

Dr. James Deshler received his Ph.D. from UCLA in Molecular Genetics and did his postdoctoral work at Harvard Medical School in Cell Biology. He was a faculty member in the Biology Department at Boston University for ten years where his research employed novel computational methods to study the genetic basis of cell polarity in vertebrate cells, such as neurons. From 2009-2013 he was the Director of the Developmental Neurobiology Program at the National Science Foundation and in 2013 moved to the position of Deputy Director for the Division of Biological Infrastructure, which supports training programs and the development of research tools for the Biological Sciences. Since April of 2013, Dr. Deshler has played a leadership role in shaping NSF's activities under President Obama's BRAIN Initiative, which most recently led to an international conference at Rockefeller University and the United Nations for coordinating brain projects across the globe in September of this year, as well as the release of the 'Next Generation Networks for Neuroscience' (NeuroNex) Solicitation (NSF 16-569).