

## Joint Retreat

### The University of Chicago “Digestive Health and Diseases” T32 and University of Wisconsin-Madison “Metabolism and Nutrition” T32

Gordon Center for Integrative Science – The University of Chicago  
929 E. 57th St., Chicago, IL

[See retreat learning objectives here](#)

#### **Day 1: Friday October 13, 2023**

- 11:30 Lunch
- Noon-12:25 Retreat Welcome (Eugene Chang, MD and Rick Eisenstein, PhD)  
Trainee/trainer Introduction
- 12:30 PM Keynote: “Effective Mentorship in STEMM: What’s Cultural Diversity Got To Do With It?”
- Prof. Angela Byars-Winston PhD**  
Dept. of Medicine  
Chair, Institute for Diversity Science  
University of Wisconsin-Madison
- 1:30 Break
- 1:45 Panel discussion on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion-related topics
- Angela Byars-Winston PhD and Edwin McDonald IV MD**  
**Sonia Kupfer MD**, moderator
- 2:30 Trainer research talk 1: “Modeling Host-Environment Interactions across Diverse Individuals”  
**Sonia Kupfer MD**  
Assoc. Prof. of Medicine, The University of Chicago
- 3:30 Trainee oral research presentations:
- Michelle Cooley, PhD: “The XBP1s-AT-1 Axis in the Protective Unfolded Protein Response”
  - Ross McMillan, MD: “Exploration of the Low Rate of Colorectal Cancer Screening in Black Men”
  - Matthew Odenwald, MD, PhD: “Using the Microbiome to Prevent Drug-resistant Infections in Liver Disease”
  - Nate Willis, PhD: “Cyclic Infusions in Parenteral Nutrition Associated Liver Dysfunction”
- 5:30 Career Development Skills: **Academics vs. Industry – the same but different!**
- Manjing Zhang PhD**  
Scientific Analyst, Morrison Foerster
- Vanessa Leone PhD**  
Asst. Prof of Animal and Dairy Sciences – UW-Madison
- Marketing yourself to leadership in your unique career environment - establishing visibility and name recognition
  - Soft skill development – interpersonal skills, communication style, team building and leadership
  - Project management skills and multi-tasking
- 6:20 Reception/Social hour: Quadrangle Club - 1155 East 57<sup>th</sup> St, Chicago, IL
- 7:15 – 9:00 Dinner and Science keynote
- Edwin McDonald IV, MD**  
Asst. Prof. of Medicine, The University of Chicago  
“Why Are You Eating Hot Dogs Every Day?: Navigating Food Swamps, Food Deserts, and Health Disparities”

**Day 2**

**Saturday October 14, 2023**

7:30 Continental Breakfast and Poster Set-Up

8:00 Goals for this Day and Housekeeping

8:10 Trainer Research Talk 2: "A short chain fatty acid centric view of *Clostridioides difficile* pathogenesis"

**Andrew Hryckowian PhD**

Asst. Prof. of Medicine and Medical Microbiology  
and Immunology, University of Wisconsin-Madison

9:15 Poster session (presenters at their poster first or second hour)

11:15 Panel/Audience Discussion – **What career path fits you?**

**Kristina Martinez-Guryn PhD, RD**

Assoc. Professor of Biomedical Sciences, Midwestern University

**Wallace Liu PhD**

Research Scientist, Gilead Sciences

- Why do a post-doc?
  - Retrospective views of postdoctoral training
- Day-to-day life
  - Degrees of freedom
  - Range of responsibilities
- Career choices – faculty member or industrial scientist
  - Expected vs. unexpected benefits and challenges
  - Life balance considerations
- Career trajectories and long-term considerations

12:00 Lunch

1:00 Trainee Research Big Picture:

- Orlando DeLeon, PhD: "Why You Need to Match the Microbe to its Environment"
- Ariel Halper-Stromberg, MD, PhD: "Searching for Immune Signatures Associated with Biologic Therapy Response in IBD"
- Lauren Lucas, PhD: "Dominant Bacterial Phyla from the Human Gut Show Widespread Ability To Transform Bile Acids"
- Matthew Warren, PhD: "Exploring the Effects of Host Genetic Variation, Sex, and Diet on Short-chain Fatty Acids Levels in a Genetically Diverse Mouse Population"

What is the larger impact of your research? Why is it important?

3:00 Brief discussion: Retreat conclusion and future directions.

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