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**JOSEP DALMAU, M.D., PH.D.**  
ANTIBODY-MEDIATED DISEASES OF THE SYNAPSE

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FEBRUARY 23, 2017  
4:00 P.M.  
208 LIGHT HALL

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DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS



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Upcoming Discovery Lecture:

**RODERIC PETTIGREW, M.D., PH.D.**  
*Director of the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging  
and Bioengineering (NIBIB), National Institutes of Health*

*March 2, 2017  
208 Light Hall / 4:00 P.M.*

VANDERBILT  UNIVERSITY  
MEDICAL CENTER

## ANTIBODY-MEDIATED DISEASES OF THE SYNAPSE

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Research during the last 10 years has revealed a group of diseases of the brain mediated by the immune system that cause alterations of memory, behavior, and learning, as well as severe psychological problems such as psychotic behavior. In this lecture I will discuss the process of how we discovered these disorders and why some people get them. I will use one of these disorders, called anti-NMDAR encephalitis to emphasize why it is important to understand exactly how these diseases affect the brain and why this information results in the development of more effective treatments. I will talk about how learning about these diseases has provided insights into other brain disorders such as schizophrenia, and is helping us to understand how the brain normally functions and is able to form and retrieve memories.

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### **JOSEP DALMAU, M.D., PH.D.**

RESEARCH PROFESSOR ICREA-IDIBAPS

SERVICE OF NEUROLOGY, HOSPITAL CLINIC,  
UNIVERSITY OF BARCELONA

ADJUNCT PROFESSOR NEUROLOGY,  
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

MEMBER, NATIONAL ACADEMY OF MEDICINE

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Dr. Josep Dalmau received his M.D. and Ph.D. from the Autònoma University of Barcelona, Spain. He trained in neuro-oncology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York and afterward was appointed to the faculty. In 2002 he joined the University of Pennsylvania as Professor of Neurology. He is currently Research Professor at the Catalan Institute for Research and Advanced Studies and the Institute for Biomedical Investigations at Hospital Clinic, University of Barcelona, Spain; as well as Adjunct Professor of Neurology at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. Dr. Dalmau's research is focused on autoimmune disorders of the brain. In his recent work, Dr. Dalmau and his group have discovered a new category of diseases, named autoimmune encephalitis, in which patients develop immune proteins, called antibodies that attack the brain. The discovery of these disorders has resulted in blood tests to detect the disease allowing patients to receive the appropriate treatment.

Dr. Dalmau is the recipient of numerous awards including the distinguished George W. Jacoby award from the American Neurological Association and the George Cotzias award from the American Academy of Neurology. He is a member of the National Academy of Medicine and many other scientific societies and serves as Editor-in-Chief of *Neurology: Neuroimmunology and Neuroinflammation*.

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