The goal of our research is to understand neural mechanisms underlying cognition such as attention, memory, prediction, learning and decision making. In particular, we are investigating the role of monoamine systems, such as dopamine and serotonin, in cognitive functions. Experiments in our laboratory center on the brain of awake behaving monkeys as a model for similar systems in the human brain. Using electrophysiological, pharmacological and optogenetic techniques, we examine what signals monoamine neurons convey while monkeys are performing cognitive tasks and how the signals, released monoamine, work in targeted brain areas to achieve the tasks. These studies will provide more mechanistic accounts of cognitive disorders.