

School of Medicine Lecture Committee

Annual Report

June 2026

SOM Lecture Committee

Fredrick Schumacher, Chair	Dept of PQHS	2029
David Buchner	Dept of Genetics	2027
Alan Tartakoff	Dept of Pathology	2027
Adam Perzynski	Dept of Pathology	2028
Sichun Yang	Dept of Nutrition	2026
*Yee Peng Phoon	Dept of Molecular Med	2029

* Newly elected

MEMBERSHIP: Five full-time faculty members with representation from both preclinical and clinical departments. Terms shall be for three years with re-election permitted. The members shall serve overlapping terms.

Presentation to the Faculty Council, June 2026

Louis A. Bloomfield Memorial Lecture

“Provide lectures in Greater Cleveland by distinguished medical Scientists and scholars”

2026: The Bloomfield lecture fund will host Dr. David Baker from the University of Washington (*virtually*) on November 18, 2026. Lecture title to be determined.

2025: The Bloomfield lecture fund will be used to support a lecture and visit by Dr. Stuart Orkin from Harvard Medical School and HHMI at Boston Children’s Hospital on 11/13/2025. Dr. Orkin presented on “From Genetics to Genetic Therapy: Turning Back the Hemoglobin Clock”.

2025 (*in progress*): Ruslan Medzhitov, Yale School of Medicine, Sterling Professor of Immunobiology. His laboratory studies biology of inflammation, mechanisms of homeostasis, allergic immunity and mechanisms of diseases. *Unable to find a time*

2024: The Bloomfield lecture fund was used to support a lecture by Dr. David Liu, the Richard Merkin Professor and Director of the Merkin Institute of Transformative Technologies in Healthcare, from the Broad Institute and Harvard University on March 6, 2024. He is a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator. Dr. Liu is a leading figure in combining chemistry and evolution to develop new therapies. He is the architect of the novel base and prime editing methods for accurately correcting genetic mutations that cause disease.

- In addition to the lectures, the SOM Lecture Committee was able to reconnect with many members of the Bloomfield family, including 5 of the grandchildren of Louis Bloomfield. One member of the family was able to attend the 2022 lecture in person and other members were able to view the lecture via zoom. The date for the 2023 lecture has been shared with the family so that they can continue to attend future lectures and reinvigorate their relationship with CWRU.

H.M. Hanna Lecture Fund

Lecture from “distinguished foreign visitors so that they might be attracted here to give lectures in the medical sciences”

2025 (*in progress*): Laura Esserman, Departments of Surgery and Radiology, Institute for Health Policy Studies, UCSF. *Unable to find a time*

2023: Symposium focused on chemical biology

- Damian Young (Baylor)
- Brian Shoichet (UCSF)
- Eranthie Weerapana (Boston College)

Courtney Burton Frontiers of Medicine Lecture Fund

Support an annual lecture from “an outstanding individual who has achieved or been involved in the achievement of a significant advance in medicine or a closely related field”

2025: The Burton funds will be used to support a lecture by Dr. Roy Parker, Department of Biochemistry from the University of Colorado Boulder, on April 23, 2025. Dr. Parker is a biochemist with expertise in cancer biology, cell signaling, gene expression and regulation, and innate immunity.

2023: 20th anniversary of the sequencing of the human genome in the fall of 2023. The symposium will be jointly hosted by CWRU and the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

- Sarah Tishkoff (UPENN)
- Heidi Rehm (Broad)
- David Goldstein (Actio Biosciences)

Additional Items of Interest



- Speaker awards ✓
 - Provide speakers with an award (*i.e.* plaque, glass award, etc)
- Develop a webpage for each lectureship (*underway*)
 - Briefly describe each lectureship ✓
 - List previous speakers ✓
 - This will assist inviting future speakers as a weblink could be provided in the invitation ✓
 - Develop a LinkedIn page for each lectureship (*underway*)
- Continue to develop partnerships with area organizations for lecture panels, *i.e.* similar to the Museum of Natural History collaboration with the 20th anniversary of human genome (*underway*)