

Background Information About the Guest Speakers:

Ali Rıza Kural

Prof. Ali Rıza Kural graduated from Istanbul University Faculty of Medicine and completed his specialization in Urology at Istanbul University Cerrahpaşa Faculty of Medicine. In 1986, he initiated one of the first endoscopic kidney stone surgery programs in Türkiye at Cerrahpaşa Faculty of Medicine. In 2005, he established the first Robotic Urology program in Türkiye, Eastern Europe, and the Middle East and has successfully performed over 3,000 robotic surgeries to date. He has trained 13 console surgeons in Greece, Bulgaria, Qatar, and Türkiye. Prof. Kural served as Honorary President in the field of Urology at the 22nd Congress of the Society of Laparoendoscopic Surgeons (SLS) held in Reston, Virginia in 2013. In 2018, he was awarded honorary membership by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons – Glasgow, becoming the first surgeon from Türkiye to receive this title. Most recently, he received the “Honorary Membership Award” at the AUA (American Urological Association) congress held in Chicago from April 28 to May 1, 2023, marking the first time a urologist from Türkiye received this honor.

Canan Dağdeviren

Canan Dağdeviren is an Associate Professor in Media Arts and Sciences at MIT and an LG Career Development Professor. She completed her postdoctoral research at MIT's David H. Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research as a Junior Fellow of the Harvard Society of Fellows. Her work has been featured in numerous media outlets, including TIME, The Washington Post, Smithsonian Magazine, Popular Mechanics, CBS News, BBC News, and Physics World. In 2015, MIT Technology Review named her among the "35 Innovators Under 35," and Forbes listed her among the "30 Under 30 in Science." Last year, Dr. Dağdeviren and her team at MIT Media Lab invented an electronic bra, a groundbreaking device for the early diagnosis of breast cancer.

Andrew Budson

Andrew Budson is a Professor of Neurology at Boston University, Chief of Cognitive Behavioral Neurology at the Boston Veterans Affairs Health System and Associate Director of the Boston University Alzheimer's Disease Center. He has published over 150 papers and 9 books, including his latest, "Why We Forget and How to Remember Better: The Science Behind Memory." In 2022, he and his colleagues Kenneth Richman and Elizabeth Kensinger published a new theory on consciousness in the journal Cognitive and Behavioral Neurology, proposing that consciousness evolved as part of episodic memory to flexibly recombine information for future planning.

Nick Lane

Nick Lane is a Professor of Evolutionary Biochemistry at University College London (UCL), a founding member of the UCL Consortium for Mitochondrial Research, and Co-Director of the UCL Centre for Life's Origins and Evolution. His research examines how energy flow has shaped the evolution of life from its origins to the emergence of complex traits like sex, death, and consciousness. Prof. Lane has published over 100 papers in high-ranking journals such as Nature, Science, Cell, and PNAS, and has authored five books on energy and evolution. His latest book, "Transformer: The Deep Chemistry of Life and Death," was described by Science as "a thrilling tour... Masterful." He has received numerous awards, including the 2015 Biochemical Society Award and the 2016 Royal Society Faraday Award. Bill Gates has called him "one of my favorite science writers."

Anil Seth

Anil Seth is a neuroscientist, author, and public speaker who has led pioneering research on consciousness for over twenty-five years. He is a Professor of Cognitive and Computational Neuroscience at the University of Sussex and Director of the Centre for Consciousness Science. He is also Co-Director of the Program on Brain, Mind, and Consciousness at the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research. An Advanced Investigator of the European Research Council and Editor-in-Chief of the journal Neuroscience of Consciousness, Seth has published over 200 research papers and has been recognized as being in the top 0.1% of researchers worldwide by Web of Science for several years. In 2023, he received the Royal Society Michael Faraday Award for his work engaging the public. His two TED talks have been viewed over 14 million times, and he has written for publications such as Aeon, The Guardian, Granta, New Scientist, and Scientific American. His book "Being You: A New Science of Consciousness" was an immediate Sunday Times Bestseller and was selected as Book of the Year by The Economist, The New Statesman, Bloomberg Business, The Guardian, The Financial Times, and others.

Hugues Duffau

Hugues Duffau is a Professor and Chair of the Department of Neurosurgery at Montpellier University Medical Center. He specializes in awake cognitive neurosurgery for slow-growing brain tumors such as low-grade gliomas. His approach is based on brain connectomics and neuroplasticity, challenging traditional localization views. He has received the Doctor Honoris Causa title seven times and is the youngest receiver of the prestigious Herbert Olivecrona Award from the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, considered the Nobel Prize for neurosurgery. He has authored five textbooks and published over 520 papers in international journals spanning neurosurgery, neuro-oncology, and basic neuroscience, with an H-index of 120.

Yasemin Alanay & Ahmet Alanay

Yasemin Alanay graduated from Hacettepe University Faculty of Medicine in 1996 and completed her pediatrics residency in 2001 at the same university. She then worked as a Pediatric Genetic Specialist at Hacettepe University İhsan Doğramacı Children's Hospital. In 2005, she participated in a training program in Skeletal Dysplasia at UCLA-Cedars Sinai Medical Center in the USA. Returning to Türkiye in 2006, she established a Skeletal Dysplasia Database. She became an Associate Professor in 2008 and completed her Ph.D. in Genetics in 2009. In 2011, she joined the Faculty of Medicine at Acıbadem University, where she became a Professor in 2013 and served as Dean from 2015 to 2021. Since 2023, she has been the Director of the ACURARE Center for Rare Diseases and Orphan Drugs at Acıbadem University. She has an extensive publication record and has been involved in various academic and professional activities, including serving as President of the International Skeletal Dysplasia Society. She is currently a faculty member at Acıbadem University and a pediatric genetic specialist at Acıbadem Maslak Hospital.

Ahmet Alanay graduated from Ankara University Faculty of Medicine in 1988 and completed his residency in Orthopedics and Traumatology at Hacettepe University from 1991 to 1996. He began his career as an assistant in the same department, became an Associate Professor in 2002, and a Professor in 2007. He also completed a fellowship program in spinal deformities at the University of Kansas Medical Center and was a visiting faculty member at UCLA School of Medicine from 2005 to 2006. In 2013, he founded the Comprehensive Spine Center at Acıbadem Maslak Hospital, where he has been the Medical Director since. He is also a faculty member at Acıbadem University School of Medicine. He examines over 2,500 patients and performs approximately 200 surgeries annually with his team and has authored over 20 peer-reviewed publications in international journals. He presents at numerous national and international scientific meetings and is an active member of medical associations such as the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, Scoliosis Research Society, North American Spine Society, and European Spine Society. He served on the Board of Directors of the Scoliosis Research Society from 2014 to 2016 and is currently on the Education Committee and the Safety & Value Committee. He was also a board member of the European Spine Society from 2006 to 2012. A pioneer in vertebral body tethering surgery in Europe, he has received many national and international awards for his scientific work and contributes to surgeon education worldwide through courses he organizes. Alanay is a founding member of the European Spine Study Group and the 25th president of Eurospine (the European Spine Society).

Mümin Sekman

Mümin Sekman was born in Istanbul and graduated from Ankara University Faculty of Law, but he never pursued a career in law. He chose to study successful people, systematize their methods, and teach those who wish to succeed, making this his profession and mission. He is the first person in Türkiye to define and use the title "personal development specialist." Over 25 years, he has written 24 books, which have been translated into five languages and reached 4 million readers. His book "Her Şey Seninle Başlar" has reached 1,325,000 copies, setting a

record in its genre in Türkiye. One in every hundred people has read his book. He has given success seminars to over 100,000 people and trained numerous licensed success trainers. His motto is, "Be successful, stay successful, make others successful!" Sekman, who believes that "success can be learned," considers increasing the number of successful people per square meter in the world as his life's purpose.