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Brainstorm: John J. Medina Biography

John J. Medina Ph.D.

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Biography

About John J. Medina

John J. Medina, Ph.D., is director of the Brain Center for Applied Learning Research at Seattle Pacific University. He is a developmental molecular biologist whose research interests are focused on the genes involved in human brain development and the genetics of psychiatric disorders.

Medina holds joint affiliate faculty appointments at Seattle Pacific University and at the University of Washington School of Medicine (in its Department of Bioengineering). He is the author of Brain Rules and Brain Rules for Baby, and he also writes the “Molecules of the Mind” column for the Psychiatric Times.

For most of his professional life, Medina has worked as a private research consultant, working primarily in the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries on research related to mental health. He is the founding director of the Talaris Research Institute, a Seattle-based research center originally focused on how infants encode and process information at the cognitive, cellular, and molecular levels. He is a regular speaker on the relationship between neurology and education, and he speaks often to public officials, business and medical professionals, school boards, and nonprofit leaders.

Medina lives in Seattle with his wife and two sons.

Awards and Honors

- Appointed as an affiliate scholar at the National Academy of Engineering (2004).
- Outstanding Faculty of the Year at the College of Engineering at the University of Washington.
- Merrill Dow/Continuing Medical Education National Teacher of the Year.
- Bioengineering Student Association Teacher of the Year (twice).
- Appointed as consultant to the Education Commission of the States.