

## 2012 RSA PLENARY SPEAKERS

### Plenary Session I – Dr. Ting-Kai Li Lectureship – Sunday, June 24, 2012



**Wolfram Schultz, M.D.** graduated in medicine from the University of Heidelberg, Germany and did his postdoctoral training in Germany, the USA, and Sweden. Afterward he became a Professor of Neurophysiology at the University of Fribourg, Switzerland, moving in 2001 to the University of Cambridge as Professor of Neuroscience and Wellcome Principal Research Fellow until now.

During his career Dr. Schultz has won a number of awards, among them the 1984 Ellermann Price of the Swiss Societies for Neurology, Neurosurgery and Neuropathology, the 1997 Theodore-Ott-Price of the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences, the 2002 Golden Brain Award of the Minerva Foundation (USA), and the Ipsen Prize 2005 for Neuronal Plasticity. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society. He was a Receiving Editor for the European Journal of Neuroscience (1998-2003), serves on the Editorial Board of the Journal of Neurophysiology since 1997 and is an Associate Editor of the Proceedings of the Royal Society (B) since 2010.

Wolfram Schultz has made contributions to our understanding of the reward functions of dopamine neurons and of neurons in other parts of the brain's reward system. He has also done important work on the relationship between reward and risk information in the brain, especially in relation to learning theory and neuroeconomics.

### Plenary Session II – Monday, June 25, 2012

RSA's 2012 Distinguished Researcher Awardee – to be determined

## Plenary Session III – Tuesday, June 26, 2012



**Leda Cosmides, Ph.D.** is best known for her work in pioneering the new field of evolutionary psychology. Dr. Cosmides is professor of psychology and anthropology at the University of California, Santa Barbara, where she co-directs the Center for Evolutionary Psychology. She received her education at Harvard and Stanford (postdoctoral). Awards for her research include the NIH Director's Pioneer Award, the American Association for the Advancement of Science Prize for Behavioral Science Research, the American Psychological Association's Early Career Award; a National Science Foundation Presidential Young Investigator Award, and a J. S. Guggenheim Fellowship.

She has published research in cognitive psychology, evolutionary biology, cultural and biological anthropology, genetics, and economics, on topics such as how humans have "cognitive instincts" specialized for reasoning about cooperation, on the adaptive design of the emotions, on the evolution of sexual reproduction as a defense against parasites, on conflict in the genome, and on the cognitive foundations of cultural transmission.

She is currently working on a number of projects, including the exploration of the evolved psychology underlying coalitions and intergroup conflict, the evolutionary psychology of anger, the motivational basis of the aversion to incest and within family altruism, and the cross-cultural validation of human psychological universals.

**Plenary Session IV – Wednesday, June 27, 2012**



**Marisa M. Silveri, Ph.D.** is a behavioral neuroscientist who holds appointments as Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School and Associate Research Psychologist in the Brain Imaging Center at McLean Hospital. Dr. Silveri uses MRI to study teen brain development, with a focus on identifying neurobiological effects of drug and alcohol use, and identifying risk factors for later substance abuse and dependence. She receives funding from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism to study the consequences of underage drinking on adolescent brain development and the neurobiological consequences of binge alcohol consumption during emerging adulthood.

Dr. Silveri is the recipient of the Enoch Gordis Research Recognition Award from the Research Society on Alcoholism and has authored over 30 peer-reviewed scientific publications. She has spoken extensively on the topic of adolescent brain development and the effects of alcohol and drug use on brain function within her local communities, nationally on behalf of the non-profit organization, the Community of Concern, and nationally and internationally at professional scientific meetings. Recently, Dr. Silveri participated in a debate on the lowering of the Minimum Legal Drinking Age with the founder of the Amethyst Initiative, in which she proposed a neuroscientific perspective that argues against lowering the drinking age. Dr. Silveri received a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and Psychology from Union College in 1995, and a Masters degree in 1998 and a PhD in 2000 in Behavioral Neuroscience from the State University of New York at Binghamton.