



THE MIND SCIENCE FOUNDATION
PRESENTS THE 8TH ANNUAL

BRAINSTORM

COMPETITION

Join us as neuroscientists from around the globe pitch innovative research projects focused on understanding consciousness and improving the human condition.

October



Wednesday

15

2025

6:00PM TO 9:00PM | MCNAY ART MUSEUM

AN EVENING OF ART & SCIENCE

6:00 Champagne Welcome for MSF's new CEO Marissa Rodriguez

6:30 Panel Discussion Featuring our Award-Winning Neuroscientists

7:15 Creative Food & Drink, and Private Access to the McNay's
Enchanting Nature Exhibit by Sandy Skoglund

MSF Emeritus Trustee Hosts

Catherine Atherton, Sandy McNab,

Pat Smothers, and Dr. Alice Viroslav, M.D., FACR

To support BrainStorm's continued growth, tickets are \$75 per guest and include cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, private access to exhibit, and a very special gift (see back panel).

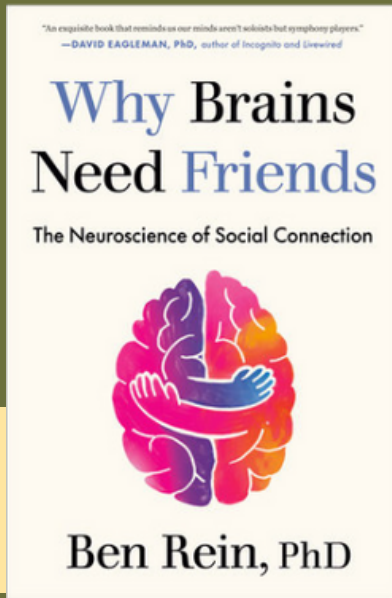
Kindly RSVP by October 7. Due to limited capacity, attendance must be confirmed.

Contact: 210.890.8698 | rdeleon@mindsience.org

Business Casual | Valet Parking



Panel Host: Ben Rein, PhD, Chief Science Officer, Mind Science Foundation



Dr. Ben Rein is a Stanford-trained neuroscientist and 2021 BrainStorm Neuroscience Pitch Competition winner. His research on social behavior has been recognized by the NIH, Society for Neuroscience, and Sigma Xi.

In addition to his work with the Mind Science Foundation, he lectures at Stanford and is a Clinical Assistant Professor at SUNY Buffalo. As a science communicator, he has 1M+ followers and 70M video views.

His debut book, Why Brains Need Friends: The Neuroscience of Social Connection, will be published by Penguin Random House in October 2025. All guests will receive a free hardcover copy, signed upon request.

MEET THE PANEL

2025 Winners



Agustina Aragon-Daud, PhD student at the University of Liège
Project Title: Mind Blanking: Looking at the Brain When Thoughts Disappear



Eti Ben-Simon, Postdoctoral Fellow at UC Berkeley
Project Title: Too Tired to Think Straight: The Role of Sleep Loss in Spreading Misinformation



Iris Garcia-Pak, MD-PhD student at UC San Diego
Project Title: BBBursting with Excitement: Potential Pathways in Blood-Brain-Barrier-Controlled Brain Excitability and Alzheimer's Disease

Empowering Discovery: Your Vote Decides the \$10,000 Audience Choice Award.

