

Jane A. Foster, PhD

Jane A. Foster, PhD, is a Professor of Psychiatry at the Center of Depression Research and Clinical Care (CDRC) in the Department of Psychiatry, and O'Donnell Brain Institute, at UT Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, TX.

As a neuroscientist and a leading expert on the microbiome, Dr. Foster's research aims to connect the dots between a person's 30 trillion gut microbes and their propensity for mental illness. Her research program in biomarker discovery combines basic science research with clinical collaboration in psychiatry, psychology, gastroenterology, microbiology, immunology, and bioinformatics. Dr. Foster's research takes a 'bench to bedside' and back again approach to studying microbiota-brain and immune-brain systems. This collaborative approach and the ability to independently conceptualize cutting-edge neurobiological research in both normal states and psychiatric disorders has resulted in the development of an internationally recognized research program. A focus of ongoing research is the development of analytical methods to integrate microbiome data with neuroimaging, behavioural, and clinical data sets in order to better understand the individual nature of microbiome-host interactions in health and disease. These analytical approaches will be utilized to advance the discovery of robust clinically tractable biomarkers of health status, treatment response and other clinical features.