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
Shigemi Matsuyama Lab
Cell Death Inhibitor M109S Attenuated Retinal Ganglion Cell Degeneration induced by Optic Nerve Crush in mice

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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

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