Language disorders across the life span
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Abstract: The Primary progressive aphasias (PPA) are a collection of clinical syndromes caused by early-onset neurodegenerative disorders that affect specific speech and language networks in the brain. In this talk, I will describe the cognitive, neuroimaging and neuropathological features of this disorder. I will demonstrate how a cognitive neuroscience approach to the study of PPA has improved not only clinical care but also understanding of the neurobiology of language. Finally, I will discuss a possible link between neurodevelopmental disorders and later focal neurodegeneration that has highlighted the need of a lifespan approach.

Bio: Dr. Maria Luisa Gorno Tempini is Charles Schwab Professor of Neurology and Psychiatry at University of California, San Francisco. She directs the Language Neurobiology Laboratory of the UCSF Memory and Aging Center, co-directs the UCSF Dyslexia Center, and co-directs the UCSF | UC Berkeley Schwab Dyslexia & Cognitive Diversity Center. Her clinical work concentrates on behavioral neurology across the lifespan, and her research investigates the neural basis of higher cognitive functions such as language and memory. Dr. Gorno Tempini has applied her expertise to neurodegenerative diseases, particularly primary progressive aphasia (PPA) and frontotemporal dementia (FTD), and to language-based learning differences, such as dyslexia.