University of Rochester
School of Medicine & Dentistry

Last updated: 11/5/2026

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

July 31
FRIDAY
1pm

Center for RNA Biology, Special Summer Seminar
Katsura Asano, PhD, Professor, Division of Biology, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS
"eIF3g binding to GUCG boxes located in mRNA coding regions enhances translation of mild heat shock response genes"
Host: Dr. Lynne Maquat (sponsored by the Center for RNA Biology)

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, RNA Society & Lexogen, and the RNA Structure & Function Cluster)

October 7
CANCELLED

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 Allostery"
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, RNA Society & Lexogen, 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
CANCELLED

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 MaryClaire Haseley and Dr. Eric Wagner (co-sponsored by Graduates Working in Science (GWIS) and RNA Society & Lexogen