



AGENDA

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 21: GENETIC MODIFIER DISCOVERY

10:00 am – 10:10 am **Workshop Introduction and Acknowledgements**
Glen Nuckolls PhD, National Institutes of Health, NINDS

10:10 am – 10:15 am **Introduction to Genetic Modifier Discovery Session**
Trudy Mackay PhD, Clemson University

10:15 am - 11:15 am 15 min presentations plus Q&A

Genetic Modifiers of Huntington's Disease
James Gusella PhD, Harvard Medical School

Genome-wide In Vivo CNS Screening to Identify Genetic Modifiers of Mutant Huntingtin Toxicity
Myriam Heiman PhD, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Strategies for Modifier Detection in Drosophila
Trudy Mackay PhD, Clemson University

11:15 am - 11:20 am **Break**

11:20 am - 12:00 pm **Virtual Poster Session 1**
Short, pre-recorded presentations selected from abstracts, live Q&A

[Functional screening of lysosomal storage disorder genes identifies modifiers of neurodegeneration in synucleinopathy](#)
Meigen Yu, Baylor College of Medicine

[Parkinson's disease risk genes act in glia to control neuronal alpha-synuclein toxicity](#)
Abby Olsen MD PhD, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School

[Targeting Sipa1l2 and other candidate modifiers in the Sox10/Egr2 co-expression network to treat CMT1A](#)
George Murray, The Jackson Laboratory & The University of Maine

[Defining the molecular mechanism of GARS1-related Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease](#)

Sheila Marte, University of Michigan

[Systems-guided in vivo identification of causal mechanisms in Alzheimer's disease from human brain transcriptomic profiles](#)

Grant Mangleburg, Baylor College of Medicine

12:00 pm -12:15 pm **Break**

12:15 pm - 1:15 pm **Genetic Modifier Discovery Session (continued)**

15 min presentations plus Q&A

A Decade Long Clinical-Genetics Effort Identifies SIPA1L2 as a Modifier Gene for the Common Peripheral Neuropathy Subtype CMT1A

Stephan Züchner MD, PhD, University of Miami

TMEM106B, A Key Protective Factor in the Brain

Rosa Rademakers PhD, University of Antwerp

Insights for Rett Syndrome from the Identification of Genetic Modifiers in Mecp2 Mice

Monica Justice PhD, The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids)

1:15 pm - 2:00 pm **Open group discussion**

Moderated by Co-Chairs Monica Justice and Trudy MacKay

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm **"Happy Hour" for students, fellows and new investigator to meet with workshop presenters, Co-Chairs and NIH Program Directors**

(<https://roseliassociates.zoomgov.com/s/1608146296>)

3:00 pm **End of Day 1**

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 22: MODIFIER CHARACTERIZATION AND MECHANISMS

10:00 am – 10:05 am **Introduction to Modifier Characterization and Mechanisms Session**

Huda Zoghbi MD, Baylor College of Medicine

10:05 am - 11:05 am 15 min presentations plus Q&A

Genome Editing in Huntington's Disease Mice to Test Candidate Modifier Genes

Vanessa Wheeler PhD, Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School

Regulatory Variants as Potential Modifiers of Coding Variant Penetrance

Tuuli Lappalainen PhD, Columbia University

An ALS Modifier Gene and a Potential Achilles' Heel for ALS

Aaron Gitler PhD, Stanford University

11:05 am - 11:10 am **Break**

11:10 am - 12:15 pm **Virtual Poster Session 2**

Short, pre-recorded presentations selected from abstracts, live Q&A

[Sequence variation upstream of a cytoplasmic tRNA modifies neurodegeneration induced by ribosome stalling](#)

Michael J. Molumby PhD, University of California San Diego

[Modifiers of neurodegenerative disease can act to extend lifespan and CNS healthspan in *Drosophila melanogaster*](#)

Megan Mair, Baylor College of Medicine

[Sequencing of phenotypic extremes to identify genetic modifiers of Rett Syndrome](#)

Jonathan Merritt PhD, Vanderbilt University Medical Center

[A role for L1CAM/SAX-7 and Erk signaling in fluid regulation and vulva development](#)

Caroline Aragon, University of Minnesota

[Gabra2 is a genetic modifier of Scn8a encephalopathy in the mouse](#)

Wenxi Yu PhD, University of Michigan

[Targeting Latent TGF-beta binding protein 4 \(LTBP4\) for the treatment of muscular dystrophy](#)

Alexis R. Demonbreun PhD, Northwestern University

[Genetic compensation at the AIS: Scn8a and Kcna1](#)

Sophie Hill, University of Michigan

[Using *Drosophila melanogaster* to identify loci modifying Coffin-Siris syndrome mutations](#)

Rebecca MacPherson, Clemson University

[Loss of IRF2BPL impairs neuronal maintenance through excess Wnt signaling](#)

Paul Marcogliese PhD, Baylor College of Medicine

12:15 pm - 12:30 pm **Break**

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm **Modifier Characterization and Mechanisms Session (continued)**

15 min presentations plus Q&A

Sphingolipids and Ceramides in the Pathogenesis of Lysosomal Storage Diseases and Parkinson's Disease

Hugo Bellen DVM PhD, Baylor College of Medicine

Transfer RNAs as Genetic Modifiers of Neurological Phenotypes

Susan Ackerman PhD, University of California, San Diego

Tau Translation Regulation by Paired Antisense Long Non-coding RNA Transcripts
Rohan De Silva DPhil, University College London

- 1:30 pm - 2:00 pm** **Open group discussion**
Moderated by Co-Chairs Huda Zoghbi and Susan Ackerman
- 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm** **“Happy Hour” for students, fellows and new investigator to meet with workshop presenters, Co-Chairs and NIH Program Directors**
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- 3:00 pm** **End of Day 2**
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THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 23: TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH FROM GENETIC MODIFIERS

- 10:00 am – 10:05 am** **Introduction to Translational Research Session**
Stephan Züchner, University of Miami
- 10:05 am - 11:25 am** 15 min presentations plus Q&A
- Personalized Medicine Using a Zebrafish Model for Dravet Syndrome*
Scott Baraban PhD, University of California, San Francisco
- Application of Genetics in Drug Discovery and Development*
Aris Baras MD MBA, Regeneron
- Identifying Genetic and Chemical Modifiers: Lessons from Congenital Myopathies*
James Dowling MD PhD, The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids)
- Gaucher Disease “Complexity” in a “Simple” Mendelian Disorder*
Ellen Sidransky MD, National Institutes of Health, NHGRI
- 11:25 am - 11:30 am** **Break**
- 11:30 am - 12:15 pm** **Research Resources for Modifier Research**
10 min presentations plus Q&A
- Mouse Resources for Genetic Modifier Studies*
Elissa Chesler PhD, The Jackson Laboratory
- International HundredK+ Cohorts Consortium*
Hakon Hakonarson MD, PhD, Children’s Hospital Philadelphia
- NHLBI Trans-Omics for Precision Medicine (TOPMed)*
Albert Smith PhD, University of Michigan
- 12:15 pm - 12:30 pm** **Break**

- 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm** **Translational Research Session (continued)**
15 min presentations plus Q&A
- Fetal Hemoglobin: from Bedside to Bench to Bedside*
Swee Lay Thein FRCP DSc FMedSci, National Institutes of Health, NHLBI
- Prospects for Modifier Studies in Diverse Populations: Lessons from Africa*
Neil A. Hanchard MD, DPhil FACMG, National Institutes of Health, NHGRI
- Regional Effects of Modifiers: Lessons from Spinocerebellar Ataxia type1*
Huda Zoghbi MD, Baylor College of Medicine
- 1:30 pm - 2:00 pm** **Open group discussion**
Moderated by Co-Chairs Huda Zoghbi and Stephan Zuchner
- 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm** **“Happy Hour” for students, fellows and new investigator to meet with workshop presenters, Co-Chairs and NIH Program Directors**
<https://roseliassociates.zoomgov.com/s/1608146296>
- 3:00 pm** **End of Day 3/Workshop**