

Ferah YILDIRIM

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Curriculum vitae

- Nov. 2014 Assistant Professor for Neuropsychiatry, Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Cluster of Excellence NeuroCure
- 2010 - 2014 Postdoctoral associate, Department of Biological Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Project title: Epigenetic and transcriptional dysregulation in prodromal Huntington's disease. Advisor: Prof. Ernest Fraenkel
- 2010 PhD in Medical Neurosciences, Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin
Thesis title: Involvement of histone acetylation in neuroprotection against brain ischemic injury. Supervisor: Prof. Andreas Meisel
Grade: *Summa cum laude*
- 2004 MSc in Medical Neurosciences, Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin
Thesis title: Mechanisms of neuroprotection by Trichostatin A.
Supervisor: Prof. Matthias Endres
- 2000 BSc in Medical Biology, Cerrahpasa Medical School, Istanbul University

Research fields

- Epigenetic and transcriptional dysfunction in neurodegenerative and neuropsychiatric conditions.
- Preclinical testing of therapeutic candidates in mouse models, in particular testing of chromatin-modifying strategies.
- Development and implementation of cutting edge research technologies, i.e. (epi)genome editing, single cell sequencing

Professional activities in the scientific community, honors, awards

- 2017 - Member, Einstein Center for Neurosciences Berlin
- 2017 - Member, Committee for Promotion of Young Researchers, Charité Berlin
- 2017 - Member, German Neuroscience Society
- 2016 - Member of Admissions and Examination Commission for Medical Neurosciences Graduate Program, Charité Berlin
- Nov. 2014 - Principal Investigator, Department of Neuropsychiatry, NeuroCure Cluster of Excellence, Charité Berlin
- 2013-2014 Postdoctoral Fellowship, Hereditary Disease Foundation
- 2010 - Referee for various scientific journals including Epigenomics, J.Neurosci., PLOS One, JCBFM
- 2009 - Member, Society for Neuroscience
- 2004 -2005 Doctoral Fellowship, German Research Foundation (GRK-238)
- 2002 -2004 Scholarship for MSc studies, Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin
- 1997 -2000 Scholarship for undergraduate studies, CYDD Foundation, Turkey
- 1996 -2000 Scholarship for undergraduate studies, Turkish Prime Ministry
- 1996 -1997 Stipend for undergraduate studies, Istanbul Government Stipend

Selected Publications

Yildirim F, Ng CW, Kappes V, Ehrenberger T, Rigby SK, Stivanello V, Gipson TA, Soltis AR, Vanhoutte P, Caboche J, Housman DE, Fraenkel E. Early epigenomic and transcriptional changes reveal Elk-1 transcription factor as a therapeutic target in Huntington's disease. **Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A**. 2019 Dec 3;116(49):24840-24851.

Apazoglou K, Farley S, Gorgievski V, Belzeaux R, Lopez JP, Grenier J, Ibrahim EC, El Khoury MA, Tse YC, Mongredien R, Barbé A, de Macedo CEA, Jaworski W, Bochereau A, Orrico A, Isingrini E, Guinaudie C, Mikasova L, Louis F, Gautron S, Groc L, Massaad C, **Yildirim F**, Vialou V, Dumas S, Marti F, Mechawar N, Morice E, Wong TP, Caboche J, Turecki G, Giros B, Tzavara ET. Antidepressive effects of targeting ELK-1 signal transduction. **Nat Med**. 2018 May;24(5):591-597.

HD iPSC Consortium. Developmental alterations in Huntington's disease neural cells and pharmacological rescue in cells and mice. **Nat Neurosci** 2017;20:648-660.

Yildirim F, Ji S, Kronenberg G, Barco A, Olivares R, Benito E, Dirnagl U, Gertz K, Endres M, Harms C, Meisel A. Histone acetylation and CREB binding protein are required for neuronal resistance against ischemic injury. **PLoS One** 2014;9:e95465

Vashishtha M*, Ng CW*, **Yildirim F***, Gipson TA, Kratter IH, Bodai L, Song W, Lau A, Labadorf A, Vogel-Ciernia A, Troncosco J, Ross CA, Bates GP, Krainc D, Sadri-Vakili G, Finkbeiner S, Marsh JL, Housman DE, Fraenkel E, Thompson LM. Targeting H3K4 trimethylation in Huntington disease. **Proc Natl Acad Sci USA** 2013;110:E3027-3036 |*equal contribution

Ng CW, **Yildirim F**, Yap YS, Dalin S, Matthews BJ, Velez PJ, Labadorf A, Housman DE, Fraenkel E. Extensive changes in DNA methylation are associated with expression of mutant huntingtin. **Proc Natl Acad Sci USA** 2013;110:2354-2359

Yildirim F, Gertz K, Kronenberg G, Harms C, Fink KB, Meisel A, Endres M. Inhibition of histone deacetylation protects wildtype but not gelsolin-deficient mice from ischemic brain injury. **Exp Neurol** 2008;210:531-542