OHBM 2026 *KEYNOTE SPEAKER*

Angela Laird, Ph.D.

Professor

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Dr. Angela Laird is a Distinguished University Professor of Physics and Psychology at Florida International University. Her research expertise is in fMRI data analysis strategies for investigating functional connectivity and co-activation, with particular emphasis on meta-analysis methods, cognitive ontologies, and neuroinformatics tools for managing and synthesizing large datasets. Dr. Laird's early work focused on developing coordinate-based meta-analysis methods to identify convergent results across the neuroimaging literature. Working on the BrainMap Project, she adapted the activation likelihood estimation (ALE) method and spearheaded its integration in a suite of user-friendly, community-available software tools. In 2018, Dr. Laird's lab began collaborating with the Neurosynth/NeuroVault team to lead the development of the NiMARE (Neuroimaging Meta-Analysis Research Environment) Python toolbox. Her current efforts with Neurosynth involve the development of image-based meta-analysis methods, implementation of the new NeurosynthCompose platform, and leveraging large language models (LLMs) to improve meta-analytic functional decoding (i.e., estimating behavioral profiles associated with brain regions/networks).

Beyond this neuroinformatics work, Dr. Laird has served as a site PI for the Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development (ABCD) Study at the Florida International University site since the inception of that study in 2016. Building on her contributions to the ABCD Study, she is also the PI of the ABCD-ReproNim Course an NIH-funded research educational program to teach responsible and reproducible analyses of ABCD study data.

Dr. Laird’s leadership extends to national policy and advocacy. She is currently a member of the National Advisory Council on Drug Abuse (NACDA) and the NIDA representative on the BRAIN Initiative Multi-Council Working Group (MCWG). Dr. Laird was elected as a Fellow of the American Institute of Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE) in 2024 and a member of the Academy of Science, Engineering, and Medicine of Florida in 2022. Her research has been continuously funded since 2009 by multiple awards from the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation.