

Vascular Biology 2026		
Day 1 – Sunday, October 18		
1:30-6:00pm	Pre-conference Meeting for Trainees (Chapel) Organizers: Stephen Hammond, MCW and Josephine Tan, Amsterdam UMC Featured Speakers: Kristy Red-Horse, Stanford University; Zhen Bouman Chen, City of Hope; and Brant Isakson, University of Virginia	
7:10-9:30pm	Opening Remarks Cynthia St. Hilaire, NAVBO President, University of Pittsburgh Keynote Lecture by Kristy Red-Horse, Stanford University <i>Investigating species-specific coronary artery anatomies using in vivo perturb-seq</i> Earl P. Benditt Award Presentation and Lecture - <i>Genetics informs new therapies for pulmonary arterial hypertension</i> Marlene Rabinovitch, Stanford University School of Medicine Presentation of the Travel Awards	
9:30-10:30pm	Welcome Reception	
Day 2 – Monday, October 19		
7:30-8:30am	Group Breakfast	
8:30-10:00am	Regulation of Vascular Development (Merrill) <i>Hemodynamic regulation of vascular development</i> Amber Stratman, Washington Univ in St. Louis Short Talk: <i>Primary cilia protein IFT88 is a key governor of smooth muscle phenotype</i> Brendan O'Brien, Yale School of Medicine Short Talk: <i>Endothelial PCBP1 Is Essential for Developmental Angiogenesis and Cardiac Morphogenesis</i> Shuhan Lyu, University of Southern California <i>Mural cell recruitment to the developing vasculature: insights from disease genes</i> Sarah Childs, University of Calgary	Cell Communication in Atherosclerosis (Chapel) <i>Restoring endothelial-immune cell communication to resolve vascular inflammation</i> Kathryn Howe, University of Toronto Short Talk: <i>Discovery of a nutrient sensing checkpoint required for continual efferocytosis</i> Abraham Quaye, Louisiana State University Health Shreveport Short Talk: <i>Inhibiting Interleukin-6 trans signaling increases murine survival from cardiovascular events</i> Victoria Milosek, University of Virginia <i>Resolving inflammation as a strategy to treat atherosclerosis</i> Gabrielle Fredman, Albany Medical School
10:30am-12:00pm	Vascular Malformations (Merrill) <i>Unveiling brain AVM pathogenesis: Lessons from mouse models</i> Paul Oh, Barrow Institute	Organ crosstalk in cardiometabolic disease (Chapel) <i>Chylomicrons as drivers of inflammation through regulatory T cell metabolism of dietary lipids</i> Alison Kohan, University of Pittsburgh

	Short Talk: <i>MYC-induced hypertranscription drives pathological vascular remodeling in sporadic arteriovenous malformations</i> Jason Fish, University Health Network - Toronto Short Talk: <i>Dynamic Regulation of the Retrotransposon LINE-1 During Infantile Hemangioma Progression</i> Mehrnaz Mehrabipour, Boston Children's Hospital/Harvard Medical School <i>Cellular and molecular mechanisms driving aberrant vascular lumen formation in a novel model of venous malformation</i> Elisa Boscolo, Cincinnati Children's	Short Talk: <i>Defective Lymphatic Drainage and Junctional Disorganization Impair Cardiac Injury Resolution After Myocardial Infarction</i> Long Nguyen Hoang Do, Temple University Short Talk: <i>Breast cancer induces cardiac inflammation to predispose the cardiovascular system to damage during chemotherapy</i> Priya Mistry, University Health Network <i>Vascular-Immune cell crosstalk in the control of acute and chronic damage responses</i> Scott Johnstone, Virginia Tech's Fralin Biomedical Research Institute
12:00-1:00pm	Lunch and Learn for Trainees	Lunch for all others
1:00-2:30pm	MCS President's Symposium: Lymphatics in Disease and Development <i>Obesity-Related Lymphedema: Mechanisms and potential therapeutic targets</i> Jorge A. Castorena, Tulane University School of Medicine <i>Calcium signals at the heart of lymphatic muscle cell pacemaking</i> Scott Zawieja, University of Missouri <i>Lymphatic transport from the intestine</i> Gwendalyn Randolph, Washington University in St. Louis <i>NOTCH1 as a regulator of lymphatic button junctions</i> Joshua Scallan, University of South Florida	
2:30-3:15pm	Microcirculatory Society's Landis Award Presentation and Lecture - <i>Following Where the Science Leads</i> Brant Isakson, University of Virginia	
3:30-5:00pm	Emerging Topics in Microcirculation Short Talk: <i>Liraglutide Suppresses Inflammatory and Barrier-Disruptive Responses in Human Lung Microvascular Endothelial Cells Through a Potential GLP-1R-Independent Mechanism</i> David Aslaner, Vanderbilt University Short Talk: <i>Lymphatic endothelial alpha globin promotes cardiomyocyte hypertrophy during heart failure through local nitric oxide scavenging and T cell retention</i> Skylar Loeb, University of Virginia Short Talk: <i>Calcitonin receptor-like receptor (CLR) Signaling Regulates Lymphatic Lipid Metabolism and Intestinal Lipid Transport</i> Yanna Tian, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	

	Short Talk: <i>Piezo1-Mediated Mechanotransduction in Endothelial Dysfunction During Severe Dengue</i> Lindsay Whalen, University of Illinois Chicago Short Talk: <i>Understanding pericyte cell states and their roles in pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma</i> Christian Palacios-Gomez, University of Virginia Short Talk: <i>Early-life protein restriction exacerbates metabolic dysfunction and impairs pancreatic vascular responses induced by a hypercaloric diet</i> Leticia Barssotti, University of Campinas	
5:10-5:45pm	Nano-Talks (Merrill)	
6:00-7:00pm	Group Dinner	
7:00-10:00pm	Poster Sessions (Fred Farr Forum and Kiln)	
Day 3 – Tuesday, October 20		
7:30-8:30am	Group Breakfast	
8:30-10:00am	Neurovascular Coupling and Patterning (Merrill) <i>Piezo1 integrates hemodynamic forces to tune neurovascular coupling</i> Osama Harraz, University of Vermont	Omics in Inflammatory CVD (Chapel) <i>Spatially mapping atherosclerosis: Connecting molecular architecture to clinical understanding</i> Gregory Payne, University of Alabama, Birmingham
	Short Talk: <i>A mitochondrial program encodes brain vascular reserve</i> Ivan Fan Xia, Yale University	Short Talk: <i>Divergent Immune and Smooth Muscle Programs Define Sex-Specific Remodeling in Ascending Aortic Aneurysm</i> Elena Repges, Brigham and Women's Hospital
	Short Talk: <i>Choline regulates angiogenesis and promotes remyelination in post stroke repair</i> Dibyanti Mukherjee, University of California, San Francisco	Short Talk: <i>Single-cell transcriptomics reveals endothelial and stromal remodeling linked to chronic venous obstruction following venous stenting</i> Oscar Moreno, University of Michigan
	<i>Understanding the role of endothelial calcium dynamics in cerebral microcirculation</i> Craig Brown, University of Victoria	<i>Precision cardiovascular genomics: Decoding disease risk with stem cell models</i> Valentina Lo Sardo, University of Wisconsin-Madison
10:30am-12:00pm	Engineering Strategies for Vascularization and Disease Modeling (Merrill) <i>Engineering angiogenic biomaterials for brain repair</i> Tatiana Segura, Duke University	
	Short Talk: <i>Blood perfusion drives microvessel maturation in engineered microvascular grafts</i> Angela Zhou, University Health Network	
	Short Talk: <i>Circulating nanoplastics induce cardiotoxicity and vascular inflammation in a perfusable engineered human cardiovascular microtissue</i> Jules Allbritton-King, Harvard Medical School	

	<i>Engineering the stem cell niche</i> Quinton Smith, University of California Irvine	
12:00-1:30pm	Career Development Lunch: Mock Interviews - Your First Faculty Position (Seascape – Crocker Dining Hall)	Lunch for all others
1:30-3:30pm	Regeneration and Mechanobiology in Vascular Biology (Merrill) <i>Flow, KLF2, and endothelial mechanobiology</i> Guillermo Garcia-Cardena, Harvard Medical School	Pulmonary Microcirculation in Pulmonary Hypertension (Chapel) <i>Rgs5 deficiency in pericytes promotes microvascular remodeling in pulmonary hypertension</i> Ke Yuan, Boston Children's Hospital
	<i>Mechanical and cellular heterogeneity in asymmetric aortic valve calcification</i> Joshua Hutcheson, Florida International University	Short Talk: <i>Extracellular matrix-related protein Cthrc1 is a potential target in pulmonary hypertension</i> Eunate Gallardo-Vara, Yale University
	<i>Endothelial organotypic plasticity in pancreatic islet cell grafts</i> Sara Nunes Vasconcelos, University of Toronto	Short Talk: <i>Restoring Endothelial TMEM100 Reverses the Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension Phenotype Resulting from TBX4 Deficiency</i> Mauro Lago Docampo, Stanford University
	<i>Non-canonical functions of telomerase in vascular rejuvenation</i> John Cooke, Houston Methodist Research Institute	Short Talk: <i>Targeting the ERG-EDNRB Axis in Lymphatic Endothelial Cells to Attenuate Bleomycin-Induced Pulmonary Fibrosis</i> Arun Narota, Boston University
		Short Talk: <i>ROR2 Signaling Regulates Pericyte Function and Microvascular Stability in Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension</i> Arpita Roy, Stanford University
		<i>Mitochondrial ASIC1a as a key regulator of pulmonary arterial smooth muscle cell apoptosis</i> Nikki L Jernigan, University of New Mexico School of Medicine
3:45-4:15pm	Tech Showcase: Live, Long-term Mitochondrial Respiration with Resipher (Merrill) Silke Grainger, VP Product Application Strategy	
5:00-6:00pm	Career Development: Preparing a Pre- or Postdoctoral Fellowship Application: Lessons from Study Sections (Chapel)	
6:00-7:00pm	Group Dinner	
7:00-10:00pm	Poster Sessions (Fred Farr Forum and Kiln)	
Day 4 – Wednesday, October 21		
7:30-8:30	Group Breakfast	

8:30-10:00am	Lymphatics: Aging and Function (Merrill) <i>G protein-coupled receptors in lymphatic development and physiology</i> Kathleen Caron, UNC Chapel Hill Short Talk: <i>Characterization of novel lymphatic capillary mural cells (LCMCs)</i> Vishakha Vishwakarma, NICHD, NIH Short Talk: <i>Connexin 37-mediated late G1 state enables lymphatic valve morphogenesis</i> Madeline Jackson, University of Virginia <i>The role of lymphatic vessels in mesenteric inflammation</i> Sathish Srinivasan, Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation	Metabolism and Epigenetics Intersection in Cardiovascular Disease (Chapel) <i>RNA-mediated endothelial stress response in diabetes and complications</i> Zhen Chen, City of Hope Short Talk: <i>TGFβ negatively regulates CPT1A-mediated fatty acid oxidation to impair cardiac lymphangiogenesis and exacerbate cardiac dysfunction following myocardial ischemia</i> Esteban Delgado, Temple University Short Talk: <i>Empagliflozin restores angiogenic gene regulatory pathways in the cardiac microvasculature in diabetes-induced heart failure with preserved ejection fraction</i> Cori Lau, University Health Network <i>Epigenetics and inflammation in cardiovascular disease</i> Katherine Gallagher, University of Michigan
10:30am-12:00pm	New Trends in Vascular Biology (Merrill) Short Talk: <i>Platelets unlock endothelial plasticity toward mesenchymal fates to promote aortic Aneurysm</i> Yogi Pratama, NYU Langone Health Short Talk: <i>The splicing factor SF3B1 is essential for safeguarding global splicing integrity and suppressing ferroptosis in endothelial cells to support angiogenesis</i> Ziqing Liu, Medical College of Wisconsin Short Talk: <i>Piezo2-Vegfr3 signaling axis regulates lymphangiogenesis in calcium dependent manner</i> Zuzanna Juskiewicz, University of Virginia Short Talk: <i>Type 1 Diabetes Abrogates Female Vascular Protection Through Renin-Angiotensin-Aldosterone System-Dependent Oxidative Stress Despite Preserved</i>	Musculoskeletal Microcirculation (Chapel) <i>Age-related microvascular dysfunction: The skeleton and beyond</i> Rhonda Prisby, University of Texas at Arlington Short Talk: <i>The histone modification H3K4me2 and the DNA demethylase TET2 coordinately regulate microvascular SMC recruitment and coverage during hindlimb ischemia-induced angiogenesis</i> Sanjana Basak, University of Pittsburgh Short Talk: <i>Impacts of Metabolic Disease and Aging on Synovial Microvasculature in Knee Osteoarthritis: Roles of Synovial Endothelial-to-Mesenchymal Transition</i> Qinli Guo, Western University <i>The relationship between microvascular health and neuromuscular function post-stroke</i> Matthew Durand, Medical College of Wisconsin

	<i>Endothelial Bioenergetics</i> Adam Salon, Augusta University <i>Short Talk: Engineering Macrophage-Informed Vascularization: From Native Microvessel Biology to Regenerative Applications</i> Si Tong Huo, University of Toronto <i>Short Talk: Engineering Lymphatic Vascular Tissues from Human Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells</i> Donny Hanjaya-Putra, University of Notre Dame	
12:00-1:00pm	Community Building Workshop for International Scholars in the US (Seascape – Crocker Dining Hall)	Group Lunch for all others
1:00-2:30pm	Mechanisms of Vascular Disease and Resilience <i>Smooth muscle pathobiology in vascular disease</i> Daniel Greif, Yale University <i>Endothelial cell nuclear mechanotransduction regulates vascular resilience</i> Victoria Bautch, UNC Chapel Hill <i>Role of endothelial cell cycle in fate specification</i> Karen Hirschi, University of Virginia School of Medicine	
2:45-4:30pm	NAVBO – Award Lectures and Presentations Presentation of the Florence Sabin Award - Sharon Gerecht, Duke University Presentation of the Stephen Schwartz Award - Peter Libby, Harvard School of Medicine Springer Award Presentation and Lecture - <i>TGFβ-Mediated Metabolic Regulation of Cardiac Lymphatics After Myocardial Infarction</i> Xiaolei Liu, Temple University Folkman Award Presentation and Lecture - <i>From endothelial mechanobiology toward precision nanomedicine for vascular disease</i> Yun Fang, University of Chicago	
5:00-7:00pm	Poster Sessions (Fred Farr Forum and Kiln)	
7:15-9:30pm	Farewell Dinner, Poster Award Presentations and Closing Remarks	
Day 5 – Thursday, October 22		
7:30-8:30am	Group Breakfast	