



“Understanding and Correcting Energy Failure in Neurodegeneration”



Ken Nakamura, MD, PhD

Associate Professor of Neurology
University of California, San Francisco

Monday, June 3rd, 2019, 4:00 - 5:00 pm
Li Ka Shing Center, Room 320

Ken Nakamura is an Associate Professor of Neurology at UCSF and an Investigator at the Gladstone Institute. He received his MD and PhD degrees from the University of Chicago, Pritzker School of Medicine. His thesis work in the laboratory of Un Kang focused on the role of oxidative stress and mitochondrial dysfunction in the pathogenesis of Parkinson's disease. He then completed an internship in internal medicine and neurology residency at UCSF, and a subsequent clinical fellowship in movement disorders at UCSF, where he continues to treat patients. Dr. Nakamura also completed a postdoctoral fellowship with Robert Edwards at UCSF, where he studied interactions between the Parkinson disease protein α -synuclein and mitochondria. His laboratory at Gladstone has two broad, intertwined objectives. The first is to gain insight into the normal physiology of mitochondria and glucose metabolism in the brain, with a particular focus on bioenergetics, and mitochondrial dynamics and quality control in neurons. The second is to understand how disrupting mitochondrial functions and metabolism contributes to neurodegenerative diseases, especially Parkinson's disease (PD), Alzheimer's disease (AD), and mitochondrial disorders, and to use these insights to develop new approaches to target energy metabolism therapeutically.

