

## 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Wilmot Cancer Institute Scientific Symposium Program

Thursday, November 6th, 2025, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

University of Rochester Medical Center, Class of '62 Auditorium and Flaum Atrium

Time	Activity	Speaker	Presentation Title
7:30 am	Registration Table Opens	N/A	Breakfast is available in the Flaum Atrium
8:00 - 8:05 am	Symposium Opens	<b>Ruth O'Regan, MD</b> Wilmot Cancer Institute Associate Director of Education and Mentoring	Wilmot's Office of Cancer Research Training and Education Coordination (CRTEC) welcomes all attendees and presenters!
8:05 – 8:30 am	Cancer Microenvironment Faculty Speaker	<b>Tanya N. Mayadas, PhD</b> Professor and Chair, Department of Microbiology and Immunology	Harnessing antigen-presenting neutrophils for anti-tumor immunity
8:30 - 8:45 am	Community Outreach and Engagement Abstract Winner	<b>Francisco Cartujano Barrera, MD</b> Assistant Professor, Department of Public Health Sciences	Evaluating text messaging approaches to promote enrollment in smoking cessation treatment among Latino adults: A pragmatic randomized clinical trial.
8:45 - 9:10 am	Genetics, Epigenetics, and Metabolism Faculty Speaker	<b>Vera Gorbunova, PhD</b> Doris Johns Cherry Professor, Department of Biology	Anticancer mechanisms in the longest-lived mammal, the bowhead whale
9:10 - 9:25 am	Cancer Prevention and Control Abstract Winner	<b>Po-Ju Lin, PhD</b> Research Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery (Cancer Control)	Evaluating A Virtual Yoga Intervention (vYOCAS®) for Psychological Distress in Cancer Survivors: A Decentralized Digital Randomized Controlled Trial
9:25 - 9:50 am	Community Outreach and Engagement Faculty Speaker	<b>Charles Kamen, PhD, MPH</b> Associate Professor, Department of Surgery (Cancer Control)	Now or Never Now: Community Engagement in Challenging Times
<b>9:50 – 10:00 am</b>	<b>Morning Break</b>		
10:00 – 10:25 am	Cancer Prevention and Control Faculty Speaker	<b>Cynthia Rand, MD, PhD</b> Professor, Department of Pediatrics	Strategies to Increase HPV Vaccination Uptake
10:25 - 10:40 am	Genetics, Epigenetics, and Metabolism Abstract Winner	<b>Zachary Sechrist</b> Graduate Student in the Pathology Program (Cole Lab)	Therapeutic Neutralization of IGFBP-3 Improves Survival and Attenuates Skeletal Muscle Wasting in a Murine Model of Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma
10:40 – 10:50 am	Shared Resources Update	<b>Tracie McGinnity, PhD</b> Staff Scientist, Wilmot Shared Resources Core	Shared Resources offer cost-effective access to cutting-edge technologies, expert guidance and training, and scientific consultation for Wilmot researchers.

10:50 am – noon	Davey Award Presentation	<b>Jonathan W. Friedberg, MD, MMSc</b> Samuel E. Durand Chair in Medicine - Department of Medicine (Hematology/ Oncology)	A 25-Year Journey of Lymphoma Clinical Research
<b>12:00-1:30 pm</b>	<b>Lunch and Poster Session (Flaum Atrium)</b>		
1:30 - 2:30 pm	Keynote Presentation	<b>Ashani Weeraratna, PhD</b> Bloomberg Distinguished Professor, E.V. McCollum Professor, and Chair of the Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine	A Complex TIME: How the Aged Tumor Immune Microenvironment Governs Tumor Progression.
2:30 - 2:45 pm	Cancer Microenvironment Abstract Winner	<b>Angela M. Groves, PhD</b> Research Assistant Professor, Department of Radiation Oncology	Using ACE inhibitors and AR blockers to prevent radiotherapy- induced bladder toxicity
2:45 – 3:10 pm	Clinical Research Faculty Speaker	<b>Jathin Bandari, MD</b> Assistant Professor, Department of Urology	Disease Working Group Trial Selection: A Portfolio Approach
3:10 - 3:25 pm	Clinical Research Abstract Winner	<b>Bailey Hilty Chu, MD</b> Research Resident, General Surgery Residency Program	Evaluation of Common Strategies to Define Neoadjuvant Therapy and Watch-and-Wait Cohort in the National Cancer Database
3:25 - 3:30 pm	Poster Awards Ceremony	<b>CRTEC Leadership</b>	Awards will be given to winners in each research category and an overall fan favorite.