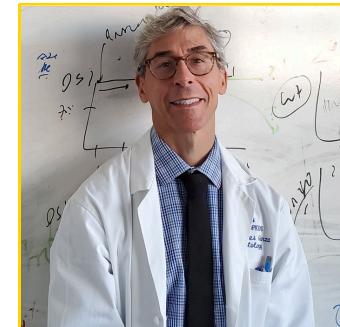
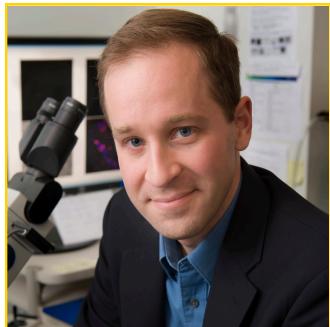


9TH ANNUAL SKIN SYMPOSIUM

Skin in Motion: Forces, Signals, and Renewal



Conor Evans, Ph.D.

Wellman Center, Harvard
Medical School, Massachusetts
General Hospital

Luis Garza, M.D., Ph.D.

Johns Hopkins University
School of Medicine

Emi Nishimura, M.D., Ph.D.

The University of Tokyo



Carien Niessen, Ph.D.

University of Cologne,
University Hospital Cologne



Maria Kasper, MSc, Ph.D.

Karolinska Institute



Slobodan Beronja, PhD

Fred Hutchinson Cancer
Center

Thorp Conference Center & Sprague Hall Lobby
February 13th, 2026 | 8:30 AM - 4:15 PM

Symposium Agenda

Registration & Breakfast	8:30 - 9 AM
Introduction by Dr. Anand Ganesan and Dr. Bryan Sun	9 - 9:05 AM
Conor Evans, Ph.D. - Wellman Center, Harvard Medical School, Massachusetts General Hospital "Pharmacokinetic and Pharmacodynamic Tomography"	9:05 - 9:50 AM
Slobodan Beronja, Ph.D. - Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center "Selective Protein Degradation Mediates Progenitor Cell Fate Choice in the Skin Epidermis"	9:50 - 10:35 AM
Break	10:35-10:55 AM
Carien Niessen, Ph.D. - University of Cologne, University Hospital Cologne "Mechanochemical Regulation of Epithelial Barrier Formation and Renewal in Health and Disease"	10:55 - 11: 40 AM
Luis Garza, M.D., Ph.D. - Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine "dsRNA in Regeneration and Immunity"	11:40 - 12: 25 AM
Lunch Buffet & Poster Session - Sprague Hall	12:30 - 2 PM
Emi K. Nishimura, M.D., Ph.D. - The University of Tokyo "Stem Cell Fate at the Crossroads of Regeneration, Aging, and Cancer"	2 - 2: 45 PM
Maria Kasper, MSc, Ph.D. - Karolinska Institutet "Decoding the Molecular Design of Skin"	2:45 - 3:30 PM
Closing Roundtable: Connecting Ideas & Open Questions	3:30 - 4:15 PM
Poster Session Awards	



Scan to submit questions
to the Closing
Roundtable: Connecting
Ideas & Open Questions
session
(3:30-4:15 PM)

Non-UCI Affiliated Attendees:
[Park-By-Plate Link](#)
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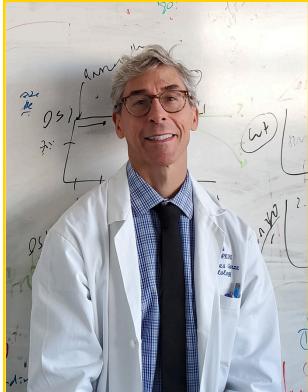
INTRODUCING OUR SPEAKERS



Conor Evans, Ph.D. - Wellman Center, Harvard Medical School, Massachusetts General Hospital

Dr. Conor L. Evans is an Associate Professor at the Harvard Medical School, an Affiliated Faculty member of the Harvard University Biophysics Program, a Faculty member of the Laser Biomedical Research Center, and leads his lab at the Wellman Center for Photomedicine at Massachusetts General Hospital. Dr. Evans received his Bachelors of Science in Chemical Physics from Brown University and his PhD in Chemistry from Harvard University.

Dr. Evans is an academic editor for PLOS One and has written over 100 peer-reviewed publications. He holds 14 patents and patent applications and works to translate his technologies to the clinic. He serves the Wellman Center as Faculty Liaison to the Department of Defense, and focuses his efforts in the areas of Combat Casualty Care and Rehabilitative Medicine. Dr. Evans additionally serves as a faculty member of the Ludwig Center at Harvard.



Luis Garza, M.D., Ph.D. - Johns Hopkins University

Dr. Luis Garza is a Professor & Daniel Nathans Scholar at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine Department of Dermatology. He is a physician-scientist who sees Dermatology patients and also conducts research on skin disease. His laboratory is interested in regenerative medicine and innate immunity in the skin. Besides clinical care and research, Dr. Garza is also committed to teaching and is the PI/PD of a T32. Finally, he also works as the Vice-Chair of the department, coordinating research activities.



Carien Niessen, Ph.D. - University of Cologne, University Hospital Cologne

Carien Niessen is a molecular cell biologist and full professor at the University Hospital Cologne, University of Cologne. She did her PhD with Arnoud Sonnenberg at The Netherlands Cancer Institute, Amsterdam, the Netherlands and her postdoc with Barry Gumbiner at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York. After becoming a group leader at the Center for Molecular Medicine Cologne and the Department of Dermatology at the University of Cologne, she became a full professor in 2018. Since 2019 she heads the Department Cell Biology of the Skin and is the speaker of the excellence cluster CECAD focused on Aging and Aging-associated Diseases.



Slobodan Beronja, Ph.D. - Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center

Dr. Beronja is a Professor in the Human Biology Division at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center. My lab is focused on understanding how stem cell renewal and differentiation contribute to initiation of epithelial tumors, using mouse models of skin and head and neck cancer. My group employs a methodology I developed to rapidly introduce RNAi and cDNA molecules into mouse skin, to investigate gene function in epithelial growth. We also adapted this *in vivo* method to high-throughput gene function studies, thereby extending our experimental toolset to both whole-genome scale and to combinatorial studies, where consequences of functional repression of several genes in a cell can be addressed *in vivo*.



Maria Kasper, MSc, Ph.D. - Karolinska Institute

Maria Kasper is Associate Professor at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden. She earned her PhD in 2006 from the University of Salzburg in human genetics and molecular tumor biology. In 2013, after a 6-year postdoctoral training in Rune Toftgård's lab in skin biology at Karolinska Institutet, she established her research group in skin biology (stem cells, tissue repair, cancer initiation, and single-cell transcriptomics). The Kasper lab studies spatiotemporal processes to investigate how hair growth is coordinated, skin regenerates, wounds heal, and epithelial tumors initiate. Dr. Kasper has received national and international recognitions for her work, such as the Swedish Cancer Society Young Investigator Award, Ragnar Söderberg Fellow in Medicine and the LEO Gold Award, and she is a coordinator of the Human Cell Atlas skin bionetwork.



Emi Nishimura, M.D., Ph.D. - The University of Tokyo

Emi K. Nishimura is a professor at The University of Tokyo. She is a dermatologist, MD PhD with her post-doc training at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute and obtained her professorship at Kanazawa University in 2006, at Tokyo Medical and Dental University in 2009, and at The University of Tokyo in 2021.

Dr. Nishimura was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 2022. She is particularly known for her pioneering work in identifying melanocyte stem cells; uncovering stem cell depletion and exhaustion during physiological tissue aging and its contribution to cancer development; and discovering the phenomenon and roles of cell competition among epidermal stem cells in tissue homeostasis, aging, and tumorigenesis. She is also a co-founder of EADERM Co., Ltd., a company developing new therapeutic drugs for skin diseases and other age-associated conditions.

Menú

**Please be mindful of those who are dietary restrictions & allergies.
Thank you!**

All food will be served in the boardroom, directly behind the Conference Center.

BREAKFAST

Coffee, Tea, & Water (Iced & Hot)

Mini Muffins, Danish, & Scones Served with Butter & Jam - V

Assorted Bagels (VG) with Butter, Cream Cheese (V), & Jam

Seasonal Fresh Fruit Platter

Nature's Bakery Bars - VG, GF, DF, Nut Free,

Additional Coffee & Tea will be available throughout the morning

BUFFET LUNCH - ASIAN ACCENTS

Sweet Soy Sause - V

General Tso's Chicken

Sweet & sour Source - VG

Vegetable Egg Rolls - V

White Rice - VG

General Tso's Tofu

Peanut Lime Ramen Noodle Salad - VG

Fortune Cookie

Teriyaki Salmon with Lemon Green Beans

Lemonade

Water

**All baked goods are made in a facility the uses nuts | Items will be labeled
V - Vegetarian | VG - Vegan | GF - Gluten Friendly | DF - Dairy Free**

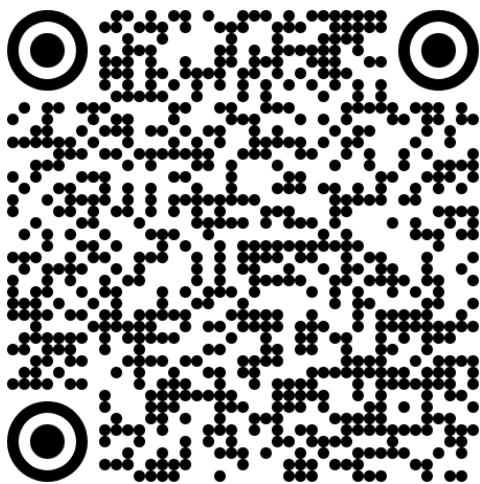
Poster Presenters

1. **Sara Araghi, Kimiya Ghassemzadeh, & Karishma Bhatt** - "Barriers to Accurate Epidermal Thickness Measurement Using Optical Coherence Tomography: A Scoping Review"
2. **My Raquel Gonzales, Mia Carter, & Reese Barles** - "Advancing Sun Safety: Expanding Public Sunscreen Dispensers and Leveraging Digital Tools"
3. **Tori Reyes** - "Synergistic effects of PDRN and Exosomes for skin repair and regeneration"
4. **Amani Malik** - "In Vitro, Ex Vivo Clinical Assessment of Biosomes with RF Microneedling"
5. **Gavin Long** - "Defining the Role of Melanocytes in Basal Cell Carcinoma Tumor Regression"
6. **Amanda Ringwood** - "MSC-derived exosomes mitigate cutaneous radiation injury through coordinated modulation of DNA repair, stress, and inflammatory gene programs"
7. **Jamie Ting-Chun Pan** - "Microbiota-derived butyrate promotes dermal collagen production through epidermal-dermal crosstalk"
8. **Amanda Ackermann** - "A Mouse Model of Merkel Cell Carcinoma Derived from the Hair Follicle"
9. **Jia Gou** - "Study of Mechanisms of Early Epithelial Cell Clustering and Collective Motion"
10. **Joshua Bearss** - "A Low-Cost, Open-Source Device for Measuring Transepidermal Water Loss"
11. **Lucy Jiwu** - "Identifying a Secondary HRAS Mutation in Nodular Progression of ILVEN"
12. **Joshua Jaison** - "Quantitative Mapping of Superficial Vascular Plexus Architecture in Healthy Skin Using Optical Coherence Tomography"
13. **Annie Dinh** - "PEG-IKVAV Wound Healing Hydrogel Therapy"
14. **Arelis Acevedo-Santiago** - "Pharmacological and wound-induced modulation of sebaceous glands in the skin"
15. **Jungsub Kim** - "Age-related Meibomian Gland Dysfunction (ARMGD) : The role of PPAR γ in defining meibocyte differentiation"
16. **Carolina Mireles** - "Mast cell activation leads to cisplatin-induced peripheral neuropathy"
17. **Chih-Kuan Chen** - "Cellular plasticity during de novo and adaptive patterning revealed by single-cell transcriptomics in developing chicken skin"
18. **Jonathan Duong** - "Dermal fibroblast cultures recapitulate differences between deer mice and mice in responses to a Toll-like receptor agonist"
19. **Ignasi Casanellas** - "PIEZ01-HaloTag hiPSCs to visualize channel localization, motility and activity in cells and tissue"
20. **Gabriella Pangilinan** - "Axon Retraction Mediates Skin-Specific Neuronal Loss"
21. **Matthew Duong & Sara Araghi** - "Evaluating the Efficacy of Botulinum Toxin A for Managing Truncal and Shoulder Scars: A Systematic Review"
22. **Megan Jung & Tatum Ego** - "Periocular Spatial Frequency Analysis: Baseline Optical Metrics and Variations Across Fitzpatrick Skin Types"
23. **Gisselle Santiago** - "Understanding the Protective Role of PACT After UV Radiation"
24. **Jack Woll** - "Dual biologic therapy for paradoxical eczematous and psoriatic reactions"
25. **Satish Patnaik** - "Aging Alters Progenitor to Meibocyte Differentiation in Age-Related Meibomian Gland Dysfunction"
26. **Jonathan Piceno** - "High Speed Tissue Dissociation into Single Cells with a Microfluidic Platform for Various Tissue Types"
27. **Katherine Chen** - "Spatial Frequency Domain Imaging of the Oculofacial Region in Control Patients"
28. **Lee Bardwell** - "AlphaFold3 predictions of novel GLI-SUFU interfaces identify binding-defective medulloblastoma and Gorlin Syndrome variants"
29. **Laura Carceroni** - "Clinical factors associated with delayed-onset acne following oral Janus kinase inhibitor therapy"
30. **Kimia Heidari** - "Postoperative outcomes of the cotton ball method versus electrocautery in mohs micrographic surgery"

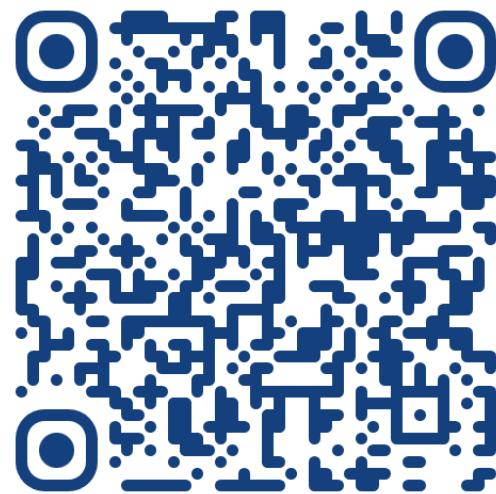
FOUR NEW P30 ENRICHMENT AWARDS

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**Trainee Meeting
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Awards \$1,000**



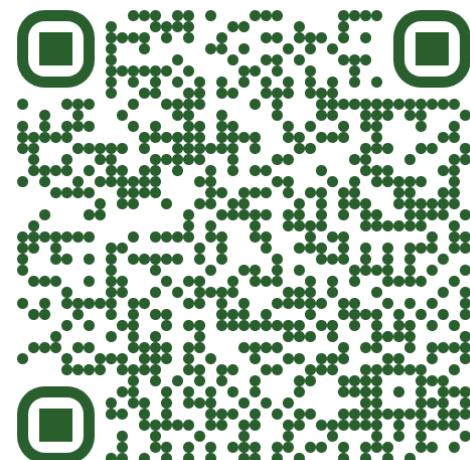
**External Member
Collaboration & Core Use
Awards \$3,000**



**Manuscript and Grant
Revision Awards
\$5,000 – \$10,000**



**Team Building Awards /
Develop (new) Collaborative
Research Programs \$6,000**



Learn More: https://skincenter.uci.edu/new_page.php

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