

# INTEGRATIVE MEDICINE GRAND ROUNDS

**Tuesday, March 1st @ 8am** (US ET)

[Register Here for the Zoom Webinar](#)



## Neurospirituality: Science, Circuit, Soul



It is commonly assumed that medicine and spirituality are non-overlapping domains, but this segregation is a modern construction.

In his presentation, using advanced brain circuit mapping techniques developed at Brigham and Women's Hospital, Dr. Michael Ferguson will demonstrate how neuroscience and spirituality are successfully being applied to study one another. He will further identify ways that "neurospirituality" may translate into clinical opportunities for spiritual therapeutics.

### Michael Ferguson, PhD

Instructor in Neurology | Harvard Medical School

Lecturer on Neurospirituality | Harvard Divinity School

Neurospirituality Research Director | Center for Brain Circuit Therapeutics,  
Brigham and Women's Hospital



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# Speaker Biography



**Dr. Michael Ferguson** is an Instructor in Neurology at Harvard Medical School, a Lecturer on Neurospirituality at Harvard Divinity School, and a course co-instructor on the Cognitive Neuroscience of Meditation at Harvard College. He earned his PhD in bioengineering at the University of Utah where he studied religious experience using functional magnetic resonance imaging. Dr. Ferguson completed postdoctoral fellowships in Cognitive Neuroscience at Cornell University and in Cognitive Neurology at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center before joining the Neurology faculty at Brigham and Women's Hospital. Of historical note, he and his husband were the first same-sex couple legally married in the state of Utah.

Additionally, Dr. Ferguson was the named plaintiff in *Ferguson v. JONAH* which was the first and (to date) the only lawsuit in the United States to shut down a gay conversion therapy provider. Dr. Ferguson is thrilled to be at Brigham and Women's Hospital and is especially grateful for the tremendous encouragement he has received at the Brigham for integrating diverse methods from brain imaging and spirituality studies.

## Resources

TEDx Talk: *This Is Your Brain On God*

<https://youtu.be/ocugguH1Oiw>

*Introduction to Neurospirituality*, YouTube video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y9ojL2N3xRA>

Personal academic website

<https://neuromichael.com/>

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## Upcoming | First Tuesday's 8:00–9:00am

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**April 5: Theme: *Psychedelic Research and Treatment***

**Presenter:** Franklin King IV, MD, Director of Training and Education, Mass General Center for the Neuroscience of Psychedelics

**May 3: "An Anatomical Basis for Electroacupuncture to Drive Anti-Inflammatory Neural Pathways"**

**Presenter:** QiFu Ma, PhD, Professor of Neurobiology, Cancer Biology, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

**June 7:** Clinical Case Study at the Osher Clinical Center for Integrative Health (TBC)

**Presenters:** Donald Levy, MD and Matthew Kowalski, DC, Osher Clinical Center, BWH