

Date: Monday, November 3, 2025

Time: 8:30am-5:00pm

Location: HUB Conference Room 302

3rd Annual Symposium

Center for RNA Biology & Medicine

Agenda:

8:30-9:05am - Registration - Badge Pickup - Poster set-up

9:05-9:10am - Welcome Address

Rodolfo H. Torres, PhD., Vice Chancellor for Research

9:10-9:15am - Update on Center for RNA Biology & Medicine

Sika Zheng, PhD., Founding Director, RNA Biology and Medicine, Professor
Division of Biomedical Sciences, School of Medicine

**9:15-10:15am - "Nonsense-mediated mRNA decay in human health and disease:
Reframing the role of FMRP in Fragile X Syndrome"**

Keynote speaker, Lynne E. Maquat, PhD., J. Lowell Orbison Endowed Chair and Professor
Biochemistry & Biophysics

Founding Director of the Center for RNA Biology
University of Rochester Medical Center

10:15-10:25am - Group photo

10:25-10:45am - Morning coffee break

Session I: RNA Splicing

Chair: Adam Norris, PhD., Biochemistry

**10:45-11:20am - "RNA splicing, chromatin modification, and the coordinated control of
gene expression"**

Tracy Johnson, PhD., Professor, Molecular, Cell, and Developmental Biology

Keith and Cecilia Terasaki Presidential Endowed Chair

Dean, Division of Life Sciences

University of California, Los Angeles

11:20-11:55am - "The influence of RNA splicing in cancer and metabolism"

Klemens Hertel, PhD., Professor, & Chair

Microbiology & Molecular Genetics, School of Medicine

University of California, Irvine

11:55am-1:15pm Lunch and poster presentations

Session II: Long noncoding RNAs and Transposons

Chair: Karine Le Roch, PhD., Department of Molecular, Cell & Systems Biology

1:15-1:50pm - "lncRNA Pnky in the brain: from stem cells to RNA structure"

Daniel Lim, MD., PhD., Marjorie B. Hines Professor of Neurosurgery

Vice Chair for Research

Department of Neurological Surgery

Eli and Edythe Broad Center for Regeneration Medicine and Stem Cell Research

University of California, San Francisco

1:50-2:25pm - "Unraveling XIST: Mechanisms of X Chromosome Dosage Compensation"

Kathrin Plath, PhD., Professor

Department of Biological Chemistry

University of California, Los Angeles

2:25-3:00pm - "Friends or foes, transposons in the mammalian genome"

Lin He, PhD., Professor & Thomas and Stacey Siebel Distinguished Chair

Stem Cell Research

University of California, Berkeley

3:00-3:35pm - Afternoon break and poster presentations

Session III: miRNA and RNAi

Chair: Changcheng Zhou, PhD., Division of Biomedical Sciences

3:35-4:10pm - "Less Stress with miRNAs"

Amy Pasquinelli, PhD., Professor

Department of Molecular Biology, School of Biological Sciences

University of California, San Diego

4:10-4:45pm - "Novel strategy for RNA-based antiviral vaccines"

Shou-wei Ding, PhD., Distinguished Professor

University of California, Riverside

4:45-5:00pm - Award announcements and closing remarks