Malú G. Tansey, Ph.D., is a professor of physiology at Emory University School of Medicine. Her general research interests include investigating mechanisms underlying the role of cytokine signaling and brain-immune system crosstalk in health and disease. Specifically, her laboratory is examining the role and regulation of central and peripheral inflammatory and immune system responses in modulating the gene-environment and gut-brain axis interactions that determine risk for development and progression of neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson’s disease, Alzheimer’s and related dementias, and neuropsychiatric diseases such as depression.

Tansey is the Emory Neuroscience Graduate Program senior director of graduate studies and a member of the Emory Immunology and Molecular Pathogenesis Graduate Program executive committee. As a Hispanic American, Tansey has served as a role model to numerous undergraduate, graduate and post-graduate trainees, many of them women from under-represented minority groups. She serves as the new director of Emory’s Initiative for Maximizing Student Development. This initiative is focused on strengthening institutional efforts to enhance recruitment and retention of diverse student and faculty bodies at Emory by providing research training and mentoring opportunities to both.

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