



Media Release

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Darnall speaker series features world-renowned researcher

Research shows brain can alter itself after injury

FORT HOOD, Texas – Michael Merzenich, Ph.D., professor emeritus, University of California at San Francisco, is slated to speak at Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center at 4 p.m. on July 29, in the medical center's auditorium above the Emergency Room.



The public is invited to attend.

For more than three decades, Merzenich has been a leading pioneer in brain plasticity research – the process that underlies memory, learning, and recovery after brain injury. His work has shown the brain retains its ability to alter itself well into adulthood, suggesting that brain with injuries or disease might be able to recover functions, even later in life. He has also explored the way the senses are mapped in regions of the brain and the way sensations teach the brain to recognize new patterns.

Merzenich's life work has been to understand how the brain's powerful ability to change can be put into practical use to improve learning, overcome brain disabilities, and therapeutically applied to preserve and restore function after an injury. In 1996, Merzenich was the founding CEO of Scientific Learning Corporation that markets and distributes software that applies principles of brain plasticity to assist children with language learning and reading.

Merzenich has published more than 200 articles, including many in leading peer-reviewed journals (such as Science and Nature), received numerous awards and prizes (including the Ipsen Prize, Zülch Prize, Thomas Alva Edison Patent Award and Purkinje Medal), and been granted more than 50 patents for his work.

He earned his Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Portland and his doctorate at Johns Hopkins. He retired from his long career as Francis A. Sooy Professor and Co-Director of the Keck Center for Integrative Neuroscience at the University of California at San Francisco in 2007. He was elected a Member of the National Academy of Sciences, the most prestigious organization of scientists in the United State. Merzenich is co-founder and chief scientific officer of Posit Science.