

*Science on Tap: flash talks,  
faculty insights & good times!*

2025

MOLECULAR AND TRANSLATIONAL BIOLOGY PROGRAM

# FALL RETREAT

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH

1:00 PM - 7:00 PM

SPINDLETAP BREWERY

10622 Hirsch Rd



2025 MTB FALL RETREAT

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE



12:30 - 1:00 PM	ARRIVAL & CHECK IN
1:00 - 1:05 PM	INTRODUCTION <i>from program directors</i>
1:05 - 1:55 PM	STUDENT FLASH TALKS
1:55 - 2:00 PM	----- COFFEE BREAK -----
2:00 - 3:00 PM	FACULTY TALKS
3:00 - 3:10 PM	----- COFFEE BREAK -----
3:10 - 3:50 PM	INTERACTIVE BREAK OUT GROUPS
4:00 - 4:05 PM	INTRODUCTION TO THE KEYNOTE
4:05 - 5:00 PM	KEYNOTE ADDRESS <i>2025 Distinguished Faculty Awardee Dr. Vihang Narkar</i>
5:00 - 7:00 PM	OUTDOOR GAMES & NETWORKING!





# STUDENT FLASH TALKS

**Mussie Araya**

Lipid composition is a regulator of Arf-1 membrane dynamics

**Andy Escalanate**

Circadian Rhythm: When Fat Throws Off the Beat

**René Girard**

Tail Tales: The Secret Role of RNA Endings in COVID

**Rachel Shoemaker**

Alternative splicing dysregulation in mutant p53-driven osteosarcoma

**Yueh-Ming (Camellia) Shyu**

Sticking It to TNBC: GPR56-ADCs Take Aim





# STUDENT FLASH TALKS

**Candise Tat**

I'll Get a Combo Treatment, with a Side of Making  
Cancer History

**Hsiang-Ching (Adam) Tseng**

Regulation of gene transcription through a large  
intrinsically disordered region within Mediator complex

**Boxuan Yang**

The two machines in airway mucin secretion

**Alexandria Williams**

Exosome Prime: Biology's Version of Amazon

**Julia Zickus**

Understanding Alzheimer's with the power of  
imaging





# FACULTY TALKS

1

**Dr. Jun-ichi Abe**

**Cardio-  
Oncology: More  
Than Just Side  
Effect Hunters**

2

**Dr. Juli Bai**

**Innate  
Immunity in  
Metabolic  
Diseases**

3

**Dr. Vasanthi  
Jayaraman**

**Chemical to  
Electrical  
Signaling: From  
single molecules to  
physiology and  
disease**

4

**Dr. Callie Kwartler**

**Nuclear actins:  
novel epigenetic  
regulators of cell  
fate**

5

**Dr. Xiangdong Lyu**

**Stressing Out  
Therapy Resistant  
Cancers**

6

**Dr. Travis  
Moore**

**Integrins in  
Action: Bridging  
Function &  
Human Disease**

7

**Dr. Palaniraja  
Thandapani**

**Hijacking the Genetic  
Code: tRNA  
Deregulation in  
Leukemogenesis**

8

**Dr. Aaron Cox**

**Pancreatic islet  
biology spanning  
stem cell  
differentiation to  
regeneration and  
glucose homeostasis  
to diabetes**



2025 DISTINGUISHED FACULTY AWARDEE

**DR. VIHANG NARKAR**



**KEYNOTE  
SPEAKER**

***THE ENDURANCE CODE: MAKING A CAREER  
OUT OF RECEPTORS, GENES & REWIRING  
PHYSIOLOGY***



# BREAKOUT SESSIONS

*Interactive breakout groups with faculty and senior students to guide your choices, sharpen skills, and discover resources!*

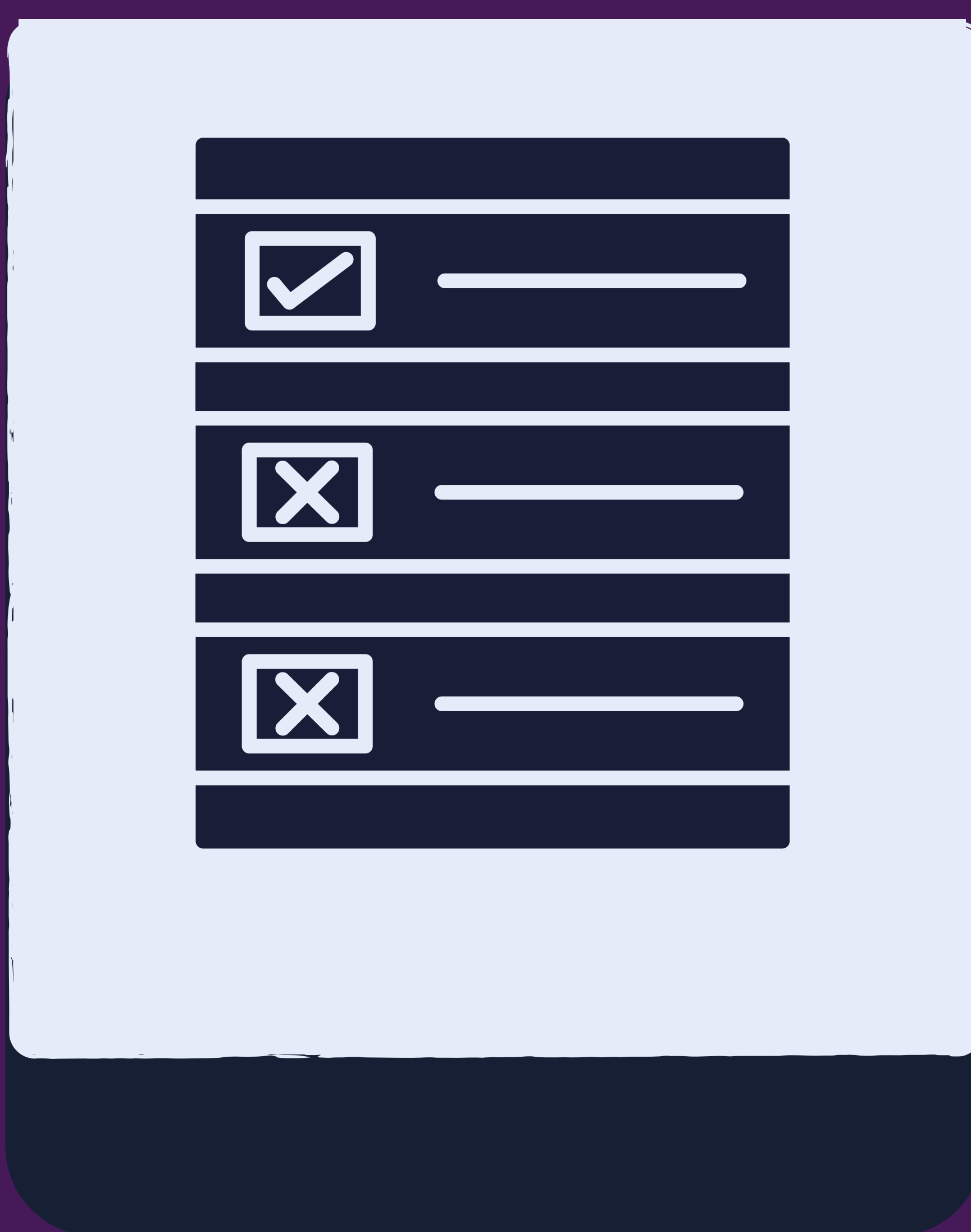
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**Strategies for  
choosing the  
right thesis lab**

Dr. Matthew DeBerge  
Dr. Callie Kwartler  
Ssue-pei Hwang  
Mussie Araya

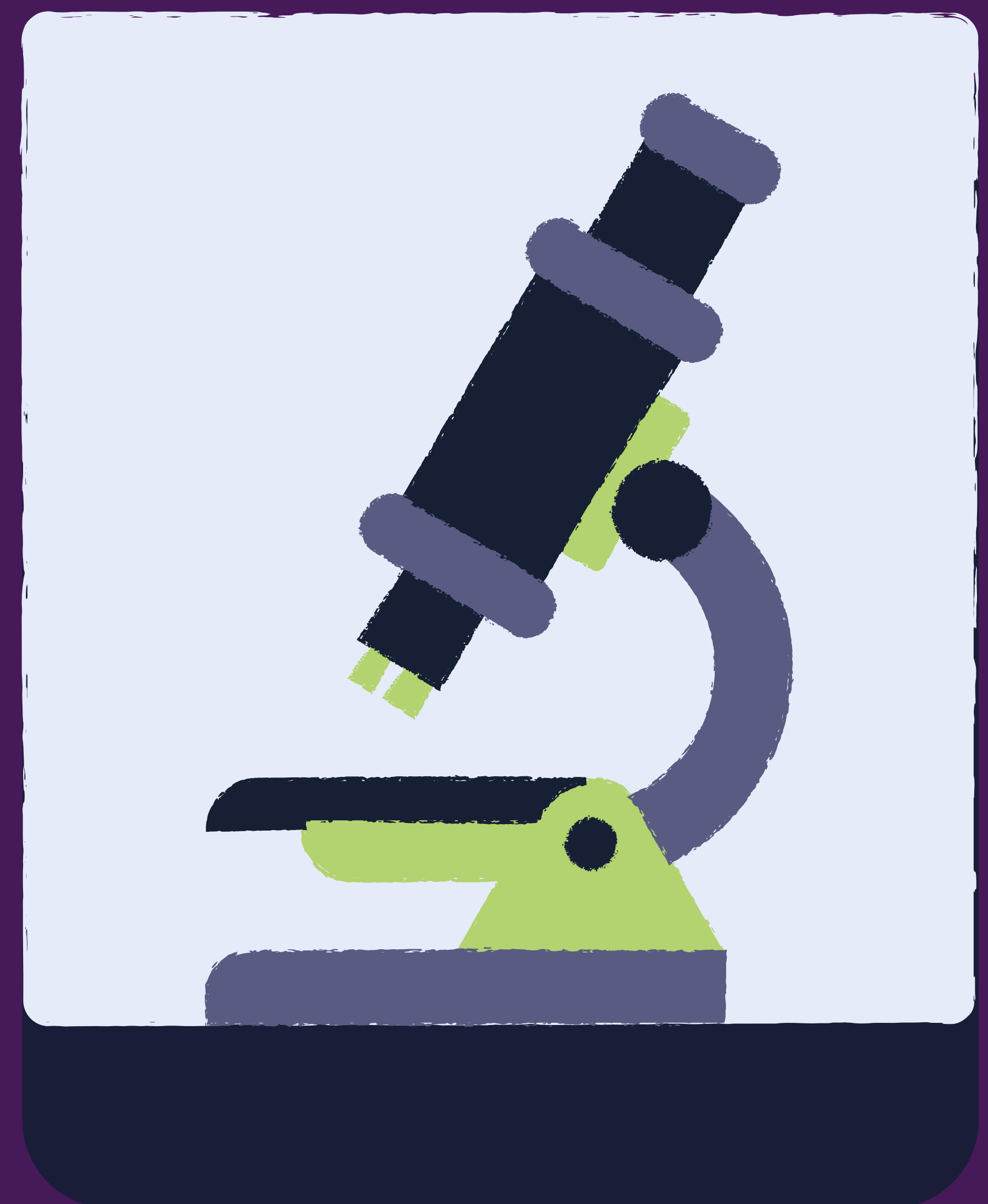
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**Tips on how to  
succeed in  
publishing and  
grant writing**

Dr. Daniel Frigo  
Dr. Kartik  
Venkatachalam  
Dr. Vasanthi  
Jayaraman

3



**Center for  
Advanced  
Microscopy:  
services &  
resources**

Dr. Travis Moore  
Dr. Ryan Durham