

Professor Fifer is an established investigator in the fields of developmental neuroscience and psychobiology, the Chief of the Division of Developmental Neuroscience at the New York State Psychiatric Institute and the Associate Director of the Sackler Institute of Developmental Psychobiology. He has active collaborations within the Departments of Psychiatry, Obstetrics, Pediatrics, Behavioral Medicine and Public Health focused on investigations of the role of early experience in shaping fetal/infant physiology and behavior, investigating the complex interplay of sleep physiology, patterns of brain activity, attention, and autonomic control and how they relate to risk for neurodevelopmental disorders. A major emphasis of his work is to determine how early life experiences, often associated with pre or perinatal exposures, shape the developing brain and later neurodevelopmental outcome. His NIH MERIT Award, the Sackler Institute and other NIH funding, support his research on the effects of maternally mediated exposures on the fetus autonomic development, early learning and memory, sensory development, brain regulation during sleep and assessment of risk for neurological disorders. He is currently involved in four large cohort studies with local, national and international colleagues investigating early markers and trajectories of neurodevelopmental disorders.