

# 2026 Trainee Symposium

*Hosted by: The Center for Vertebrate Genomics & Cornell Center for Immunology*

## Event Schedule:

**9:00 – 9:30 AM**

Registration & Coffee

**9:30 – 10:15 AM**

Keynote Address

**Dr. Patrick Murphy**, Associate Professor, Molecular Biology and Genetics, Cornell University, *Source-Sink Chromatin Dynamics Regulate Developmental Progression Across Species*

**10:15 – 10:25 AM**

Coffee Break

**10:25 AM – 11:40 AM**

Session 1, Moderated by Saloni Dhopte

**Kashish Jain**, *Decoding Ovulation: Spatiotemporal Mapping of Genomic Regulation to Cellular Function*

**Shuran Wang**, *When Epidermal Niches Collapse: SOX6 Spatial Heterogeneity as a Barrier to Melanocyte Vulnerability in Vitiligo*

**Banseok Lee**, *Meiotic sex chromosome inactivation begins during early prophase I via HORMAD1*

**Rachel Davis**, *From Fragmentation to Nearly Complete: Conservation Genomics of the Spoon-Billed Sandpiper*

**11:40 – 12:50 PM**

Lunch, Poster Session & Best Poster Voting

**12:50 – 2:05 PM**

Session 2, Moderated by Brent Basso

**Anna McKane**, *Centromeric Repeat Variation is Associated with Karyotype Evolution in Equus*

**Helen Scanlon**, *A Polycomb paralog CBX7 is required for somatic gene silencing in post-mitotic male germ cells*

*Connor Kean, Heterogeneity in the Naïve CD8<sup>+</sup> T Cell Pool Influences the Infection Response*  
*Dianne Gomez, Transcription Factor JunB is Required for NK Cell Expansion During Infection*

**2:05 – 2:15 PM**

Coffee Break

**2:15 – 3:30 PM**

Session 3, Moderated by Akshayakeerthi Arthanarisami

*Savita Sastry, Multiomics Approach to Regionally Profile Zinc-Driven Host-Gut Microbiome Interactions in the Intestinal Tract*

*Katalin Voss, The birds and the B-cells: The distinct architecture of avian immunoglobulin loci*  
*Dr. Olivia Lang, A spatial and single-cell multi-omic approach to understanding peroxide stress response*

*Nina Maurer, Disruption of Hedgehog Signaling Is Associated with Region-Specific Immune Enrichment and Structural Remodeling in the Peripubertal Murine Epididymis*

**3:30 – 3:40 PM**

Coffee Break

**3:40 – 4:00 PM**

Lightning Talks, Moderated by Dr. Olivia Lang

*Dr. Jolie Carlisle, Coordinated Gene Copy Number Evolution in a Reproductive Protein Network Reveals a New Network Member*

*Jason David Chobirko, Strain-specific variation drives CD8<sup>+</sup> T cell activation*

*Ananya Kohli, Epigenomic dysregulation on Monocytes in ME/CFS*

**4:00 – 4:15 PM**

Final Discussion, Award Presentations, & Closing Remarks

**4:15 – 5:00 PM**

Reception