

2026 - 2027 Research Discussion Schedule: Fall 2026

 Fridays

 9:00 AM

 Leichtag Biomedical Research Building Room 107



Please arrive early for Einstein Bagels!

SEPTEMBER

Friday, September 25, 2026	Maria I. Matias	LJI Postdoc	Myers	IL-27 induces a cytotoxic state in CD4+ T cells distinct from the Th1 lineage
	Daniel Stehle	UCSD Postdoc	Zhang	JNK biosensor illuminates the mechanism of angiotensin II/AT1R-induced JNK activation

OCTOBER

Friday, October 2, 2026	Haixin Wei	UCSD Postdoc	McCammon	Simulate millisecond timescale structural events
	Tomohiko Ishikawa	Visiting Postdoc	Gutkind	TBD
Friday, October 9, 2026	Su Hyun Kim	UCSD Postdoc	Zhang	Mitochondrial dysfunction-induced PKA signaling
	Safal Shrestha	UCSD Postdoc	Obara	Molecular Rules Governing ER–Mitochondria Contact Site Dynamics Mediated by the VAPB–PTPIP51 Interaction
Friday, October 16, 2026	Melina Brunelli	CMP Student	Myers	OGT and TET1 cooperatively orchestrate transcriptional dynamics during early development
	Patrick Noerr	UCSD Postdoc	Rangamani	TBD
Friday, October 23, 2026	Nick Bergkamp	UCSD Postdoc	Zhang	Endosomal Gq/11 encodes spatial GPCR–ERK signaling without receptor endocytosis
	Caesar Tawfeeq	UCSD Ph.D. Student	Sunahara / S. Taylor	Disease Mutants in GNAS Reveal Nucleotide Exchange Molecular Mechanims
Friday, October 30, 2026	Ben Gastfriend	UCSD Postdoc	Daneman	Neurovascular protein half-lives in health and aging
	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA

NOVEMBER

Friday, November 6, 2026	Barsha Dash	UCSD Postdoc	Hogan	TBD
	Alyssa Marinas	CMP Student	Hibbs	Structural mechanisms of volatile anesthetics
Friday, November 13, 2026	Lennis Orduna-Castillo	UCSD Postdoc	Trejo	TBD
	Audrey Miglietta	NGP Ph.D. Student	Daneman	Blood-brain barrier regulation of hippocampal function
Friday, November 20, 2026	Daniel Mansour	UCSD Ph.D. Student	Rangamani	TBD
	Anshuman Bhanja	UCSD Postdoc	Gutkind	The mechanism by which the Gs-GPCR-PKA signaling axis drives CD8+ T cell dysfunction

DECEMBER

Friday, December 4, 2026	Nileeka Balasuriya	UCSD Postdoc	Newton	Regulation of Akt by mTORC2
	Aida Mestre Farrera	UCSD Postdoc	Yang	Defining Tumor-Immune Cell Interactions in Breast Cancer Progression and Metastasis
Friday, December 11, 2026	Samantha Sanchez	Bioengineering Ph.D. Student	Zhang	Ultrasensitive CaMKII Biosensor Probes CaMKII Signal Integration in Primary Rat Neurons
	Dean Boecher	UCSD Ph.D. Student	Obara	Relationship between membrane structure and protein function in the endoplasmic reticulum

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JANUARY

Friday, January 8, 2027	Kuniaki Sato	Visiting Assistant Project Scientist	Gutkind	Decoding immune-evasive transcriptional programs driven by YAP/TEAD in HNSCC
	Yingqi Zhu	Biochemistry & Molecular Biophysics Ph.D. Student	Zhang	Enhanced FRET Biosensors Enable Live-Cell Visualization of Spatial cGAMP Dynamics
Friday, January 15, 2027	Alexander Silva	CMP Student	Mendiola	Neurovascular Mechanisms of Microglia Dysfunction
	Emmet A. Francis	UCSD Postdoc	Rangamani	Predictive modeling of nucleocytoplasmic transport and nuclear rupture
Friday, January 22, 2027	Zhimin Hu	Project Scientist	Yang	Beyond DNA Repair: PARP1 Regulates TWIST1 and Metastatic Signaling in Breast Cancer
	Gio Serrano	Master's Student	Obara	Single-Molecule Visualization of Endolysosomal Dysfunction in Parkinson’s Disease
Friday, January 29, 2027	Qian-yi Zhang	CMP Student	Zhang	Spatial regulation of mTORC1 signaling
	Xinya Su	UCSD Postdoc	Trejo	TBD

FEBRUARY

Friday, February 5, 2027	Grant Goda	UCSD Postdoc	Antal / Yeo	Phosphorylation-Dependent Rewiring of RNA-Binding Proteins in Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma
	Swan Van	UCSD Ph.D. Student	Gonzalez	Gut microbial peptidomics
Friday, February 12, 2027	Gosia Murawska	UCSD Postdoc	Dennis	TBD
	Evan Wen	UCSD Ph.D. Student	Zhang	TBD
Friday, February 19, 2027	Judy Chen	MAE Ph.D. Student	Rangamani	Modeling Calcium Signaling at ER–Plasma Membrane Junctions in Dendrites
	Daojia Rosie Zhou	UCSD Ph.D. Student	Zhang	A novel chemigenetic Ras activity reporter to investigate oncogenic Ras signaling
Friday, February 26, 2027	Andrea Pence	CMP Student	Chavez / O'Donoghue	TBD
	Jade Zhang	Assistant Project Scientist	Yang	GATA6-mediated colon cancer invasion and metastasis downstream of apical–basal polarity

MARCH

Friday, March 5, 2027	Julio Pimentel	UCSD Postdoc	Trejo	Defining Single-Molecule Endothelial PAR1 Cytoprotective Signaling Complexes at the Plasma Membrane
	Ha-Neul Skott Lee	UCSD Project Scientist	Zhang	TBD
Friday, March 12, 2027	Gil-Suk Yang	UCSD Postdoc	Trejo	TBD
	Elena Sofia Cardenas Alcoser	UCSD Postdoc	Gutkind	TBD
Friday, March 19, 2027	Nyssa Williams	CMP Student, BMS Ph.D. Student	Mendiola	Type I interferon signaling and RSAD2 function in multiple sclerosis
	Thomas Nguyen	UCSD Postdoc	Rangamani	Dynamics and Kinetics of Receptor Localization and Ligand Aggregation

2026 - 2027 Research Discussion Schedule: Spring 2027

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APRIL

Friday, April 2, 2027	Ilse Schaeffner	CMP Student	Hibbs	Structural and functional investigation of anti-AChR antibodies in myasthenia gravis
	Max Palay	UCSD Ph.D. Student	Zhang	TBD
Friday, April 9, 2027	Ji Yeon Hyun	MAE Ph.D. Student	Rangamani	The role of membrane curvature on pattern formation of proteins
	Nicole McIntosh	CMP Student	Sunahara	TBD
Friday, April 16, 2027	Gabriela Cuesta Margolles	UCSD Postdoc	Gutkind	Targeting adaptive resistance mechanisms to MAPK-directed therapies in skin melanoma
	Anoosh Mahdavian	UCSD Ph.D. Student	Rangamani	TBD
Friday, April 23, 2027	Kristina Boguslawski	Pediatric Infectious Disease Fellow	Gonzalez	TBD
	Yuhan Zhang	UCSD Ph.D. Student	Antal	Disrupting KRAS Signaling and Enhancing Anti-Tumor Immunity in PDAC
Friday, April 30, 2027	Plaboni Sen	UCSD Postdoc	Yang	TBD
	Aanya Sawhney	UCSD Ph.D. Student	Rangamani	A mechanochemical nuclear repair model predicts protein mud localization dynamics during nuclear rupture

MAY

Friday, May 7, 2027	Julissa Cruz-Bautista	UCSD Ph.D. Student	Obara	TBD
	Adele Nguyen	Biochemistry & Molecular Biophysics Ph.D. Student	Newton	Uncovering the Conformational States of Wildtype and Mutant PKCg Throughout its Life Cycle via Hydrogen-Deuterium Mass Spectrometry
Friday, May 14, 2027	Zhengyao Shao	UCSD Postdoc	Zhang	Ultrasensitive ERK Activity Imaging Reveals GPCR and RTK Signaling Architecture
	Ning Kuo	CMP / BMS Ph.D. Student	Gutkind	Harnessing the XCL1-XCR1 chemokine-dendritic cell axis for cancer immunotherapy
Friday, May 21, 2027	Anushka Poola	CMP Student	Antal	The role of the RNA binding protein PUF60 in triple negative breast cancer
	Lawrence Liu	UCSD Postdoc	Gonzalez	Identification of aminopeptidase activity in S. pneumoniae
Friday, May 28, 2027	Andre Modolo	CMP Student	Schoeneberg	4D Spatiotemporal Landscape of Mitochondrial Phenotypes Across Cellular States Unlocked Through Representation Learning
	Xinchang He	UCSD Ph.D. Student	Zhang	TBD

JUNE

Friday, June 4, 2027	Jose Vasquez	CMP/BMS M.D./Ph.D. Student	Gutkind	Targeting the $\alpha\text{v}\beta 5$ Integrin Node to Interrupt Oncogenic G α q-YAP/AKT Signaling and Halt Uveal Melanoma Metastasis
	Brandon Liu	CMP Student, BMS Ph.D. Student	Obara	Investigating the Heterogeneity of Protein Kinase A Signaling Using Superresolution Microscopy
	Jaynia Garcia	CMP Student	Ferguson	Induced proximity approaches to AGC kinases
Friday, June 11, 2027	Tiffany Quach	CMP Student	Daneman	Cellular and Molecular Mechanisms of Pre-Retinal Fibrosis
	Xinjian Cen	CMP Student	Reina-Campos	From Dietary Lipids to Intracellular Metabolic Reserves: Metabolic Adaptations in T Cell Immunity