



30th Annual KSCHIRT Symposium Agenda

May 20-21, 2025

Campbell House, Lexington, KY

Day 1

8:00-8:45 Registration and breakfast; poster set up

8:45 Welcome and opening comments

Session 1 **Novel Tools for Neurobiology and Neurotrauma Research**

Chair: Amy Chen, PhD, University of Kentucky

8:55 Keynote Speaker Introduction

9:00-10:00 Keynote Address

Zhigang He, PhD, Harvard University, Boston Children's Hospital

"Organization and repair of brain-spinal connections"

10:00-10:35 Alison Tebo, PhD, HHMI Janelia Research Campus

"Beyond GFP: Novel approaches to fluorescent tool development for imaging cell biology"

10:35—11:00 Coffee break and poster viewing

Session 2 **Brain Metabolism and Mitochondria: Understanding and Targeting Injury Responses**

Chair: Erika Moallem, University of Kentucky

- 11:00-11:35 Susanna Scafidi, MD, Johns Hopkins University
“Developing brain metabolism and TBI: the knowns and unknowns”
- 11:35-12:10 Jignesh Pandya, PhD, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research
“Theragnostic implications of mitochondrial targets for penetrating traumatic brain injury in the US military”
- 12:10-1:40 Lunch and poster viewing

Session 3 **Pushing the Boundaries: Communication at CNS Tissue Interfaces**

- Chair: Kathy Saatman, PhD, University of Kentucky
- 1:40-2:15 Jean-Leon Thomas, PhD, Yale University
“Contribution of the lymphatic vasculature to the response to spinal and brain injury”
- 2:15-2:50 Bevan Main, PhD, Georgetown University
“Immune crosstalk at brain borders: The contribution of the meninges to neuroinflammation after TBI”
- 2:50-3:25 Caterina Profaci, PhD, Scripps Research
“Mechanosensation in brain vasculature and choroid plexus”
- 3:30-4:00 **Poster previews – lightening talks**
Chair: Fernanda Staphenhorst Franca, PhD, University of Kentucky
- 4:00-6:00 Reception and poster viewing

Day 2

- 8:00-8:45 Breakfast and poster viewing
- 8:45-9:10 KSCHIRT 30th anniversary celebration
- 9:10 Keynote speaker introduction, Patrick Sullivan, PhD, University of Kentucky
- 9:15-10:15 **Keynote Address**
Geoff Manley, MD, PhD, University of California, San Francisco
“TRACK-TBI and TRACK-SCI: Harnessing the power of team science”

Session 4 **Nonmammalian Models of Neurotrauma**

- Chair: Adam Bachstetter, PhD, University of Kentucky

- 10:15-10:50 David Wassarman, PhD, University of Wisconsin
"A Drosophila model reveals causes of variation in TBI outcomes"
- 10:50-11:25 Mayssa Mokalled, PhD, Washington University in St. Louis
"Intersecting modes of neuronal repair underlie innate spinal cord regeneration"
- 11:25-12:00 Randal Voss, PhD, University of Kentucky
"Using the axolotl to study early regenerative responses to tissue injury"

12:00-1:00 Lunch and poster viewing

Session 5 **KSCHIRT Scholars-in-Training Research Highlights**

Chairs: Jessica Gebhardt, Annabel McAtee, Julian Mory and Lynnet Richey, University of Kentucky

- 1:00-1:15 Lynnet Richey, University of Kentucky (Mentor: John Gensel, PhD)
- 1:15-1:30 Carlos de Almeida, University of Louisville (Mentor: David Magnuson, PhD)
- 1:30-1:45 Krithika Iyer, PhD, University of Kentucky (Mentor: Samir Patel, PhD)
- 1:45-2:00 Meleine Landry Konan, University of Louisville (Mentor: Dena Howland, PhD)

Session 6 **Sensory Dysfunction and Pain**

Chair: Andrew Stewart, PhD, University of Kentucky

- 2:00-2:35 Dianna Willis, Ph.D Burke Neurological Institute. Weill Cornell
"Altered HCN1 localization and expression drives hyperexcitability and neuropathic pain"
- 2:35-3:10 Andrea Tedeschi, PhD, The Ohio State University
"Maladaptive plasticity disrupts adipose tissue homeostasis after spinal cord injury"
- 3:15 Closing remarks