



Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics 2026 Fall Seminar Series

Seminars to be held in-person in K-307 (3-6408) on select Wednesdays at 2 pm unless otherwise noted. Please see emailed seminar announcements for confirmation of room numbers. Details are also available on the Department webpage: <https://www.urmc.rochester.edu/biochemistry-biophysics/events.aspx>

- September 16** **Matthew Sieber, PhD**, Associate Professor, Department of Physiology, The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, TX
“Metabolic Plasticity as a Driver of Development and Disease”
Host: Dr. Gaëlle Talross
- September 23** **Lucas Farnung, PhD**, HHMI Freeman Hrabowski Scholar; Assistant Professor, Department of Cell Biology, Blavatnik Institute, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA
“Mechanisms of Transcription and Replication Through Chromatin”
Host: Dr. Clara Kielkopf
- September 30** **Joel McManus, PhD**, Associate Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA
“Control of mRNA Translation by RNA Sequences and Structures”
Host: Dr. Dmitri Ermolenko (co-sponsored by the Protein Synthesis Cluster and the RNA Structure & Function Cluster)
- October 7** **Hua Lou, PhD**, Associate Professor, Department of Genetics and Genome Sciences, School of Medicine, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH
“Correction of Disease - Causing Splicing Mutations Using Engineered U1 snRNA”
Hosts: Dr. Yi-Tao Yu and Dr. Peng Yao (co-sponsored by the RNA Structure & Function Cluster)
- October 14** **Kaavya Krishna Kumar, PhD**, Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmacology, Weill Cornell Medicine, New York, NY
“Mechanism and Manipulation of Metabotropic Glutamate Receptor 5 Allosterism”
Host: Dr. Mitch O’Connell
- October 21** **Ute Kothe, PhD**, Professor, Department of Chemistry, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
“Optimizing Protein Synthesis with tRNA Modifications”
Host: Dr. Yi-Tao Yu (co-sponsored by the Protein Synthesis Cluster and the RNA Structure & Function Cluster)
- October 28** **Sarah E. J. Bowman, PhD**, Associate Professor and Director of the National Crystallization Center, Department of Biochemistry, Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY
“Metalloproteins in Action: Coupling Diffraction and Spectroscopy for Structural Studies”
Host: Dr. Joseph Wedekind
- November 4** **Paul Whitford, PhD**, Professor, Department of Physics, Northeastern University, Boston, MA
“Simulating Large-Scale Conformational Dynamics in Biological Assemblies”
Host: Dr. Dmitri Ermolenko (co-sponsored by the Bioinformatics Cluster and the Protein Synthesis Cluster)
- November 11** **Michael Neugent, PhD**, Assistant Professor, Departments of Urology and of Microbiology & Immunology, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY
“Biochemical Ecology in Host/Microbiome Interactions”
Host: Dr. Josh Munger
- November 18** **Isaac Fianu, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Biochemistry, Caltech, Pasadena, CA
“The Early Finish: How Premature Transcription Termination Fine-Tunes Gene Expression”
Hosts: Grad student MarieClaire Haseley and Dr. Eric Wagner (co-sponsored by Graduates Working in Science (GWIS))