



**SFB 1315**

Mechanisms and Disturbances in Memory Consolidation:  
From synapses to systems

SFB1315 News

**JAN 09, 2025**

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SFB 1315 EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND DIVERSITY

# BRENDA MILNER AWARD- WINNERS 2025 LISA SCHEUNEMANN AND SEIJA LEHNARDT

Images, courtesy Dr. Lisa Scheunemann  
(l) FU Berlin & Prof. Dr. Seija Lehnardt  
(r) Charité - Universitätsmedizin, Berlin



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## BRENDA MILNER AWARD 2025

Two outstanding scientists receive the Brenda Milner Award 2025.

**Dr. Lisa Scheunemann is awarded the Brenda Milner Award 2025 for outstanding scientific and academic achievements and impactful contributions. Dr. Scheunemann is an Emmy Noether Research Fellow and has served as an associated Principal Investigator in the CRC1315 since 2022—both of which highlight her exceptional leadership and dedication to advancing scientific knowledge, as well as mentoring early career scientists in the consortium.**

Since earning her PhD, Dr. Lisa Scheunemann has consistently demonstrated research excellence, evidenced by an impressive publication record in high-impact journals. Notably, she recently served as the first author on a groundbreaking paper published in *Nature*. This publication investigates how neural networks balance the trade-off between risk and reward, using male *Drosophila* as a model. The study, conducted in collaboration with CRC subproject A07 (AG Oswald), uncovers a dopamine-mediated filtering mechanism that modulates threat perception during courtship, and shows how dopamine signaling biases sensory perception to prioritize a proximal goal. This work not only provides profound

insights into the neural mechanisms governing behavior but also opens avenues for deeper understanding of how processes such as dopamine-mediated filtering influence memory gating and consolidation.

Continue reading: <https://www.sfb1315.de/equal-opportunities/brenda-milner-award-winners-2025/>

See *Nature*: <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-024-07890-3>

**Prof. Dr. Seija Lehnardt is awarded the Brenda Milner Award 2025 for enduring and remarkable contributions to science, combining scientific excellence with a range of interests and a deep commitment to fostering interdisciplinary discourse and integrating science with society.**

After completing experimental work in molecular biology, Dr. Seija Lehnardt pursued medical studies in Berlin, including a Scientific (Postdoc) Fellowship from 2001-2003 at Harvard Medical School in Boston, USA. In 2002, she defended her dissertation at the Charité in Berlin with *summa cum laude* at the age of 24, and after passing the third state examination in human medicine in 2004, she established her own successful research group alongside her clinical work and habilitated at the age of 31

as one of the youngest candidates in the field of neurology at Charité University Medicine. In 2013, she passed the board examination in neurology. While a member of NeuroCure from 2009 to 2017, Dr. Lehnardt took up one of the first junior professorships in Molecular Medicine at the Charité and has held a W2 professorship in Neurodegeneration since 2015. Seija Lehnardt's research follows a strongly translational approach, focuses on the role of immunological processes in neurodegenerative diseases and forms an interface between questions of immunology, developmental biology, and neurology. Notably, her current work highlights the role of microRNAs in neurodegenerative processes in the CNS. In 2012, Dr. Lehnardt's research group was the first to demonstrate that microRNAs can act not only as gene regulators but also as signaling molecules for membrane receptors.

Continue reading: <https://www.sfb1315.de/equal-opportunities/brenda-milner-award-winners-2025/>

See *Nature*: <https://doi.org/10.1038/nn.3113> and *JCI*: <https://doi.org/10.1172/jci.insight.131093>.

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