



Location: School of Medicine ED-II,
Room 104/106 @ UC Riverside



Date: October 28, 2026



Time: 8:45am-6:00pm

SCEP Symposium Agenda

8:45-9:20am Breakfast. Registration. Poster Set-up.

9:20-9:30am **Welcome to the 16th annual SCEP Symposium**

Karine Le Roch, Ph.D.

Director Center for Infectious Disease and Vector Research, UC Riverside

9:30-10:00am

SCEP Morning Speaker

Elissa Hallem, PhD.

Professor and Vice Chair, Department of Microbiology, Immunology, and Molecular Genetics
University of California, Los Angeles

"Skin-penetration behaviors of the human-infective worm *Strongyloides stercoralis*"

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

10-10:15am

Julian Wagner, Hallem Lab, MIMG, UCLA

"Inducible social swarming behavior of a human-parasitic worm"

10:15-10:30am

Farveh Sadat Mostafavi Neyshabouri, Nematology Lab UCR

"A receptor-like protein influences whether nematode parasite-derived molecules activate or suppress plant innate immune responses"

10:30-10:45am

Samuel Asiedu, Nair Lab, UCR

"PTPN2 restrains myeloid progenitor expansion and differentiation into pro-inflammatory macrophages in helminth infection"

10:45-11am

BREAK

11:00-11:15am

Chandrasekaran Sambamurthy, Koshy Lab, University of Arizona

"A small novel protein that influences *Toxoplasma gondii* encystment in vitro and in vivo"



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Ji-Hun Shin, Lodoen lab, UC Irvine

"NLRP3 inflammasome activation in Toxoplasma gondii-infected human monocytes involves PIKfyve-dependent endolysosomal function"

11:30-11:45am

Jimson Thach, Peter Bradley Lab, MIMG, UCLA

"Function and interactions of CRCK1 a key regulator of Toxoplasma gondii replication"

11:50am-12pm

BREAK and SQUEEZE UP!

12:00-1:00pm

Keynote Speaker

Jon P. Boyle, PhD.

Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences
University of Pittsburgh

"Nobody knows the trouble I've seen: Less than ideal model systems and how they help us understand life cycle evolution and host-parasite interactions"

1:00-2:15pm

Lunch and Poster Viewing

Afternoon Session:

Chair, Meera Nair, Ph.D., Professor, UC Riverside

2:15-2:30pm

Jose Luis Martin, Wilson Lab and UCR

"Sex differences in the susceptibility to Toxoplasma infections stem from differential regulation of Th1/Treg population"

2:30-2:45pm

Yubai (Sarah) Sun, Pernas Lab, UCLA

"Toxoplasma gondii dense granule protein TgGRA7 mediates maturation of mitochondria-derived structures during infection"

2:45-3:00pm

Angela Agnew, Hill Lab, UCLA

"Elliptical Subpellicular Microtubules in Trypanosoma brucei: Structural Clues Toward Microtubule Deformation and Cytoskeletal Crosslinking"

3:00-3:15pm

Brianna Ortiz, Jimenez Lab, California State University, Fullerton

"Role of a Voltage-Gated Calcium Channel in Trypanosoma cruzi"

3:15-3:30pm

Irin Ploypray, Veronica Jimenez Lab, CSU Fullerton

"Mechanosensitive channels as molecular determinants of parasite survival and infectivity in Trypanosoma cruzi"



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Loic Ciampossin, Le Roch Lab, UCR

"Genome-wide Mapping of lncRNA–Chromatin Interactions in *Plasmodium falciparum* reveals regulatory RNA contacts associated with gene expression antigenic variation and sexual differentiation"

3:45-4pm

Kathryn Morales, Riestra Lab, San Diego State University

"Characterizing interactions between *Trichomonas vaginalis* and vaginal bacteria *Lactobacillus gasseri* and *Gardnerella vaginalis*"

4:00-6:00pm

Drinks and Nibbles

Poster presentations (even numbers 4:00-4:45pm; odd numbers 4:45-5:30pm)

Announcement of abstract awards and networking (5:30-6:00pm)