26th Annual Symposium  
Visual Sciences Research Center  

Schedule  

Friday, May 31, 2024  

8:15  Continental Breakfast  

9:00  Irina Pikuleva  
Professor and Vice Chair of Research, Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences  
Case Western Reserve University  
Opening Remarks  

9:10  Johannes Von Lintig  
Professor, Pharmacology  
Case Western Reserve University  
Training Grant Update  

**Session 1 - Moderator: Patricia Taylor**  

9:15  Sepalika Bandara  
Research Associate, Pharmacology  
Johannes von Lintig Lab  
*Aster-B regulates mitochondrial carotenoid transport and homeostasis*  

9:35  Scott Howell  
Senior Researcher, Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences  
Patricia Taylor Lab  
*Anti-IL-17RC Enhances the Efficacy of anti-VEGF Treatment for Diabetic Macular Edema*  

9:55  Brecken Blackburn  
Postdoctoral Scholar, Biomedical Engineering  
Andrew Rollins Lab  
Co-Mentor, William J. Dupps  
*Assessment of Micromechanical Alterations of the Cornea with Phase Decorrelation OCT*  

10:15  Lauren Cruz  
Graduate Student, Population and Quantitative Health Sciences  
Dana Crawford Lab  
Co-Mentor, Jessica Cooke Bailey  
*Vision for All of Us: characterizing the role of genetic ancestry in primary open-angle glaucoma*  

10:35  Break  

**Session 2 - Moderator: Beata Jastrzebska**  

10:50  Jonah J. Scott-McKean  
Research Associate, Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences  
Shigemii Matsuyama Lab  
*Cell Death Inhibitor M109S Attenuated Retinal Ganglion Cell Degeneration induced by Optic Nerve Crush in mice*
11:10 Maria Azam
Postdoctoral Scholar, Pharmacology
Beata Jastrzebska Lab
Inhibition of the Galanin Receptor-3 slows down degeneration of photoreceptors in retinitis pigmentosa

11:30 Maryse Lapierre-Landry
Research Assistant Professor
Michael Jenkins Lab
Quantifying corneal nerve whorl patterns

11:50 Sudha Iyengar
Professor and Vice Chair for Research, Population and Quantitative Health Sciences
Phecode-enabled GWASs identify known and novel loci for eye traits and disorders (EYEWas)

12:10 – 1:40 Lunch and Poster Session

Session 3 - Moderator: Paul Park

1:40 Made Airanthi K. Widjaja-Adhi
Research Scientist, Pharmacology
Marcin Golczak Lab
Pharmacological alteration of meibum lipid composition alleviates dry eye phenotype in Awat2-/mice

2:00 Sreelakshmi Vasudevan
Postdoctoral Scholar, Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences
Paul Park Lab
Aggregation of rhodopsin mutants in mouse models of autosomal dominant retinitis pigmentosa

2:20 Nicole El-Darzi
Research Assistant, Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences
Irina Pikuleva Lab
APOB100 transgenic (APOB100 Tg) mice exemplify how the systemic circulation content may affect the retina without altering retinal cholesterol input

2:40 Break

Keynote Presentation - Introduction: Irina Pikuleva

2:50 Rajendra S. Apte
Professor, Ophthalmology & Visual Science
Washington University School of Medicine
Novel Insights into Retinal Inflammation and Neurodegeneration

Closing Remarks – Paul Park

4:00 Reception in the Wolstein Research Building Lobby