

VirginiaDrugDiscoveryRx: From Discovery to Development
May 30-31, 2024
The Westin Virginia Beach Town Center

DAY 1

11:00 AM- 1:00 PM Registration

12:00 PM- 1:00 PM Poster Session and snacks

1:00 PM Meeting Kick-off
Welcome from Ali Andalibi (George Mason University), Chair, VaDDC
Welcome from John Newby, CEO, Virginia Bio

Session: Novel Antivirals, Antimicrobials and Cancer Immunotherapies

Chairs: Kathryn Cole and Paul Fisher

1:15-1:45 Keynote: Katherine Franz, PhD (Duke)
"Infectiously Inorganic: A Metallocentric View of Antimicrobial Drug Development"

1:45-1:55 Q&A

1:55-2:15 Invited: Kylee Kehn-Hall, PhD (Virginia Tech)
"Antiviral Strategies for Emerging Infectious Diseases"

2:15-2:25 Q&A

2:25-2:55 Keynote: Jeffrey Schlom (NCI)
"Rational Design of New Combination Immunotherapies for Cancer: Part 1"

2:55-3:05 Q&A

3:05-3:35 Keynote: James Gulley (NCI)
"Rational Design of New Combination Immunotherapies for Cancer: Part 2"

3:35-3:45 Q&A

3:45-3:50 Undergraduate Poster Talk 1: Latrell Fomby (Christopher Newport University)
"The Impact of Snakeskin Knockdown on Health and Disease"

3:50-3:55 Undergraduate Poster Talk 2: Aivy Le (Christopher Newport University)
"Molecular Modeling of Halogenated Tubulin Inhibitors"

4:00-5:30 Drinks, snacks, and poster session/judging, room check-in

5:30-6:30 VPR Panel: Milton Brown (Vice Dean for Research, Eastern Virginia Medical School), Lynn Lambert (Associate Provost for Research and Dean of Graduate Studies, CNU), John Ryan (Associate Vice-President of Research and Innovation, VCU)

6:30 Dinner

DAY 2

8:00 AM Day 2 Kick-off
Welcome from Program Chair John Catravas (?)

Session: Development of Novel Therapeutics

Chairs: John Lazo and Nicholas Farrell

- 8:05-8:35 Keynote: Stephanie Davis, PhD (NIH)
“Supporting the Development of Novel Therapeutics through the NIH Small Business Programs”
- 8:35-8:45 Q&A
- 8:45-9:05 Invited Talk: Umesh Desai, PhD (VCU)
“Pre-Clinical Studies on Allosteric Inhibitors of Human Factor XIa”
- 9:05-9:15 Q&A
- 9:15-9:25 Poster Talk 1: Ghazal Soleymani & Joseph Quinlan (Virginia Tech)
“Antivirulence Against Type IV Pilus Assembly ATPase PILB: Structure-Activity Relationship of Benserazide as a PILB Inhibitor”
- 9:25-9:35 Poster Talk 2: Dickson Donu (Virginia Commonwealth University)
“Targeting Plasmodium falciparum Sir2 for the Development of Novel Antimalarials”
- 9:35-10:30 Coffee and snacks and poster session/judging

Session: Targeting the Lung

Chairs: John Catravas and Beth Sharlow

- 10:30-11:00 Keynote: Joe (Skip) Garcia, MD (University of Florida)
“Developing Drugs for the Management of Lung Disease”
- 11:00-11:10 Q&A
- 11:10-11:30 Invited Talk: John Lazo, PhD (UVA)
“Developing microvascular targeted drugs for acute lung injury”
- 11:30-11:40 Q&A
- 11:40-12:10 Keynote: Sadis Matalon, PhD (UAB)
“Developing drugs against chemical threats”
- 12:10-12:20 Q&A
- 12:20-12:30 Poster Talk 3: Benjamin Faulkner (University of Virginia)
“Elucidation of a Non-Canonical RhoA Signaling Pathway in Small-Cell Lung Cancer”
- 12:30-1:30 Lunch, announcing of poster awards

Session: Enabling Technologies

Chairs: Webster Santos and Cliff Stains

- 1:30-2:00 Keynote: Jetze Tepe, PhD (UVA)
“Targeting the undruggable through proteasome activation”
- 2:00-2:10 Q&A
- 2:10-2:30 Invited Talk: Shantá Hinton, PhD (W&M)
“The Functionality of Pseudophosphatase MK-STYX through Biochemical Interactions”
- 2:30-2:40 Q&A

- 2:40-3:00 Invited Talk: Robert Gourdie (Virginia Tech)
"Targeting Cx43 as an Adjunct Therapy for Radiation Treatments of Cancer"
- 3:00-3:10 Q&A
- 3:10-3:30 Invited Talk: Jessica Gilbertie (Qentoros)
"From Horses to Humans: A Centaur Approach to Drug Development"
- 3:30-3:40 Q&A