



Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics 2026 Spring 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>

February 18

Chuan He, PhD, John T. Wilson Distinguished Service Professor, Department of Chemistry, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, The University of Chicago, Chicago, IL
“RNA Methylation in Gene Expression Regulation”
Host: Dr. Lynne Maquat (co-sponsored by RNA Society & Lexogen and the RNA Structure & Function Cluster)



March 4

Nicole Michmerhuizen, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics, Hematology and Oncology, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY
“Understanding and Targeting NUP98 Fusion Oncoprotein Condensates”
Hosts: Dr. Eric Wagner and Dr. Josh Munger

March 11

Philip Bevilacqua, PhD, Distinguished Professor of Chemistry and of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, Center for RNA Molecular Biology, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA
“Insights into RNA Folding In Vivo by Complementary Top-Down and Bottom-Up Approaches”
Hosts: T32 trainee, Olivia Hiltke and Dr. David Mathews (co-sponsored by the NIH NIGMS T32 Training Grant in Cellular, Biochemical and Molecular Sciences, Dr. Lynne Maquat, PI & Dr. Jeffrey Hayes, Co-PI and by the RNA Structure & Function Cluster)

March 18

1:00 – 3:00 pm
Class of '62
(G-9425)

Leemor Joshua-Tor, PhD, HHMI Investigator; W. M. Keck Professor of Structural Biology; Director of Research, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, NY
“Target Release During miRNA Silencing”
Graduate Student NIH NIGMS T32 Retreat in Cellular, Biochemical and Molecular Sciences
Hosts: Dr. Lynne Maquat and Dr. Jeffrey Hayes (co-sponsored by Graduates Working in Science (GWIS))

MONDAY

April 6

1:00 pm
Lower Adolph
Aud (1-7619)

Ling-Ling Chen, PhD, Professor, and Director, State Key Laboratory of RNA Innovation, Science and Engineering (RISE), Shanghai Institute of Biochemistry and Cell Biology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China
“The RNA Regulation in Nuclear Bodies”
Host: Dr. Lynne Maquat (co-sponsored by the RNA Structure & Function Cluster)

April 8

Jill Downen, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Biochemistry & Biophysics, and of Biology; Associate Director, Curriculum in Genetics and Molecular Biology (GMB); Member, Integrative Program for Biological & Genome Sciences (iBGS); Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC
“Bridging Genome Structure and Function: Linking Chromosome Architecture, Chromatin Modifications, and Gene Expression”
Host: Dr. Jeffrey Hayes

April 15

Seychelle Vos, PhD, Associate Professor of Biology, HHMI Freeman Hrabowski Scholar; Department of Biology, MIT, Cambridge, MA
“Understanding Transcription in the Context of Genome Organization”
Hosts: T32 past trainee, Abby Manning and Dr. Eric Wagner (co-sponsored by the NIH NIGMS T32 Training Grant in Cellular, Biochemical and Molecular Sciences, Dr. Lynne Maquat, PI & Dr. Jeffrey Hayes, Co-PI; Graduates Working in Science (GWIS); the RNA Society & Lexogen)



THURSDAY

April 23

2:00 pm
Lower Adolph
Aud 1-7619

Harri Itkonen, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Clinical Molecular Biology, EpiGen, Institute of Clinical Medicine, University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway; EpiGen, Medical Division, Akershus University Hospital, Lørenskog, Norway; Department of Biochemistry and Developmental Biology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland
“Cancer-Specific Remodeling of the Transcription Machinery Identifies Targetable Vulnerabilities”
Host: Dr. Paul Boutz

April 29

Andrew Varble, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY
“Replication and Host Impact of Circular RNAs in Bacteria”
Hosts: Dr. Mitch O’Connell and Dr. Lynne Maquat

FRIDAY

May 15

11:00 am

Katrin Karbstein, PhD, Professor and Vice-Chair, Department of Biochemistry, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
“Ribosome Remodeling to Attend to Cellular Stress”
Host: Dr. Lynne Maquat (co-sponsored by the Protein Synthesis Cluster)

May 27

10:00 am
K207 (2-6408)

David Tremethick, BSc (Hons) (Syd), PhD (Macq), Professor, Division of Genome Sciences and Cancer, Australian National University, College of Science and Medicine, Canberra, Australia
“Linking Genome Structure with Function: A Journey of Histone Variant Discovery”
Host: Dr. Jeffrey Hayes