

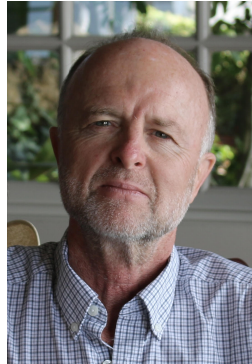
# MCSB-CMDB Seminar Day Program

December 12th, 2025, 1:00 PM - 5:15 PM  
Genomics Building Auditorium

1:00 PM - 1:20 PM	Poster Set up
1:20 PM - 1:30 PM	<i>Welcome Remarks: Sachiko Haga-Yamanaka, Ph.D. and Weifeng Gu, Ph.D.</i>
1:30 PM - 1:45 PM	<b>Kun Wu</b> , Graduate Student Researcher <i>"A Novel HP1 Interactor Sustains Heterochromatin Silencing and Preserves Fertility in Aging Flies"</i>
1:45 PM - 2:00 PM	<b>Rattapol "George" Phandthong, Ph.D.</b> , Postdoctoral Researcher <i>"Electronic Cigarette Aerosol Exposure Induces Airway Remodeling in 3D Human Tracheobronchial Epithelial Tissues: From Goblet Cell Hyperplasia to Squamous Metaplasia"</i>
2:00 PM - 2:15 PM	<b>Monique Quinn</b> , Graduate Student Researcher <i>"RNAseq and targeted metabolomics implicate RIC8 in regulation of energy homeostasis, amino acid compartmentation, and asexual development"</i>
2:15 PM - 2:30 PM	<b>Loic Ciampossin</b> , Graduate Student Researcher <i>"Parasite-Driven Epigenetic Reprogramming: How Pathogens Reshapes Host Chromatin"</i>
2:30 PM - 2:45 PM	<b>Reem Alkhataybeh</b> , Graduate Student Researcher <i>"Taste coding in the mosquito labellum"</i>
2:45 PM - 3:00 PM	<b>Alexander Bilas</b> , Graduate Student Researcher <i>"Selective Removal of the Volume-Regulated Anion Channel in Neurons Affects Baseline and Swelling-Induced Excitatory Activity"</i>
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM	<b>Poster Session &amp; Coffee Break</b>
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Keynote address <b>Michael E. Adams, Ph.D.</b> , Chair and Distinguished Professor, Department of Molecular, Cell and Systems Biology
5:00 PM - 5:15 PM	<i>Awards and Closing Remarks</i> Bryan Brown, Ph.D.

# Keynote Speaker

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM



Michael E. Adams, Ph.D.

Chair and Distinguished Professor,

Department of Molecular Cell & Systems Biology

## ***“Is your Behavior Transcriptional or Transcendental? Ask a Fruit Fly”***

Dr. Adams was drawn to scientific endeavors as an undergraduate Biology major at UC Riverside more than 50 years ago. Encouraged by faculty supervisors Bill Thomson (Biology) and Tom Miller (Entomology), he employed electron microscopy and electrophysiology to characterize salt glands and cactus epidermis in plants and synaptic and neuroendocrine structures in insects. After completing the A.B. in Biology (1974), he continued work in the Miller lab, investigating modes of DDT and pyrethroid insecticide action on the insect nervous system. Upon completion of the Ph.D in Entomology (Insect Physiology; 1978), he moved to the Max Planck Institute für Verhaltensphysiologie (Behavioral Physiology) as a DAAD, NATO and Max Planck postdoctoral fellow in Abteilung Franz Huber, where he investigated peptidergic (proctolin-containing) neurons and cricket acoustic communication (1978-81). A second postdoctoral stint at the University of Chicago in 1982 with Mick O'Shea led to publication of peptide cotransmission at a neuromuscular synapse in 1983. The next 3 years were spent as a senior scientist at the Zoecon Corporation aimed at developing new insect control agents based on unique aspects of insect physiology. One of these research directions was to analyze spider venoms and resulted in discovery of new ion channel-specific toxins active in both insects, avians, and mammals. Returning to UCR in 1985 as a faculty member in the Department of Entomology, Dr. Adams continued research on spider and scorpion venom toxins, using these pharmacological tools to help develop a new classification of calcium channels in the mammalian nervous system. Technology developed for spider toxin isolation and identification facilitated discovery of ecdysis triggering hormone (ETH) with Dusan Zitnan and its role as a command chemical coordinating the peptide signaling cascade essential for ecdysis (shedding of the cuticle as insects transition from one stage to another). More recently, physiological roles for ETH during adulthood in *Drosophila* have been characterized in relation to reproductive success, tracheal airfilling, stress responses, and courtship memory in flies. Overall, these various research stories have been reported in over 100 refereed publications and 25 reviews and book chapters. Dr. Adams helped promote a grass-roots effort to establish a Neuroscience Program at UCR, was a founding member of the Department of Neuroscience (now MCSB), served as Director of the cross-campus Graduate Neuroscience Program for 16 years (2004-2020), and currently represents the faculty of MCSB as Department Chair.

Session Chair: Viji Santhakumar, Ph.D.

# Poster Hour

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Please set up your poster between 1:00 PM and 1:20 PM

Poster #	Presenter and Poster Title
1	<b>Sanjida Akter</b> , Graduate Student <i>"Endocannabinoid signaling during germ layer and ectodermal derivatives specification"</i>
2	<b>Piunik Babakhanins</b> , Graduate Student <i>"Uncovering shared molecular mechanisms and gene signatures through chemicals that elicit skeletal malformations"</i>
3	<b>Meijuan Chen</b> , Graduate Student <i>"Impacts of ERV Activity on the Lineage Fidelity of Myeloid Progenitors"</i>
4	<b>Christopher Creighton</b> , Graduate Student <i>"Evolutionary Shifts in Sweet Taste Modulation by Fatty Acids"</i>
5	<b>Reuben Franklin, Ph.D.</b> , Postdoctoral Researcher <i>"Transcription-Coupled Chromatin Regulation Exerts Context-Dependent Control of Myeloid Cell Fate"</i>
6	<b>Suhasini Guttalu</b> , Undergraduate Student <i>"Role of HNF4a Isoforms In Cold Adaptation"</i>
7	<b>Vivian Huang</b> , Graduate Student <i>"Image-Based Screening Quantifies Pluripotency of Human Embryonic Stem Cells Treated with Small Chemical Activators or Inhibitors"</i>
8	<b>Sarah Kabbara</b> , Graduate Student <i>"Functional contributions of tongue-jaw motor cortex to innate licking behavior depend on task learning and task difficulty"</i>
9	<b>Manas Kinra, Ph.D.</b> , Postdoctoral Researcher <i>"A Biodegradable Intra-Arterial Device for Focal Drug Delivery to Targeted Organs"</i>
10	<b>Lars, Luscher</b> , Graduate Student <i>"PIR-2 activity positively correlates with Orsay Virus infection in Caenorhabditis elegans - a reverse genetic approach"</i>

# Poster Hour

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Please set up your poster between 1:00 PM and 1:20 PM

Poster #	Presenter and Poster Title
11	<b>Yuqi Ma</b> , Graduate Student <i>"Transgenerational inheritance of odor experience alters gene expression and behavior in offspring"</i>
12	<b>Madona Masoud</b> , Graduate Student <i>"Utilizing a Complex 3'UTR Library to Investigate Combinatorial Pumilio-Argonaute Activity in Mammalian Cell Lines"</i>
13	<b>Arrmund Neal</b> , Graduate Student <i>"Defining the role of the nuclear lamina-like protein PfCRWN in chromatin organization of Plasmodium falciparum"</i>
14	<b>Rogelio Nunez-Flores, Ph.D.</b> , Postdoctoral Researcher <i>"Mechanisms of Human Odor Detection in the Mosquito CO<sub>2</sub>-Sensing Pathway"</i>
15	<b>Deepak Subramanian, Ph.D.</b> , Postdoctoral Researcher <i>"Upregulation of Matrix Metalloproteinase-9 by Toll-like Receptor 4 Contributes to Functional Deficits After Brain Injury"</i>
16	<b>Jinrui Tan</b> , Graduate Student <i>"Natural Derived Hydrogel with Enzyme Crosslinking Enables In-situ 3D Printing for Tissue Engineering"</i>
17	<b>Alexandra Tejada</b> , Graduate Student <i>"Lateral spread in sensory cortex as a novel gain mechanism in selective detection"</i>
18	<b>George Tseng</b> , Graduate Student <i>"Unraveling Mitochondrial Regulation by RAP Proteins in the human Malaria Parasite, Plasmodium falciparum"</i>
19	<b>Chia-Wei Yeh</b> , Graduate Student <i>"Evaluating transgenic approaches to analyze dentate gyrus axo-axonic cells"</i>