

DAVID G. AMARAL, PHD



Dr. Amaral joined the University of California, Davis in 1995 as a Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and the Center for Neuroscience and as a staff scientist at the UC Davis California Regional Primate Research Center. A major effort in his research is the analysis of primate social behavior and studies analyzing the effects of lesions of the amygdala on social behavior in adult and developing macaque monkeys.

Dr. Amaral is the Beneto Foundation Chair and Research Director of the MIND (Medical Investigations of Neurodevelopmental Disorders) Institute. He oversees a rapidly expanding research program that has funded nearly \$6 million of projects during its first three years in operation. His research now also includes postmortem studies of the autistic brain and magnetic resonance imaging studies of children with autism spectrum disorders. Dr. Amaral's neuroscience research program involves multidisciplinary studies directed at determining the neuroanatomical organization and functions of brain systems involved in memory, emotion and social behavior carried out on the human brain and on animal models. His studies of social behavior are currently expanding to include the development of social behavior and the role of the frontal lobe in social behavior. Dr. Amaral has expanded his research program to include investigations of the brain systems associated with autism.

Dr. Amaral began his career in neuroscience at Northwestern University. He then undertook a joint Ph.D. program in the Center for Brain Research and the Department of Psychology at the University of Rochester. He completed postdoctoral work at the Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology at Washington University in St. Louis before moving to the Salk Institute in San Diego in 1980, where he remained for 13 years.

Following a short stint as Director of the Center for Behavioral Neuroscience at the State University of New York, Stony Brook, Dr. Amaral moved to his current position at UC Davis.