



FALL SYMPOSIUM

10.10.2025 | 12:30 - 7:30PM

12:30pm

Registration

1:00pm

Poster Session

2:00pm

Special Topic Panel

Building and Maintaining Mentee/Mentor
Relationships Throughout a Career

2:45pm

BREAK

3:00pm

Keynote

Melanie Samuel, PhD., Baylor College of Medicine
“Cellular Conversations that Shape the Brain”

4:00pm

Student Presentations

5:00pm

Depart for Reception

(Awards will be announced there!)

5:30 - 7:30pm

Reception at Solarium

Join us for pickleball, refreshments, and fun!
820 Holman St, Houston, TX

MD ANDERSON UTHEALTH HOUSTON GRADUATE SCHOOL

NEUROSCIENCE

Est. 1978

FALL SYMPOSIUM

SPEAKERS



Melanie Samuel, PhD

Baylor College of Medicine

Dr. Samuel is an Associate Professor in the Department of Neuroscience. Her lab focuses on understanding neuronal and glial communication and resilience by integrating analyses of human and mouse brain models for advancing disease treatments.



Michael Beierlein, PhD

UTHealth Houston

Dr. Beierlein is a Professor in the Department of Neurobiology and Anatomy. His lab focuses on elucidating synaptic and local circuit dynamics in the thalamocortical system using a combination of electrophysiology, imaging, and optogenetics.



Yuan Pan, PhD

MD Anderson Cancer Center

Dr. Pan is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Symptom Research. Her lab studies neuron-cancer and neuron-glia crosstalk and how these interactions are influenced by modifiers such as genetic mutations and therapies.



Melissa Franch, PhD

Baylor College of Medicine

Dr. Franch is a GSBS alum and currently a postdoctoral fellow working in the labs of Drs. Benjamin Hayden and Sameer Sheth. There she is researching representations of language semantics in the human brain.



Nabila Boukelmoune, PhD

UTHealth Houston

Dr. Boukelmoune is a postdoctoral fellow in the lab of Dr. Peter Grace. There she is researching stem cell therapies for the treatment of chemotherapy related neurotoxicities.



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STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

	Name	Title
<u>Pre-Candidacy</u>	Archit Gupta	Decomposing the neural activity structure of priming, a simple form of motor learning
	Catalina Valdes	Effect of anti-microbial immunizations in the progression of amyloid and neuroinflammatory pathologies in a mouse model of Alzheimer's disease
	Haoyi Yang	Exploring the Role of SARM1 in Alzheimer's Tau Neurotoxicity
	Muxin Wang	Multimodal non-invasive interrogation of chemo-brain using hyperpolarized magnetic resonance and optical imaging
<u>Post-Candidacy</u>	Chrystine Gallegos	Satellite Glial Cell Induced Hyperexcitability of DRG Nociceptors
	Takese McKenzie	Quaking is a novel regulator of microglial phagocytosis in Alzheimer's disease
	Mya Rodriguez	Non-phosphorylatable ATG-18 protects against age-related dopaminergic neurodegeneration