

2025-2026 DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACOLOGY RESEARCH DISCUSSIONS						
BIOM/PHAR 295-- Leichtag 107						
TIME SLOT A -- 9:00 - 9:30 AM TIME SLOT B -- 9:30 - 10:00 AM (20 min. presentation, 10 min. question/answer period)						
For other AV needs, contact the Pharmacology Education Office at least one week prior to your presentation.						
ABSOLUTELY NO CHANGES WITHOUT PHARMACOLOGY EDUCATION OFFICE APPROVAL						
Friday, September 26, 2025	A	Gosia Malgorzata Murawska	Dennis	Postdoctoral	Specificity of Lipid Enzymes Determined by Unmasking Fatty Acyl C=C positions in Complex Lipids Using Mass Spectrometry	mmurawska@health.ucsd.edu
Friday, October 3, 2025	A	Lennis Orduna-Castillo	Trejo	Postdoctoral	GPCR endothelial cytoprotective signaling	lordunacastillo@health.ucsd.edu
	B	Ben Gastfriend	Daneman	Postdoctoral	Insights into evolution of the blood-brain barrier from cross-species molecular analysis	bgastfriend@health.ucsd.edu
Friday, October 10, 2025	A	Gillian McMahon	Schoeneberg	Ph.D.	4D mitochondrial network assumes distinct and predictive phenotypes through human lung and intestinal epithelial development	gimcmahon@UCSD.EDU
	B	Evan Wen	Zhang	Ph.D.	Spatially Diverse Transducer Coupling in GPCR Activation of ERK	ewwen@ucsd.edu
Friday, October 17, 2025	A	Calista Horta	Yang	Ph.D.	A receptor tyrosine phosphatase in ECM stiffness-induced EMT and tumor invasion	cahorta@health.ucsd.edu
Friday, October 24, 2025	A	Luisa Abreu	Alexandrov	Postdoctoral	High-throughput single-cell metabolomics reveals distinct metabolic states of modulated CD4+ T cells	lmateusabreu@health.ucsd.edu
Friday, October 31, 2025	A	Haixin Wei	McCammon	Postdoctoral	Computer-aided Drug Discovery	h9wei@ucsd.edu
	B	Sean Burke	Hibbs	Ph.D.	Structural investigation of native neuronal nicotinic acetylcholine receptors	smburke@ucsd.edu
Friday, November 7, 2025	A	Tim Abel	Obara	Postdoctoral	Mechanisms of targeted protein degradation on the endoplasmic reticulum	tfabel@health.ucsd.edu
	B	Eric Arkfeld	Schoeneberg	Ph.D.	Whole-Cell Digital Twin Simulations from Lattice Light-Sheet Microscopy Data	earkfeld@UCSD.EDU
Friday, November 14, 2025	A	Julio Pimentel	Trejo	Postdoctoral	The role of CYLD in suppressing PAR1–p38 MAPK–p65 signaling in triple-negative breast cancer	jupimentel@health.ucsd.edu
	B	Sofia Endzhievskaya	Kufareva	Postdoctoral	Unlocking orphan GPCRs by leveraging -omics and AI	sendzhievskaya@health.ucsd.edu
Friday, November 21, 2025	A	Elena Sofia Cardenas Alcoser	Gutkind	Postdoctoral	Targeting Gas-PKA pathway in Fibrous Dysplasia: The first GNAS (Gas)-driven monogenetic disease	ecardenasalcoser@health.ucsd.edu
	B	Medha Sharma	Newton	Postdoctoral	PKCa in Alzheimer's disease	mes015@health.ucsd.edu
Thanksgiving Holiday						
Friday, December 5, 2025	A	Dane Ford-Roshon	Mendiola	Ph.D.	Neurovascular dysfunction alters microglial metabolism	dfordroshon@health.ucsd.edu
	B	Sean Harvey	Daneman	Postdoctoral	Endothelial-endogenous lipids modulate neuroinflammation	ssharvey@health.ucsd.edu
Friday, December 12, 2025	A	Tomohiko Ishikawa	Gutkind	Postdoctoral	EGFR/HER3 targeting therapy enhances ICB efficacy on head and neck cancer	toishikawa@health.ucsd.edu
	B	Rosa Fontana	Yang	Postdoctoral	Proximity labeling proteomics identifies ITCH as a novel invadopodia regulator	rofontana@health.ucsd.edu
Winter Break						
Friday, January 2, 2026	A	Yingqi Zhu	Zhang	Ph.D.	A suite of genetically encoded cGAMP biosensors reveals cGAS signaling dynamics	yiz167@UCSD.EDU
	B	Hoang Nguyen	Taylor, S.	Ph.D.	TBA	hon005@UCSD.EDU
Friday, January 9, 2026	A	Anne Lyons	Zhang	Ph.D.	Illuminating the dynamic kinome with KARkey	anlyons@ucsd.edu
	B	Nileeka Balasuriya	Newton	Postdoctoral	Torc2 interaction motif (TIM) phosphorylation is essential for Akt	nweebaddage@health.ucsd.edu
Friday, January 16, 2026	A	Kumiaki Sato	Gutkind	Postdoctoral	Novel immunotheapeutic approach targeting YAP-driven transcriptional networks in HNSCC	kusato@health.ucsd.edu
	B	Xinya Su	Trejo	Postdoctoral	Src family kinases regulate GPCR-mediated Hippo signaling in breast cancer	xs6u@health.ucsd.edu
Friday, January 23, 2026	A	Nick Bergkamp	Zhang	Postdoctoral	Spatial organization of ATIR-mediated ERK signaling	nbergkamp@health.ucsd.edu
	B	Tiffany Kao	Newton	Ph.D.	PKC Degradation	thkao@health.ucsd.edu
Friday, January 30, 2026	A	Nyssa Williams	Mendiola	Ph.D.	Type 1 interferon quality control mechanisms of microglia in neuroinflammation	nswilliams@health.ucsd.edu
	B	Xiaojing Yang	Tukey	Postdoctoral	Maternal Milk 3'-Sialyllactose Promotes Neonatal Intestinal Maturation and Prevents Hyperbilirubinemia by Regulating HNF4α Signaling	xiy020@health.ucsd.edu
Friday, February 6, 2026	A	Leigh-Ana Rossitto	Daneman/ Chen	Ph.D.	Metabolic Interventions in Alzheimer's Disease	lrossitt@health.ucsd.edu
	B	Xinchang He	Zhang	Ph.D.	A Suite of Highly Sensitive Chemigenetic FRET-based Biosensors	xih034@UCSD.EDU
Friday, February 13, 2026	A	Erik Ehinger	Rao	Postdoctoral	Degrading transcription factors that impose T cell exhaustion	eehinger@lji.org
	B	Alexander Silva	Mendiola	Ph.D.	Epigenetic profiling and therapeutic targeting of oxidative stress in neuroinflammation	a9silva@health.ucsd.edu
Friday, February 20, 2026	A	Pham Vo	Gutkind	Ph.D.	TBA	ptvo@ucsd.edu
	B	Khoa Doan	Yang	Ph.D.	Non-canonical EPHA2 signaling in breast tumor mechanotransduction	kddoan@health.ucsd.edu
Friday, February 27, 2026	A	Zachary Wang	Schoeneberg	Ph.D.	Self-supervised deep learning uncovers the semantic landscape of drug-induced latent mitochondrial phenotypes	ziw056@ucsd.edu
	B	Connor Cronin	Taylor, S.	Ph.D.	Rapid in vitro characterization of PKA signal termination	ccronin@UCSD.EDU
Friday, March 6, 2026	A	Sharath Krishnakumar Menon	Alexandrov	Visiting Ph.D.	HT-SpaceM-IF: Single-cell metabolomics and protein imaging	skrishnakumarmenon@health.ucsd.edu
	B	André A. Weber	Tukey	Postdoctoral	TBA	aaweber@health.ucsd.edu
Friday, March 13, 2026	A	Yuhan Zhang	Antal	Ph.D.	Disrupting KRAS Signaling and Immune Resistance in Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma	yu2258@health.ucsd.edu
	B	Grace McAuley	Mendiola	Ph.D.	RNA regulators of neuroinflammatory disease	gmcauley@health.ucsd.edu
Friday, March 20, 2026	A	Brooke Tran	Daneman	Ph.D.	Role of blood-brain barrier lipids in neuroinflammation	brooketran@health.ucsd.edu
	B	Charlie Bayne	Gonzalez	Ph.D.	Metaproteomic Signatures of the Gut Microbiome in Cancer Immunotherapy Response	chbayne@health.ucsd.edu
César Chávez Holiday						
Friday, April 3, 2026	A	Kyle Stark	Rangamani	Ph.D.	The spatiotemporal mediation of calcium by plasma membrane-endoplasmic reticulum contact sites in dendrites	kstark@ucsd.edu
	B	Caesar Tawfeeq	Taylor, S./Sunahara	Ph.D.	An Arginine Tetrad Regulates AHD Opening and Nucleotide Exchange in Gs Proteins	ctawfeeq@ucsd.edu
Friday, April 10, 2026	A	Skylar Batty	Yang	Ph.D.	A novel mechanosensitive protein complex in breast cancer invasion	sbatty@health.ucsd.edu
	B	Oye Bosompra	Trejo	Ph.D.	TNF-α-driven TNFR1 signaling is regulated by ARRD3 in invasive breast cancer	n1bosomp@health.ucsd.edu
Friday, April 17, 2026	A	Thomas Hoang	Gutkind	Postdoctoral	TBA	tshoang@health.ucsd.edu
	B	Palliser Shomody	Zhang	Ph.D.	Illuminating the kinome with BRET based reporters	psomody@UCSD.EDU
Friday, April 24, 2026	A	Emmet Francis	Rangamani	Postdoctoral	Mechanotransduction of YAP/TAZ	eafrancis@ucsd.edu
	B	Sidar Aydin	Daneman	Postdoctoral	The role of retinol transporter Stra6 in modulating the neuroinflammation	saydin@health.ucsd.edu
Friday, May 1, 2026	A	Andrea Pence	O'Donoghue/Chavez	Ph.D.	Design of therapeutic proteases	apence@health.ucsd.edu
	B	Elisavetta Ilyin	Schoeneberg	Ph.D.	Linking Mitochondrial Phenotype to Cell State Using Self-Supervised Deep Learning	eilyin@health.ucsd.edu
Friday, May 8, 2026	A	Daniel Mansour	Rangamani	Ph.D.	Actin organization in liquid-like condensates	dmansour@ucsd.edu
	B	Anneliese Gest	Zhang	Postdoctoral	Novel PKA Signaling Pathway Induced by Mitochondrial Dysfunction	agest@health.ucsd.edu
Friday, May 15, 2026	A	Plaboni Sen	Yang	Postdoctoral	Unraveling Mechanotransduction Pathways Driving Breast Cancer Metastasis	plsen@health.ucsd.edu
	B	Nicole McIntosh	Sunahara	Ph.D.	The role of the extracellular vestibule in b2-adrenergic receptor desensitization	nlmcintosh@health.ucsd.edu
Friday, May 22, 2026	A	Patrick Noerr	Rangamani	Postdoctoral	Biophysical modeling of mitochondrial trafficking in axons	pnoerr@ucsd.edu
	B	Qian Yi Zhang	Zhang	Ph.D.	Spatiotemporal regulation of mTORC1 activity	qyzhang@health.ucsd.edu
Friday, May 29, 2026	A	Diego Trujillo	O'Donoghue	Ph.D.	Evaluating the 20S proteasome of the early-branching eukaryote Giardia lamblia as a valuable drug target	dtrujill@health.ucsd.edu
	B	Ning Kuo	Gutkind	Ph.D.	Harnessing the XCL1-XCR1 chemokine-dendritic cell axis for cancer immunotherapy	n3kuo@health.ucsd.edu
Friday, June 5, 2026	A	Jessica Bruystens	Taylor, S.	Postdoctoral	Capturing the high affinity potency of the PKA- specific BLU0588-type inhibitors	jbruystens@health.ucsd.edu
	B	Kevin Braza	Dennis	Ph.D.	Molecular simulations of the cytosolic phospholipase A2 and membrane association	mbraza@UCSD.EDU
Friday, June 12, 2026	A	Ilse Schaeffner	Hibbs	Ph.D.	Mapping Myasthenia Gravis Autoantibody Epitopes with CryoEM	ischaeffner@health.ucsd.edu
	B	Andre Modolo	Schoeneberg	Ph.D.	4D Live Cell Profiling Assay Using Lattice Light-sheet Microscopy	amodolo@health.ucsd.edu
	C	Anushka Poola	Antal	Ph.D.	Targeting the RNA-Binding Protein PUF60 as a Therapeutic Strategy for Triple-Negative Breast Cancer	apoola@health.ucsd.edu