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NEUROSCIENCE SPEAKER SERIES



Dr. Jacob Jones

**Department of Psychology
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Detecting Cognitive Impairment in Early Parkinson's Disease and the Potential Role of the Gut-Microbiome-Brain Axis

Wednesday, April 17
4:00 PM

Seaver Commons RM 102
Pomona College

Abstract: Parkinson's disease is a neurodegenerative disorder most commonly identified by motor symptoms such as tremor, stooped posture and bradykinesia (slowed movement). However, severe cognitive impairments, such as memory, attention or language difficulties, are present in up to 80% of patients within 15 years of disease onset. Currently, there is no cure for cognitive impairment or dementia in Parkinson's disease. Therefore, clinicians focus on early detection of cognitive impairment, which could lead to better planning, earlier interventions, and possibly improve prognosis. This talk focuses on various approaches for the early detection of cognitive impairment, with a particular focus on the gut-microbiome as an early mechanism.