

Anissa Abi-Dargham, MD

Anissa Abi-Dargham, MD, is Chair of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health, Lourie Endowed Chair in Psychiatry, SUNY Distinguished Professor, and Associate Dean for Clinical and Translational Science at Stony Brook University's Renaissance School of Medicine.

Dr Abi-Dargham was born in Beirut, Lebanon, where she obtained her medical degree. She did residency training in Psychiatry at the University of TN in Memphis followed by two research fellowships, at NIMH then Yale University.

Dr. Abi-Dargham is an expert in the areas of molecular imaging, pharmacology, schizophrenia and addiction. She is an internationally recognized leader in the use of molecular imaging of the human brain to study schizophrenia and its comorbidity with addiction. Her research has resulted in seminal findings describing the complex alterations of dopamine transmission in schizophrenia and the relationship to clinical symptoms, cognition and response to treatment. She has recently focused on modulators of dopamine such as the cholinergic system and the kappa opioid system, using PET to uncover specific relationships between targets and symptom domains. In recognition for her work, she received the Leiber Prize for outstanding research in schizophrenia from the Brain and behavior Research Foundation, she was elected to the National Academy of Medicine in 2016 and served as President of the American College for Neuropsychopharmacology (ACNP) in 2017. She is a Special Lecturer at Columbia University in New York, where she spent the last twenty-two years of her career prior to her move to Stony Brook University in 2016. She directs the Multi Modal Translational Imaging Lab at Stony Brook and oversees a multidisciplinary team with expertise in multiple neuroimaging modalities used in tandem to address important questions about the brain mechanisms of schizophrenia. She is also currently chairing the APA DSM subcommittee on candidate biomarkers and biological factors.