



## Seminar

# Genetic dissection of neuronal maintenance and demise

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Neurons live and function throughout the life of an organism. Therefore they face the distinct challenge of maintenance and protection against cellular insults during aging. To systematically elucidate this process, we embarked on an unbiased genetic screen in fruit flies, and identified previously unknown genes. Since the basic principles of biology are conserved across evolution, through a unique collaboration with clinical geneticists, we successfully utilized fruit fly screen data to discover human genes linked with neurological diseases. In my talk, I will discuss key findings of the fruit fly genetic screen and elaborate on the molecular underpinnings that relate to neuronal survival and demise.

#### Tuesday, Jan 12<sup>th</sup> 2016

4:00 PM (Tea/Coffee at 3:45 PM) Seminar Hall, TCIS