



S O A R i n D O M
SHARING OPPORTUNITIES and ACHIEVEMENTS IN RESEARCH

HORMONAL & METABOLIC DRIVERS OF HEALTH & DISEASE RESEARCH FORUM

FEBRUARY 3, 2026

AGENDA

4:00 pm Check In / Poster set up

4:10pm Welcome

Janet Funk, MS, MD, FACP

Vice Chair of Research, Department of Medicine (DOM)- Tucson
Professor of Medicine (Endocrinology) & Nutritional Sciences and Wellness
University of Arizona, Tucson

4:12pm Introduction

Ronadip R. Banerjee, MD, PhD
Chief, Division of Endocrinology
Associate Professor of Medicine
University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson

4:15-5:15pm

Sparkling Ideas: 2-minute oral presentations

Introduced by Janet Funk, MD

Speakers:

Ronadip Banerjee, MD, PhD
Leslie Baier PhD
Jennifer W Bea, PhD
Dawn Coletta, PhD
Zelieann Rivera Craig, PhD
Leslie Farland, PhD
Josh Farr, PhD
Janet Funk, MS, MD
Edward Gelmann, MD
Yann Kilmentidis, PhD
Kimberly Leslie, MD

Sean W Limesand, PhD
Meilian Liu, PhD
Cindy Miranti, PhD
Edita Navratilova, PhD
Eric Prossnitz, PhD
Sally Radovick, MD
Benjamin Renquist, PhD
(MariKate Murphy, presenting)
Sima Ehsani, MD
Jennifer Stern, PhD
Greg Thatcher, PhD

5:15-5:45pm

Networking & Poster Session with Food

5:45-6:00 pm

Poster Awards & Next Steps



Presented by Janet Funk, MD

SPARKING IDEAS **PRESENTERS & TOPICS**

Institutions	Presenter	Poster Title
UA, COM-T	Ronadip Banerjee, MD, PhD	Diabetes and glucose metabolism, islet biology, pregnancy and GDM
NIDDK Phoenix	Leslie Baier, PhD	Multifactoral mechanisms contributing to metabolic disease (Yann Kilmentidis, PhD, presenting on Dr. Baier's behalf)
UA, UACC, MEZCOPH	Jennifer Bea, PhD	Understudied endocrine contributors to adipose and cancer among aging women
UA, COM-T CDDOM	Dawn Coletta, PhD	Overview of Center for Disparities in Diabetes, Obesity & Metabolism research activities
UA, ACBS, CALES	Zelieann Rivera Craig, PhD	Environmental chemical influences on female reproductive function
UA, MEZCOPH	Leslie Farland, PhD	Causes and long-term health consequences of gynecologic and reproductive health conditions
UA, COM-T AAC	Joshua Farr, PhD	Type 2 diabetes and cellular senescence
UA, COM-T UACC	Janet Funk, MD, MS	Bone-selective steroid hormone signaling as a target in ER+ breast cancer
UA, COM-T UACC	Edward Gelmann, MD	Tumor suppression and androgen action in prostate cancer
UA, MEZCOPH,	Yann Kilmentidis, PhD	Genetic and omic epidemiology of cardiometabolic traits and diseases
UNM	Kimberly Leslie, MD	Hormone therapy for endometrial cancer
UA, ACBS, CALES	Sean Limesand, PhD	Fetal physiology and endocrinology; β -cell biology; metabolism; mitochondria
UNM	Meilian Liu, PhD	Survey of research interests: Fat hormones, adipocyte physiology and adipose tissue inflammation
UA, CMM, COM-T	Cindy Miranti, PhD	Metastasis of AR+ prostate cancer: Epithelial mesenchymal transition?
UA, COM-T	Edita Navratilova, PhD	Impact of Prolactin on Pain in Women
UNM	Eric Prossnitz, PhD	Mechanisms of action and targeting of the G protein-coupled estrogen receptor GPER
UA, COM-T SW CACTI	Sally Radovick, MD	Neuroendocrine control of reproduction and metabolism
UA, ACBS, CALES	Benjamin Renquist, PhD	Fatty liver, Type 2 diabetes and hypertension (MariKate Murphy presenting on Dr. Renquist's behalf)
UA, UACC, COM-T	Sima Ehsani, MD	Improving diagnosis and management of breast cancer
UA, COM-T CDDOM	Jennifer H. Stern, PhD	Glucagon signaling in aging and lipid metabolism
UA, COP	Greg Thatcher, PhD	Nuclear reception, menopause, breast cancer, dementia; NAMPT; and yes, NO

UA=U of A; COM-T=College of Medicine – Tucson; NIDDK=National Institute of Diabetes, Digestive & Kidney Diseases; UACC=U of A Cancer Center; MEZCOPH=Mel & Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health; CDDOM=Center for Disparities in Diabetes, Obesity & Metabolism; AAC=Arizona Arthritis Center; ACBS=School of Animal & Comparative Biomedical Sciences; CALES=College of Agriculture, Life & Environmental Sciences; UNM=University of New Mexico; CMM=Department of Cellular & Molecular Medicine; SW CACTI= Southwest Center for Advancing Clinical & Translational Innovation; COP=R. Ken Coit College of Pharmacy



POSTERS (see below)

POSTERS

Poster #	Presenter	Poster Title
1	Brooks, Hannah	Targeting Cellular Senescence to Alleviate Skeletal Fragility in Mice with Type 2 Diabetes
2	Carlyton, Thadeus	Glucagon Receptor Signaling and Tumor Associated Metabolism in Hepatocellular Carcinoma
3	Cheranda Ravi, Koushik Ponnannar	Single- cell RNA- seq analysis uncovers transcriptional signatures in pancreatic islet-like cells deprived from iPSC's isogenic for the ABCC8R1420H loss-of-function variant
4	Frye, Jen	A possible tumorigenic role for extranuclear ER signaling in the bone- disseminated ER+ breast cancer microenvironment
5	Khan, Fehmida Farid	In Vitro Analyses of Variation Affecting CYP26B1 TV3 as a Regulator of Body mass Index
6	Kundan, Arjan	CGRP- Medicated Mechanisms in Chronic Vulvodynia Pain
7	Lee, Grace	Prolactin promotes endometriosis and comorbid migraine- like pain
8	Mac, Kayla	scRNAseq Analysis to Identify Potential GABA Producing Cells in the liver
9	Mendoza- Siqueiros, Fabiola	Microtubule Hyperacetylation as a Mechanism of Insulin Resistance
10	Miller, Kara	Lipid Dysregulation in Mouse Ovarian Antral Follicles After Exposure to a Human Relevant Mixture of Three Phthalates
11	Murphy, MariKate	Liver GABA production & the pathological metabolic consequences are independent of hepatocytes and endothelial cells
12	Okwo, Uzoamaka	Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome and Cardiovascular Disease Risk Among Hispanic Women of Mexican Heritage
13	Paley, Maya	GABA inhibition of the hepatic vagal nerve increases blood pressure and activates sympathetic tone
14	Rossi, Anthony	Evaluation of steroid hormone receptor expression and clinical outcomes in ER- positive breast cancer bone metastases
15	Seiser, Drew	Glucagon receptor agonism regulates nutrient signaling pathways critical to aging and health span
16	Whitman, Susan	Interrogating steroid hormone signaling in a murine model of ER+ human breast cancer bone metastases
17	Xia, Cat	Glucagon receptor agonism ameliorates obesity- induced hypercholesterolemia in again mice
18	Zhao, Wicheng	Prenatal Oxygen and Glucose Supplementation Improves Skeletal Muscle Mitochondrial Proteome in Growth-Restricted Fetal Sheep



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE TUCSON

Department
of Medicine