

Mitochondrial and Metabolic Research Center's Annual Mitochondria and Metabolism Day

2026 PROGRAM

Thursday October 29th, 2026, University of Rochester Medical Center, Rochester NY

All presentations will be held in the Class of '62 Auditorium at URM. C.
Poster sessions, meals and breaks in the Flaum Atrium, adjacent to the auditorium.

NOTE: Listed talk durations include time for questions

08:00 Breakfast (55 min) – poster setup

08:55 Welcome/Introduction (5 min)

Session 1: Cancer Metabolism (Session Chairs – Marlies Rossman PhD, Elena Morin PhD)

09:00 Faculty speaker – Jeevisha Bajaj PhD
"Microenvironment & Metabolism Cross-Talk in Leukemia" (30 min)

09:30 Trainee speaker – Salome Ghvinephadze
"Title TBD" (15 min)

09:45 Trainee speaker – Jing Guo
"Title TBD" (15 min)

10:00 Break (30 min)

Symposium 2: Environmental, Endocrinology, and Metabolism (Session Chairs – Roman Eliseev PhD, Peter Girardi)

10:30 Faculty speaker – Olga Astapova MD, PhD
"Tissue-Selective Insulin Resistance in Polyendocrine Metabolic Ovarian Syndrome" (30 min)

11:00 Trainee speaker – Neha Biju
"Vitamin B6 deficiency during pregnancy impairs pancreatic β -cell development and glucose metabolism in the male offspring" (15 min)

11:15 Trainee speaker – Anne Haskins
"Viral Modulation of Host Cell Mitochondrial Function During HCMV Infection." (15 min)

11:30 Lunch and Poster Session (2 hours)

Symposium 3: Proteomics, development, and bioenergetics (Session Chairs – Paul Brookes PhD, Annika Mueller-Eigner PhD)

01:30 Faculty speaker – Michael Welte PhD

“Monitoring fatty acid flux during Drosophila oogenesis: lipid droplets protect mitochondrial integrity” (30 min)

02:00 Trainee speaker – Sarah Catheline PhD

“Mitochondrial fusion factors Mfn1 and Mfn2 play a critical role in postnatal bone mass accrual and growth plate lengthening during skeletal development” (15 min)

02:15 Trainee speaker – Joseph Mauro

“Mild Mitochondrial Precursor Overaccumulation Stress Induces Proteostatic Response and Improves Heart Function in Aged Mice” (15 min)

02:30 Break (30 min)

Keynote Address

03:00 Shey-Shing Sheu Lecture in Mitochondrial Biology

(Introduction by Robert Dirksen PhD, UPMC Pharmacology & Physiology)

03:10 Ruma Banerjee PhD, University of Michigan.

(Introduction by Andrew Wojtovich)

“Power and poison: At the intersection of sulfide and O₂ metabolism” (1 hr.)

04:10 Closing Remarks & trainee awards