



DREXEL UNIVERSITY

College of
Medicine

Institute for Women's Health and Leadership

Marina Picciotto, PhD: 2020 Marion Spencer Fay Award Honoree

Marina Picciotto, PhD, is the Charles B.G. Murphy Professor in Psychiatry and deputy chair for basic science at Yale University. She is also a professor in the Departments of Neuroscience and Pharmacology, and in the Child Study Center. Her research aims to define molecular mechanisms underlying behaviors related to psychiatric illness, with a particular focus on the function of nicotinic acetylcholine receptors in the brain.



Her laboratory uses molecular genetic strategies coupled with pharmacology to identify the role of individual receptors and signaling molecules in behaviors related to depression and anxiety, addiction, cognitive function, sensory processing and food intake.

Dr. Picciotto received her BS from Stanford University and her PhD from The Rockefeller University, where she worked with Dr. Paul Greengard. She conducted postdoctoral work with Professor Jean-Pierre Changeux at the Pasteur Institute before joining the faculty at Yale University. Dr. Picciotto is editor in chief of the *Journal of Neuroscience*, is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and a member of the National Academy of Medicine of the National Academies of Sciences.

She is being honored with the 2020 Marion Spencer Fay Award for her groundbreaking research on the role of nicotine in addiction, memory and behavior, and the biology of drug addiction. In addition, she is a leader in educational innovation and demonstrates a sustained dedication to mentorship and innovation in training.