

**MOLECULAR & TRANSLATIONAL BIOLOGY**

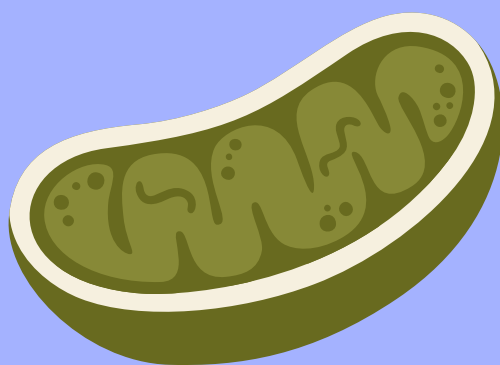
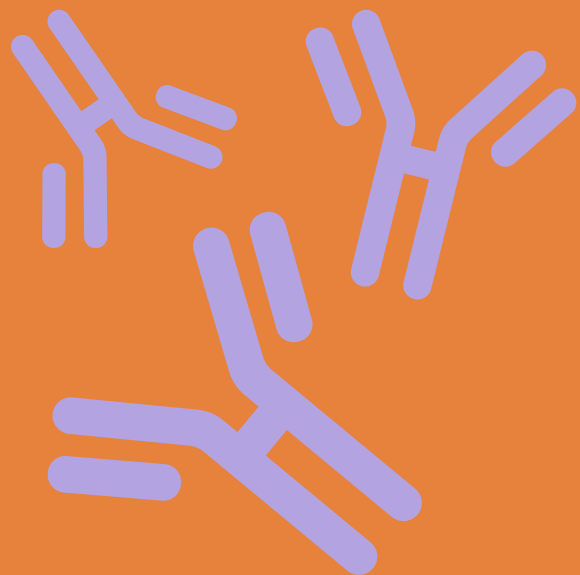
**2026**

**SPRING**

**SYMPOSIUM**

**APRIL 2, 2026**

**10:30 AM - 7:00 PM, IMM**





# SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

**10:30 - 11:00 AM**

**ARRIVAL & CHECK IN**

**11:00- 12:00 PM**

**LUNCH**

**12:00 - 1:00 PM**

**RISING DISCOVERIES IN MOLECULAR &  
TRANSLATIONAL BIOLOGY: *POSTER  
SESSION***

**1:05 - 1:25 PM**

**INTRODUCTION BY PROGRAM  
DIRECTORS**

**1:25 - 2:15 PM**

**RISING STARS: PRE-CANDIDACY  
FLASH TALKS**

**2:15 - 2:25 PM**

***COFFEE BREAK***

**2:25 - 3:15 PM**

**TRANSFORMATIVE SCIENCE: POST-  
CANDIDACY FLASH TALKS**

**3:15 - 3:25 PM**

***COFFEE BREAK***

**3:25 - 4:25 PM**

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS:  
*LAYLA ABUSHAMAT, MD, MPH, DABOM*  
BAYLOR COLLEGE OF MEDICINE**

**4:25 - 4:35 PM**

**AWARDS**

**5:00 - 7:00 PM**

**RECEPTION AT THE DOGWOOD**





# RISING STARS

## PRE-CANDIDACY FLASH TALKS

**Candise Tat**

*Targeting pancreatic cancer with combination RAS inhibition and radiation therapy*

**Hsiang-Ching (Adam) Tseng**

*Mechanistic understanding of MED13 regulation and its role in gene transcription*

**Ephraim Vazquez-Rosado**

*Salivary Growth Factor Gradients in Biofabricated Hydrogels Promote Directional Morphogenesis*

**Alexandria Williams**

*Imaging EV-Mediated Cargo Delivery by Luminescence*

**Boxuan Yang**

*Two exocytic machines in airway mucin secretion*

# TRANSFORMATIVE SCIENCE

## POST-CANDIDACY FLASH TALKS

**Cara Biddle**

*From Biology to Therapeutics: Epiregulin and Amphiregulin in Colorectal Cancer*

**Sophia Huang**

*The Therapeutic Potential of Estrogen-Related Receptor Alpha in Muscle Regeneration and Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy*

**Anna Naglis**

*LncRNAs are a major component of the microglial transcriptional response in a retinal degenerative disease*

**Beatriz S. Zancanela**

*Ras-activation of myofibroblasts through Rasall silencing leads to pulmonary fibrosis and emergence of lung adenocarcinoma*

**Julia Zickus**

*Disentangling Alzheimer's pathology through the lens of Metabolic Imaging*





**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

# **LAYLA ABUSHAMAT**

**MD, MPH, DABOM**

**BAYLOR COLLEGE OF MEDICINE**

***PERSONALIZING CARDIOMETABOLIC CARE:  
PRECISION APPROACHES TO RISK AND  
TREATMENT***