

Trends in the Neurobiology of Aging
(ME:440.715)

This course will review recent research progress in the fields of aging and neurodegenerative disorders with a focus on cellular, molecular and systems neuroscience. As the average lifespan of humans increases, age-related dysfunction of the nervous system, and neurodegenerative disorders such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases, are becoming major concerns in our society. Emerging findings of genetic and environmental factors that either promote successful brain aging or predispose to age-related neurological disorders, and elucidation of their underlying molecular and cellular mechanisms, will be considered. Examples of efforts to develop novel approaches for preventing and treating neurodegenerative disorders will be presented. The course will consist of several introductory lectures, and subsequent class meetings in which hot topics in the field are discussed.