



Location: School of Medicine Ed II,
Room 106 @ UC Riverside



Date: November 19, 2025



Time: 8:30am-6:00pm

SCEP Symposium Agenda

8:30-9:00am Breakfast and Registration and Poster set-up

9:00-9:05am **Welcome to the 15th annual SCEP Symposium**

Karine Le Roch, Ph.D.

Director Center for Infectious Disease and Vector Research, UC Riverside

9:10-9:45am **SCEP Morning Speaker**

Elizabeth Winzeler, Ph.D.

Associate Dean for Research and Innovation, Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences,
Prof. Dept of Pediatrics, School of Medicine UC San Diego.

“Adventures in Malaria Drug Discovery”

Morning Session: *Chair, Emma Wilson, Ph.D., Professor, UC Riverside*

9:45-10:00am **Ngoc Thuy Nguyen**, Mercer lab, Cal Poly Pomona
Neutrophil degranulation and lysosomal mobilization during trophocytosis of *Trichomonas vaginalis*

10:00-10:15am **Samantha Smedshammer**, Riestra lab, San Diego State University
Investigating the interaction between *Trichomonas vaginalis* and *Lactobacillus iners*

10:15-10:30am **Fu-Hsuan Ko**, Winzeler lab, UC San Diego
Shared binding site but divergent resistance profiles uncover novel resistance mechanisms in *Plasmodium* HSP90 inhibitors

10:30-10:45am **Sebastian Kreimendahl**, Pernas lab, UC Los Angeles
Molecular mimicry enables mitochondria-Toxoplasma contact sites (MiToCs)

10:45-11:00am **Edgar Perez Valdes**, Buckley lab, Cal Poly Pomona
Sex bias in the resistance to systemic *Candida albicans* infection in different strain mice

5 MINUTE STRETCH BREAK



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11:05-11:20am

Ji-Hun Shin, Lodoen lab, UC Irvine

Spatial control of NLRP3 inflammasome assembly defined by a *Toxoplasma gondii* non-lytic infection model in human monocytes

11:20-11:35am

Evan Kim, Schulz lab, Harvey Mudd College

Utilizing a CRISPR dCas9 tethering system to demonstrate that the chromatin interacting protein Bdf3 is sufficient to activate transcription at the EP1 locus in African trypanosomes

11:35-11:50am

Anthony Temm, Lima lab, Cal Poly Pomona

The role of neutrophil reactive oxygen species in controlling acute *Toxoplasma gondii* infection

11:50am-12:00pm

BREAK and SQUEEZE UP!

12:00-1:00pm

Keynote Speaker

Peter Bradley, Ph. D.

Professor of Microbiology, Immunology & Molecular Genetics
University of California, Los Angeles

“Unraveling the composition and function of the *Toxoplasma gondii* inner membrane complex”

1:00-2:15pm

Lunch and Poster Viewing

Afternoon Session: *Chairs: Jennell Jennett and Jose Martin, UC Riverside*

2:15-2:30pm

Samuel Asiedu, Nair lab, UC Riverside

Myeloid-intrinsic PTPN2 regulates inflammatory monocyte differentiation and immunity to intestinal helminths

2:30-2:45pm

Alex Royas, Ph.D., Buckley lab, Cal Poly Pomona

The role of sex and androgen receptors on the expression of the CB1R and CB2R in the brain and spleen of mice systemically infected with *Candida albicans*

2:45-3:00pm

Loic Ciamposin, Ph.D. Le Roch lab, UC Riverside

Parasite-driven epigenetic reprogramming: How *Toxoplasma gondii* reshapes host chromatin

3:00-3:15pm

Jason Hsiao, Winzeler lab, UC San Diego

Long-acting antimalarial prophylaxis via antisense oligonucleotides



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Ximena Corona, Mercer lab, Cal Poly Pomona

Investigating the trophocytic killing of *Trichomonas vaginalis*: Neutrophil degranulation and macrophage resolution

3:30-3:45pm

Nala Kachour, Wilson lab, UC Riverside

Rhoptry protein 42: A novel marker of bradyzoite formation

3:45-6:00pm

Drinks and Nibbles

Poster presentations (odd numbers 3:45-4:30pm; even numbers 4:30-5:15pm)

Announcement of abstract awards and networking (5:15-6:00pm)