

MSSRP Mentor List - Summer 2027

The first stage of the MSSRP application process is to research a few mentors whose work interests you, and to ask Tracy Krebs (tls23@case.edu) to help you get in contact with those mentors.

1. Please use the information below as a jumping-off point for your own research on mentors you may want to work with.
2. You should utilize the CWRU, UH, and/or Cleveland Clinic websites to get more details of what each mentor is researching.
3. You should utilize PubMed and browse the list of publications for mentors you are interested in working with.
4. We encourage you to consider basic and translational research in addition to clinical research.

Mentors by category:

TABLE A. Case MSSRP T35 by Thematic Areas of Focus	
DIGESTIVE DISEASES	Primary Mentors: Philip Ahern, PhD, Amitabh Chak, MD, Fabio Cominelli, MD, PhD, Wendy Goodman, PhD, Theresa Pizarro, PhD, Abigail Raffner, PhD, RD ^{JR} , Florian Rieder, MD, Parameswaran Ramakrishnan, PhD; Secondary Mentors: Gregory Cooper, MD, MPH, Amar Desai, PhD, Katarina Greer ^{JR} , MD, Sanford Markowitz, MD, PhD, Jeanette Messer, PhD, Alexander Rodriguez-Palacios, DVM, PhD ^{JR} , Rui Wang, MD
KIDNEY & UROLOGIC DISEASES	Primary Mentors: Margot Damaser, PhD, Katherine Dell, MD, Mirela Dobre, MD, Christopher Flask, PhD, Aaron Miller, PhD, Emilio Poggio, MD, Mahboob Rahman, MD, Jefferey Schelling, MD, Jonathan Shoag, MD, Oliver Wessely, PhD; Secondary Mentors: Stanley Hazen, MD, PhD
DIABETES, ENDOCRINE & METABOLIC DISEASES	Primary Mentors: Mirela Dobre, MD, Paul Fox, PhD, Rose Gubitosi-Klug, MD, PhD, Yan Li, PhD, Sarah Macleish, DO, Danny Manor, PhD, Parameswaran Ramakrishnan, PhD, Jefferey Schelling, MD; Secondary Mentors: Stanley Hazen, MD, PhD
LIVER DISEASES	Primary Mentors: Christopher Flask, PhD, Takuya Sakaguchi, PhD; Secondary Mentors: Donald Anthony, MD, PhD, Laura Nagy, PhD
Primary T35 mentors are faculty with active NIDDK funding; secondary mentors are faculty with highly collaborative NIDDK-related research interests funded from other institutes and federal agencies; ^{JR} junior mentors are partnered with senior faculty	

Mentor Summaries:

MSSRP Mentor Research Interests
PHILIP AHERN, PhD , Assistant Staff Scientist, Cardiovascular Disease & Metabolic Sciences, Cleveland Clinic LRI; Assistant Professor of Molecular Medicine, CCLCM-CWRU; Research: Gut microbiota and IBD; Email: ahernp@ccf.org
DONALD ANTHONY, Jr, MD, PhD , Professor of Medicine (Infectious Diseases & HIV), CWRU SoM; Research: Immune cell function during hepatitis C virus infection; Email: dda3@case.edu
AMITBAH CHAK, MD , Professor of Medicine (GI & Liver Diseases) & Oncology, CWRU SoM; Research: Barrett's esophagus (BE) & esophageal adenocarcinoma, novel endoscopic imaging techniques; Email: amitabh.chak@uhhospitals.org
FABIO COMINELLI, MD, PhD , Distinguished University Professor; Hermann Menges, Jr. Professor of Medicine & Pathology; Chief, Division of GI & Liver Diseases, CWRU SoM; Co-Director, T35 Case MSSRP; Co-Director, T32 Digestive Diseases; Director, P30 Cleveland DDRCC Research: Role of cytokines & gut microbiota in IBD; Email: fxc90@case.edu

MSSRP Mentor Research Interests	
GREGORY COOPER, MD, MPH	Professor of Medicine (GI & Liver Diseases) & Population and Quantitative Health Sciences; Research: Screening & surveillance for colorectal cancer (CRC); Email: gregory.cooper@uhhospitals.org
MARGOT DAMASER, PhD	Staff Scientist, Department of Biomedical Engineering, Cleveland Clinic LRI; Professor of Molecular Medicine, CCLCM-CWRU; Senior Rehabilitation Career Scientist, Louis Stokes Cleveland VAMC; Research: Biomedically engineered tools to improve stress urinary or fecal incontinence or pelvic organ prolapse; Email: damasem@ccf.org
KATHERINE DELL, MD	Staff Scientist, Pediatric Nephrology, Cleveland Clinic Pediatric Institute; Professor of Pediatrics (Nephrology), CCLCM-CWRU; Research: Imaging of ARPKD in kidney disease; Email: dellk@ccf.org
AMAR DESAI, PhD	Assistant Professor, Case Comprehensive Cancer Center, CWRU SoM; Research: 15-PGDH in improving bone marrow transplantation; Email: abd10@case.edu
MIRELA DOBRE, MD, MPH	Associate Professor, Department of Medicine-Nephrology, CWRU SoM; Research: Chronic kidney disease and its related metabolic and cardiovascular complications; Email: Mirela.Dobre@uhhospitals.org
CHRISTOPHER FLASK, PhD	Professor of Radiology, Pediatrics & Biomedical Engineering, CWRU SoM and School of Engineering; Associate Director, Case MSTP; Research: Imaging of ARPKD in kidney disease; Email: caf@case.edu
PAUL FOX, PhD	Robert Canova Endowed Chair in Inflammation Research, Department of Cardiovascular Disease & Metabolic Sciences, Cleveland Clinic LRI; Professor of Molecular Medicine, CCLCM-CWRU; Research: IFN-gamma signaling, mechanisms of blood vessel formation, and ferroxidases in iron metabolism; Email: foxp@ccf.org
WENDY GOODMAN, PhD	Assistant Professor of Pathology, CWRU SoM; Research: Regulatory T-cells in IBD; Email: wag@case.edu
KATARINA GREER, MD (Junior Mentor)	Associate Professor of Medicine (GI & Liver Diseases), CWRU SoM; Research: Screening tool for Barrett's esophagus; Email: katarina.greer@va.gov
ROSE GUBITOSI-KLUG, MD, PhD	Professor of Pediatrics (Endocrinology) & Associate Professor of Pharmacology, CWRU SoM; Research: Epidemiology of long-term type I diabetes; Email: Rose.Gubitosi-Klug@uhhospitals.org
STANLEY HAZEN, MD, PhD	Van Bleeksma Chair of Vascular Cell Biology & Artherosclerosis, Cleveland Clinic LRI; Professor of Molecular Medicine, CCLCM-CWRU; Director, Center for Microbiome & Human Health, Cleveland Clinic LRI; Research: Diet-induced gut microbiota-mediated inflammation & cardiometabolic disease; Email: HAZENS@ccf.org
YAN LI, PhD	Associate Professor of Genetics & Genome Sciences, CWRU SoM; Research: Single-cell genomics to dissect disease-associated heterogeneity in human pancreatic islets; Email: yxl1379@case.edu
SARAH MACLEISH, DO	Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, CWRU SoM; Research: Type 1 diabetes in children; Email: Sarah.MacLeish2@uhhospitals.org
DANNY MANOR, PhD	Professor of Nutrition & Pharmacology, CWRU SoM; Research: Molecular mechanisms regulating antioxidants (vitamin E) in the context of metabolic perturbations, neurodegeneration, and cancer; Email: dxm178@case.edu
SANFORD MARKOWITZ, MD, PhD	Frances Wragg Ingalls Professor of Cancer Genetics, Genetics & Genome Sciences, & Molecular Biology, CWRU SoM; Research: Immunogenetics of CRC tumorigenesis; Email: sxm10@case.edu
JEANNETTE MESSER, DVM, PhD	Assistant Staff Scientist, Department of Inflammation & Immunity, Cleveland Clinic LRI; Adjunct Assistant Professor of Molecular Medicine, CCLCM-CWRU; Research: HMGB1 in IBD; Email: messerj3@ccf.org
LAURA E. NAGY, PhD	Staff Scientist, Department of Inflammation & Immunity, Cleveland Clinic LRI; Professor of Physiology & Biophysics, CWRU; Professor of Molecular Medicine, CCLCM-CWRU; Director, P50 Northern Ohio Alcohol Center; Research: Alcohol-induced chronic hepatitis & diabetes; Email: nagyl3@ccf.org

MSSRP Mentor Research Interests	
<u>THERESA PIZARRO, PhD</u> , Louis Pillemer Endowed Professor of Experimental Pathology & Associate Professor of Medicine, CWRU; T35 Case MSSRP Co-Director; Research: Mucosal immunity; Email: ttp@case.edu	
<u>ABIGAIL RAFFNER, PhD, RD (Junior Mentor)</u> , Assistant Professor of Nutrition, CWRU SoM; Research: Mechanisms of targeted dietary manipulation for intestinal microbiota and inflammation in IBD; Email: axb860@case.edu	
<u>EMILIO POGGIO, MD</u> , Staff Scientist, Department of Nephrology & Hypertension, Cleveland Clinic Glickman Urological & Kidney Institute, Department of Inflammation & Immunity, Cleveland Clinic LRI; Professor of Molecular Medicine, CCLCM-CWRU; Research: Clinical and translational kidney transplantation research; Email: poggioe@ccf.org	
<u>MAHBOOB RAHMAN, MD</u> , Professor of Medicine; Chief, Division of Nephrology & Hypertension, CWRU SoM; Research: Predictors of chronic renal insufficiency progression; Email: Mahboob.Rahman@uhhospitals.org	
<u>PARAMESWARAN RAMKRISHNAN, PhD</u> , Associate Professor of Pathology & Biochemistry, CWRU SoM; Research: Signal transduction in autoimmunity & immunometabolism in type-1 diabetes & inflammation-induced colon cancer; Email: pxr150@case.edu	
<u>FLORIAN RIEDER, MD</u> , Staff Scientist, Department of Inflammation & Immunity, Cleveland Clinic LRI; Professor of Molecular Medicine, CCLCM-CWRU; Research: Creeping fat in CD strictures; Email: riederf@ccf.org	
<u>TAKUYA SAKAGUCHI, PhD</u> , Associate Staff, Department of Inflammation & Immunity, Cleveland Clinic LRI; Associate Professor of Molecular Medicine, CCLCM-CWRU; Research: Biliary system formation; nonalcoholic steatohepatitis using a zebrafish model; Email: sakagut2@ccf.org	
<u>JEFFREY SCHELLING, MD</u> , Professor of Medicine (Nephrology & Hypertension), CWRU SoM; Research: Mechanisms of chronic kidney disease in diabetes; Email: jrs15@case.edu	
<u>JONATHAN SHOAG, MD</u> , Assistant Professor of Urology, CWRU SoM; Research: Drug development and prostate cancer biology; Email: Jonathan.Shoag@uhhospitals.org	
<u>RUI WANG, PhD</u> , Associate Professor of Surgery, CWRU SoM; Research: Intestinal epithelial cells in IBD and pro-inflammatory factors in colitis-associated tumorigenesis; Email: rxw517@case.edu	
<u>OLIVER WESSELY, PhD</u> , Associate Staff Scientist, Department of Cardiovascular & Metabolic Sciences, Cleveland Clinic LRI; Associate Professor of Molecular Medicine, CCLCM-CWRU; Research: Kidney development and molecular mechanisms of kidney disease; Email: wesselo@ccf.org	