

24<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium  
Visual Sciences Research Center

Schedule

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Friday, May 20, 2022

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8:30 Continental Breakfast

9:00 **Douglas Rhee**  
Professor and Chairman, Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences  
Case Western Reserve University  
Opening Remarks

9:05 **Irina Pikuleva**  
Professor and Vice Chair of Research, Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences  
Case Western Reserve University  
Visual Sciences Research Center Update

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**VSTP Trainees - Moderator: Johannes Von Lintig**

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9:15 **Karen Hernandez**  
Graduate Student, Lerner Research Institute  
Bela Anand-Apte Lab  
*Regulation of the Outer Blood Retinal Barrier by Glucose and Insulin: Implications for Macular Edema*

9:35 **Jean Moon**  
Graduate Student, Pharmacology  
Johannes von Lintig Lab  
*Genetic dissection of the vitamin A delivery pathways to ocular tissues in mice*

9:55 **Angela Liu**  
Graduate Student, Pathology  
Parameswaran Ramakrishnan Lab  
*Novel role of c-Rel O-GlcNAcylation in inflammation and diabetic complications*

10:15 **Mitchell Moseng**  
Postdoctoral Scholar, Pharmacology  
Marcin Golczak Lab  
*Structural insight into AWAT2 and STRA6*

10:35 **Break**

10:50

**Jonathan Lass**

Charles I Thomas Professor and Vice Chair for Academic Affairs, Ophthalmology  
Case Western Reserve University  
Introduction

Keynote Speaker

**Ula V. Jurkunas**

Associate Professor, Ophthalmology  
Harvard Medical School

*Crosstalk between UV light and estrogen metabolism in the pathogenesis of Fuchs Dystrophy: why are females more affected?*

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**11:50 – 1:10 Lunch**

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**Lens, Cornea, and RPE – Moderator: Patricia Taylor**

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1:10

**Sidra Islam**

Postdoctoral Scholar, Pathology  
Vincent Monnier Lab

*$\alpha$ -Crystallin chaperone mimetic small molecules as a paradigm for cataract prevention by inhibition of lens  $\gamma$ -crystallin aggregation*

1:30

**Cari Nealon**

Optometrist, Million Veteran Program  
Sudha Iyengar Lab

*Increase in Multimorbidity and Risk to Female Veterans Identified via Computable Phenotyping for Fuchs Endothelial Corneal Dystrophy*

1:50

**Anand Bhushan**

Postdoctoral Scholar, Lerner Research Institute  
K.P Connie Tam Lab

*Cytokeratin 6a controls corneal inflammation through autophagy*

2:10

**Christopher Morgan**

Instructor, Pharmacology  
Edward Yu Lab

*Towards structural omics of the bovine retinal pigment epithelium*

2:30

**Break**

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**Retina and Related Diseases – Moderator: Paul Park**

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2:45

**Nicole El-Darzi,**

Research Assistant, Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences  
Irina Pikuleva Lab

*Low-dose anti-HIV drug efavirenz mitigates retinal vascular lesions in a mouse model of Alzheimer's disease*

- 3:05 **Yalitza Z. Lopez Corcino**  
Postdoctoral Scholar, Medicine  
Carlos Subauste Lab  
*A pharmacological inhibitor of EGFR receptor and antimicrobial agents cooperate to impair Toxoplasma gondii-induced Akt activation resulting in autophagic killing of the parasite and improved control of ocular toxoplasmosis*
- 3:25 **Sreelakshmi Vasudevan**  
Postdoctoral Scholar, Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences  
Paul Park Lab  
*Functional evaluation of GPR75 in retina*
- 3:45 **Scott Howell**  
Senior Researcher, Ophthalmology  
Patricia Taylor Lab  
*The therapeutic impact of TRAF6 inhibition in diabetic retinopathy*
- 4:05 **Paul Park**  
Associate Professor, Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences  
Closing Remarks
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- 4:15 **Reception** Wolstein Research Building Lobby
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