Computational Neuroscience Initiative Basel presents:

# TATYANA SHARPEE

Salk Institute for Biological Sciences, San Diego, CA





Dr. Sharpee's lab develops computational models to explain when and how different types of neural coding schemes are most informative. These models can be used to both interpret biological data and generate non-biological systems that process information about high-dimensional stimulus space optimally. She collaborates with experimentalists extensively leading to mechanistic and interpretive models to explain, for example, why and when retinal ganglion cells with similar feature selectivity split into functionally distinct groups; how C. elegans employ a maximally informative search strategy during foraging using a neural circuit that decodes environmental variability to generate contextually relevant decisions; why a trade-off exists between the complexity of a shape and the possible positions in which it can be, and still be recognized by neurons in visual cortex of primates. Moreover, some variability in biology (e.g. ion channel composition and membrane distribution, anatomical and functional neural sub-types) is important for neural computation but some is likely not. The Sharpee lab works on developing a systematic theoretical framework that addresses which types of variability can be used to optimally endow a system with maximizing information capacity and how different types of variability affect processing and behavior. Work from the Sharpee lab draws from Information Theory and Bayesian statistics as well as theories from physics such as the Theory of "Broken Symmetries".

Affiliated Institute of the University of Basel / Affiliated with the Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research

Friedrich Miescher Institute

for Biomedical Research

# **VENUE / FRIEDRICH MIESCHER INSTITUTE** 66 MAULBEERSTRASSE, BASEL

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2017, ROOM 5.30





PART 1: OPTIMIZING NEURAL INFORMATION CAPACITY

PART 2: COMPLEX, NON-LINEAR FEATURE SELECTIVITY AND POSITION INVARIANCE IN VISUAL CORTEX





### WORKSHOP / 12:45 - 14:45

#### INTEGRATING COMPUTATIONAL AND EXPERIMENTAL WORK

Free workshop, lunch provided, please register at www.fmi.ch/CNIB

# JOURNAL CLUB / PLEASE ALSO JOIN US ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2017, 17:00, ROOM 5.39

An Introduction to Information Theory from your CNIB Organizers. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Pizza and drinks will be provided.



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