

Scott A. Small, M.D.

Bio Sketch

After graduating from NYU with a B.A. in experimental psychology, Dr. Small began the MD/PhD program at Columbia University in Eric Kandel's laboratory. Discovering that he enjoyed patient care more than he anticipated, he decided to focus exclusively on his medical training. After completing a medical internship at UCLA, a neurology residency and chief residency at Columbia, and a fellowship with Richard Mayeux, Dr. Small 'returned' to research. Informed by his prior experience studying the psychology of memory, the physiology of neurons, and the neurology of the disease he began a research program at Columbia dedicated to understanding Alzheimer's disease and the aging brain. Taking a decidedly top-down approach, he developed variants of functional MRI applicable to humans and to mice, which were designed to pinpoint where brain dysfunction begins and how it progresses over time. More recently, Dr. Small has relied on the spatio-temporal patterns of dysfunction to try and improve diagnostic precision, to uncover novel molecular defects underlying Alzheimer's disease and aging, and as a guide for developing therapeutic strategies.