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Thomas Christian Südhof, M.D., serves as the Avram Goldstein Professor in the School of Medicine of Stanford University, as a Professor of Molecular & Cellular Physiology, Neurosurgery, and by courtesy, of Neurology and Psychiatry, and as an Investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. Südhof's research interests focus on how synapses that transmit and process information in neural circuits are formed and specified, and how their role becomes dysfunctional in neuropsychiatric and neurodegenerative diseases. Towards this goal, Südhof uses genetic manipulations in human and mouse neurons as well as biophysical and cell-biological approaches to dissect the contributions of trans-synaptic signaling complexes to the construction of synapses and their properties and plasticity.