

## 2011 RSA PLENARY SPEAKERS

### Plenary Session I – Dr. Ting-Kai Li Lectureship – Sunday, June 26, 2011



**Ulrike Heberlein, Ph.D.** is a Professor of Anatomy and Neurology at the University of California at San Francisco, where she has worked since 1994. She received her BS and MS degree in biochemistry at the Universidad de Concepcion, Chile. Her PhD work and postdoctoral fellowship was carried out at the University of California at Berkeley. She has served on numerous national and international committees, editorial boards, and is a member of the National Academy of Sciences. Her pioneering work on developing the fruit fly *Drosophila* as a model for drug addiction is nationally and internationally recognized.

### Plenary Session II – Monday, June 27, 2011

RSA's 2011 Distinguished Researcher Awardee – to be determined

### Plenary Session III – Tuesday, June 28, 2011



**Jeff Lichtman, M.D.** is a Professor of Molecular and Cellular Biology, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts. He is interested in the mechanisms that underlie synaptic competition between neurons that innervate the same target cell. Such competitive interactions are responsible for sharpening the patterns of neural connections during development and may also be important in learning and memory formation. His laboratory studies synaptic competition by visualizing synaptic rearrangements directly in living animals using modern optical imaging techniques. They have concentrated on neuromuscular junctions in a very accessible neck muscle in mice where new transgenic animals and other labeling strategies allow individual nerve terminals and postsynaptic specializations to be monitored over hours or months. In addition, they have developed several new methods to improve our ability to resolve synaptic structure.

## Plenary Session IV – Wednesday, June 29, 2011



**Danielle Dick, Ph.D.** is an Associate Professor in the Departments of Psychiatry, Psychology, and Human and Molecular Genetics at the Virginia Institute for Psychiatric and Behavioral Genetics at Virginia Commonwealth University. She received her Ph.D. in Psychology in 2001 from Indiana University and subsequently completed a postdoctoral fellowship in statistical genetics. She was on the faculty at Washington University, St. Louis before moving to VCU in 2007. She is a PI or Co-Investigator on numerous grants and currently holds a K02 mid-career award from NIAAA. She has >100 peer-reviewed publications, and serves on several society and editorial boards. Her research interests involve integrating developmental psychology, behavioral genetics, and statistical/molecular genetics to study how genetic predispositions interact with environmental factors to influence patterns of substance use/dependence and related behaviors across development.