

## **G&E Rotation Talks**

The Rot Talks were initiated in the spring of 1991 by Dr. Richard Behringer. Back then, he was a new assistant professor in the Department of Molecular Genetics. Dr. Behringer arrived in May of 1990, having just spent 6 months learning molecular biology skills from Dr. Richard Palmiter in the Department of Biochemistry at the University of Washington. Prior to that Dr. Behringer had completed postdoctoral training with Dr. Ralph Brinster in the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania between 1986 and 1989. During his brief stay at the University of Washington, Dr. Behringer noticed a flyer in the department, announcing the Rot Talks. He found out that the Biochemistry Department had a formal program for the first-year graduate students in the department to give a talk on their rotation research. It was this simple idea that led to the initiation of a similar program in the Department of Molecular Genetics at the M. D. Anderson Cancer Center. The GSBS Genes & Development Graduate Program was initiated in 1993. Soon afterwards the Rotation Talks expanded to include all students rotating in G&D labs. The Rotation Talks became a tradition of the program. In 2017, the G&D Graduate Program was dissolved when the GSBS reorganized the graduate programs. The new Genetics & Epigenetics Graduate Program continued the tradition of the Rotation Talks. These talks have been run continuously for more than 30 years.

The Rotation Talks offer first-year graduate students experience presenting the results of their rotation training and research to the graduate program, including faculty, students, and staff. These may be the first opportunity for students to present their research findings in an oral format in front of a broad audience. These talks provide useful feedback to the students on their research and oral presentations.