado School of Medicine

**11:30 – 12:10 Keynote Session by the Tong H. Joh Research Innovation Awardee**  
(Introduction: Kevin Park)

Introduction to the Tong H. Joh Research Innovation Award by Kevin Park

*Pioneering Neural Architecture at the Nanoscale: Dendritic Nanotubular Network in the Brain*

Minhyeok Chang, Johns Hopkins University

Award committee:

Yushin Kim (Chair), University of Alabama at Birmingham

Hyunglok Chung, Houston Methodist

Joongkyu Park, Wayne State University

Tae-In Kam, Johns Hopkins University

Hachung Chung, Columbia University

Jee-Yeon Hwang, Creighton University

Sora Shin, Virginia Tech

**12:10 – 13:45 Lunch**

**13:45 – 14:30 Short-Talks #3 Circuits & Systems**  
(Moderator: Won Chan Oh)

*Thoughts to Actions: Behavioral Reports on Self-Generated Activity in a Hippocampal-Cortical Circuit*

Donghoon Shin, University of California, San Francisco

*Restoring Temporal Separability of Neural Signals: A Mechanistic Framework for Stroke Recovery*

Hoseok Choi, University of California, San Francisco

*Graph Neural Network Reveals the Brain Structural Connectivity Difference Between Parkinson's Disease and Essential Tremor*

Jeon Lee, UT Southwestern Medical Center

**14:30 – 14:45 Break**

**14:45 – 16:00 Short-Talks #4 Addiction, Reward & Metabolic Dysfunction**  
(Moderator: Seong Su Kang)

*How to Break Bad Habits?*

Doo-Sup Choi, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science

*Astrocyte-Neuron Interactions in Alcohol Use Disorder and Its Comorbidities*

Seungwoo Kang, UTHealth Houston

*Obesity Impairs Sweet Taste Sensitivity and Reward Processing in the Brain*

Hojoon Lee, Northwestern University

*Dissecting and Treatment of the Neural Circuits Underlying Volitional Opioid Seeking*

Hansol Lim, Stanford University

*Neurological Changes in Metabolic Diseases*

Juhyun Song, Chonnam National University Medical School

**16:00 – 16:30 Break**

**16:30 – 17:45 Short-Talks #5 Neuroengineering & Diagnostics**  
(Moderator: Eunsu Park)

*Integrated Neuroengineering Platforms for Enhanced CNS Repair: Nanobiomaterials, Stem Cell-Derived EVs, and CRISPR Diagnostics*

KiBum Lee, Rutgers University

*Building Tools for Targeted Genetic Access to the Nervous System*

Min Jee Jang, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

*Expansion Revealing: Uncovering Hidden Protein Nanostructures*

Jinyoung Kang, UF Scripps Institute

*Miniaturized Multiphoton Imaging for Studying Neural Activity in Freely Moving Animals*

Hui Li, Transcend Vivoscope

**17:45 – 18:00 Closing Remarks (Jin Hyung Lee)**

**18:00 – Dinner (on-site)**

# 7<sup>th</sup> AKN Annual Research Symposium - Day 3

Sunday, April 19, 2026

Stanford ChEM-H Building, Room E241

**9:00 – 9:45**      **Career Development Strategies and Professional Guidance**  
(Discussion Leaders: Jae K. Lee, Kyung-An Han, Daewoo Lee)

**9:45 – 10:45**      **Trends in Neuroscience Group Discussion**  
(Led by Seong Su Kang, Jee-Yeon Hwang, Seungwoo Kang, Kevin Park)

*Group A: Neurodegeneration & Injury, Discussion Leader: Seong Su Kang*  
– Fundamental mechanisms (dementia, AD, PD, ALS, and metabolic-induced neurodegeneration)

*Group B: Neurodegeneration & Injury, Discussion Leader: Jee-Yeon Hwang* -  
– Repair, plasticity, and therapeutic intervention (stroke recovery and neuro-regeneration)

*Group C: Circuit Function, Behaviors & Cognition, Discussion Leader: Seungwoo Kang*  
– Addiction, obesity, and cortical circuitry

*Group D: Cellular & Developmental Neuroscience, Discussion Leader: Kevin Park* -  
– Neural organoids, nanoscale anatomy, and developmental transcriptomics

**10:45 – 11:00**      **Break**

**11:00 – 12:00**      **Choose one session to attend:**

**Session I – Job Hunting Info for Trainees**  
(Moderators: Won Chan Oh, Chloe Chung)

**Session II – Funding Strategies for PI**  
(Moderators: Doo-Sup Choi, Jin Hyung Lee)

**12:00 – 13:00**      **Closing Remarks (Jae K. Lee), Lunch, and Departure**

**Acknowledgment of Our Generous Sponsors:**

**GJS** DENTAL GROUP

*Dr. Jean J. Kim*



**K-BIOX**  
*Anteambulo*



**TRANSVISTA**

*The organizing committee is also grateful to Peet's Coffee for their generous donation of coffee and snacks for our symposium.*