

Penn Center for Genome Integrity (PCGI) Annual Scientific Retreat

Tuesday, June 10, 2025
The College of Physicians
@ The Mütter Museum



PCGI Annual Scientific Retreat Program

Tuesday, June 10, 2025

College of Physicians of Philadelphia/Mutter Museum

8:30-9:00 am

Registration & Breakfast Buffet

Mitchell Hall & Ashhurst Room

Session One

Moderator: TBA

9:00-9:10 am

Introduction: Roger A. Greenberg, MD, PhD

Director, Penn Center for Genome Integrity (PCGI)
J. Samuel Staub, MD Professor of Cancer Biology
Director of Basic Science, Bassett Center for BRCA
University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine

9:10-9:25 am

Sangin Kim, PhD

Postdoctoral Researcher, Greenberg Laboratory
University of Pennsylvania School of Arts & Sciences

“ATM-Mediated rDNA Silencing Regulates Immune Response to DNA Damage”

9:25-9:40 am

Sihan Li, PhD

Postdoctoral Researcher, Genetics, Qin Li Laboratory
University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine

“MDA5-mediated self-sensing to endogenous dsRNAs as a potential trigger in autoimmune diseases”

9:40-9:55 am

Ellen Lavorando

Graduate Student, BMB, Liu Laboratory
University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine

“Vaccinia virus protein K7 targets the sex-specific RNA helicase DDX3X, but not DDX3Y, in the innate immune response”

9:55-10:00 am

Introduction to Keynote

Session Two

Moderator: TBA

10:00-10:40 am

Keynote Address: Shan Zha, MD, PhD

James A Wolff Professor of Pediatrics,
Pathology and Cell Biology and of Microbiology
and Immunology
Institute for Cancer Genetics and in the Herbert Irving
Comprehensive Cancer Center, Columbia University

“From Breaks to Barriers: Ku as a Guardian of Genome Integrity and RNA-Driven Immunity”

10:40-11:00 am

Coffee Break

11:00-11:15 am

Akram Hossain, PhD

Postdoctoral Researcher, Tong Laboratory
University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine

“Lnk/Sh2b3 Deficiency Enhances Translesion Synthesis to Alleviate Replication Stress and Promote Hematopoietic Stem Cell Fitness”

11:15-11:30 am

Hyuk-Joon Jeon, PhD

Postdoctoral Researcher, Levine & Lampson Laboratories
University of Pennsylvania School of Arts & Sciences

“A parent-of-origin effect on embryonic telomere elongation determines telomere length inheritance”

11:30-12:00 pm

Faculty Talk: Timour Baslan, PhD

Assistant Professor of Systems Pharmacology and
Translational Therapeutics
Assistant Professor, Department of Biomedical Sciences,
University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine

“Discrete phases of cancer genome evolution underlie sarcomagenesis”

Session Three: Lunch and Roundtable Discussions

12:00-12:45pm

Lunch Break, opportunity to browse the museum

June 10, 2025 PCGI Scientific Retreat Program, continued:

12:45-1:15 pm

Roundtable Discussions

- “Landing a faculty position”
Led by Drs. Timour Baslan & Shan Zha
- “*Entrepreneurial endeavors*”
Led by Drs. Roger Greenberg, Eric J. Brown, & Ben Black
- “*Grant writing*”
Led by Drs. Matthew Weitzman, & Kara Bernstein

Alternately, please feel free to browse the museum

1:15-1:30 pm

Fange (Kathy) Liu, PhD

Assistant Professor of Biochemistry and Biophysics
Members, the Penn Institute for Regenerative Medicine
Core Member, Penn Center for Genome Integrity
Member, Penn Epigenetics Institute
University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine

“Homology search in the 3D genome”

1:30-2:00 pm

Alberto Marín-Gonzales, PhD

Postdoctoral Fellow, Laboratory of Dr. Taekjip Ha
Harvard Medical School

“Homology search in the 3D genome”

2:00-2:15 pm

Mai Wai

Graduate Student, Joyce Lab

“A tug-of-war between nuclear bodies regulates cohesin activity and chromatin organization”

2:15-2:30 pm

Nootan Pandey, PhD

Postdoctoral Researcher, Black Lab
University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine

“Talk Title TBA”

2:30-2:45 pm

Joanna Georgiou

Graduate Student, Discher lab
University of Pennsylvania School of Engineering & Applied Science

“Stresses, like heat and fat, on cancer cells can cause chromosome losses/gains and mitotic disruptions”

2:45-3:15 pm

Faculty Talk: Fonteini Mourkioti, PhD

Associate Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery
Co-Director, Penn Institute of Regenerative Medicine,
Musculoskeletal Regeneration Program
University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine

“Thinking outside the telomeres: a distinct function of TRF2 in acute and chronic muscle injuries”

3:15-3:30pm

Coffee Break

3:30-3:45 pm

Kristie Darrah

Postdoctoral Researcher, Bernstein lab

“Talk Title TBA”

3:45-4:00 pm

Pierce Longmire, PhD

Postdoctoral Researcher, Weitzman Lab
The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia

“Human cytomegalovirus regulates host DNA repair machinery for viral genome integrity”

4:00-4:15 pm

Kimberly Manning

Graduate student, CAMB, Diab Lab
University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine

“Talk Title TBA”

4:15-4:30 pm

Sehbanul Islam, PhD

Postdoctoral Researcher, Busino Lab
University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine

“Unveiling Synergistic Potential of VHL and KEAP1-based PROTACs for Targeted Protein Degradation”

4:30-4:45 pm

Jiayuan Fu, PhD

Postdoctoral Reseracher, Miner Lab
University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine

“Talk Title TBA”

5:00 pm

Reception

Sir John Templeton Veranda and Medicinal Herb Garden