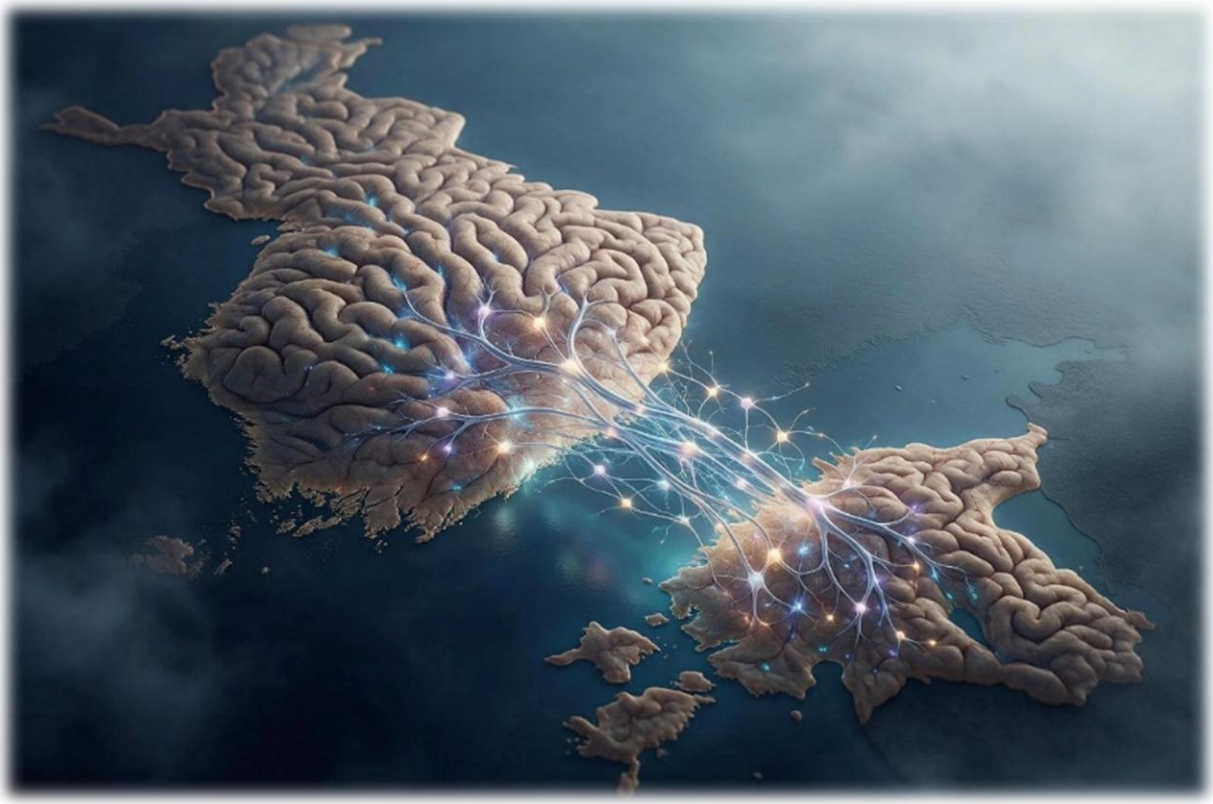

FinEst Neuro Meeting 2026

First Finnish-Estonian Neuroscience Conference

19-20 October 2026
Estonian Academy of Sciences
Kohtu 6, Tallinn, Estonia

Programme

Day 1

10:00–10:45 | Welcome Coffee

10:45–13:00 | Session I: Basic Neuroscience (Chairs: Mart Saarma and Tõnis Timmusk)

Opening Remarks

TRKB Allosteric Modulators Promote Neuronal Plasticity
Eero Castrén, Research Director at the Neuroscience Center, University of Helsinki

mRNA Modification m6A in Neurons
Indrek Teino, Research Fellow, University of Tartu

The Dark Side of Vision: Linking Visual Perception to Retinal Circuit Function
Petri Ala-Laurila, Professor of Neurobiology, University of Helsinki

Studying Protein Synthesis in Astrocytes
Indrek Koppel, Assistant Professor of Neurochemistry, Tallinn University of Technology

Cellular and Gene Regulatory Programs in Cerebellum Development: From Evolution to Disease
Mari Sepp, Associate Professor, University of Tartu

Old Marks, New Rules: Chromatin Regulation in Neurons
Kärt Mätlik, Assistant Professor, Tallinn University of Technology

13:00–14:00 | Lunch

14:00–15:40 | Session II: Neuropharmacology (Chairs: Petteri Piepponen and Eero Vasar)

Endoplasmic Reticulum–Mitochondria Contact Sites in Neurodegenerative Diseases
Allen Kaasik, Professor of Pharmacology and Molecular Toxicology, University of Tartu

Drug-Induced TrkB Signaling – Lessons Learned?
Tomi Rantamäki, Professor, University of Helsinki

Early Axonal Pathology in WFS1 Deficiency Suggests a Broader Role for WFS1 in Neurodegeneration
Mario Plaas, Professor in Translational Medicine, University of Tartu

The Retina as an Accessible Model for Neural Circuit Plasticity and Neuropharmacology
Henri Leinonen, Associate Professor, University of Eastern Finland

Experimental Change in Temperament: Conversion of the Low Exploratory Phenotype into a Highly Exploratory Phenotype by Overexpression of GDNF in the Rat Striatum
Jaanus Harro, Professor of Psychophysiology, University of Tartu

15:40–16:20 | Coffee Break

16:20–18:00 | Session III: Hot Topics (Chairs: Vadim Le Joncour and Indrek Teino)

AI & Neuroscience
Jaan Aru, Associate Professor of Computational Neuroscience and Artificial Intelligence, University of Tartu

When Cancer Meets Neuroscience
Vadim Le Joncour, Adjunct professor, University of Helsinki

Mathematical Modelling of Signals in Axons and Accompanying Effects
Jüri Engelbrecht, Academician, Department of Cybernetics, Tallinn University of Technology

RET Agonists in Neurodegenerative Diseases
Anti Sainast, CEO Kevad Bio SAS

Early Alzheimer's Disease-Related Pathology Impairs Circuit Functions in the Human Brain
Tarja Malm, Professor of Molecular Neurobiology at the University of Eastern Finland

19:00 | Dinner

Day 2

10:00–12:00 | Session IV: Genetics and Clinical Neuroscience (Chairs: Pille Taba and Pentti Tienari)

Genetics and Mechanisms of Alzheimer's Disease
Mikko Hiltunen, Professor of Tissue and Cell Biology, University of Eastern Finland

Stroke: Bridging Genetics and Clinical Neuroscience
Janika Kõrv, Professor in Clinical Neurology, University of Tartu

Genetics of ALS in Finland
Pentti Tienari, Professor, University of Helsinki

Genetics of Neurodevelopmental Disorders
Katrin Õunap, Professor of Clinical Genetics, University of Tartu

Genetics and Mechanisms of Schizophrenia
Olli Pietiläinen, Senior Researcher, University of Helsinki

The Role of Genetics in Parkinson's Disease
Pille Taba, Professor in Neurology, University of Tartu

12:00–13:00 | Lunch

13:00–14:40 | Session V: Human Brain and Disease (Chairs: Satu Palva and Jaan-Olle Andressoo)

Precision Neuroimaging of Depression
Satu Palva, Director, Neuroscience Center, University of Helsinki

Kainate Receptor-Mediated Signaling in Circuit Development and Neurodevelopmental Disorders
Sari Lauri, Research Director at the Neuroscience Center, University of Helsinki

The Perspective of Individualized Adaptive Multi-Locus Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation
Risto Ilmoniemi, Aalto Distinguished Professor, Aalto University

Fine-Tuning Gene Expression Levels: From Basic Science to Precision Medicine Development for Schizophrenia
Jaan-Olle Andressoo, Professor, University of Helsinki

Leveraging the Estonian Biobank for mental health research
Kelli Lehto, Associate Professor of Neuropsychiatric Genomics, University of Tartu

14:40–14:50 | Concluding Remarks

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