2026 Buffalo RNA Symposium

Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

Tuesday, June 16, 2026

8:00am	**Registration and Continental Breakfast**	**Room 1220 (1st floor)**
8:30 - 8:35am	**Welcome Remarks** *Xuhang Liu, PhD, Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center*	**Room 2120A (2nd floor)**
8:35 - 9:59am	**Session I: RNA in Diseases** **Session Chair: TBN**	**Room 2120A (2nd floor)**
8:35 - 8:37am	Session I Introduction *TBD*	
8:37 - 8:51am	Alternative splicing-mediated paralog switching drives ribosome dysfunction in neonatal cardiomyopathy *Michael Murphy, PhD, Columbia University*	
8:51 - 9:05am	Crosstalk between nonsense-mediated decay (NMD) and Tor alters fluconazole susceptibility in Cryptococcus neoformans *Sean R. Duffy, PhD Candidate, University at Buffalo*	
9:05 - 9:19am	ATXN10 Regulates Ribosomal Recycling and Nonsense-Mediated mRNA Decay *Md Rahadujjaman, Graduate Student, University at Buffalo*	
9:19 - 9:39am	HNF1A is a novel BRD4 target and critical for BET-inhibitor response in pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma *Ethan Abel, PhD, Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center*	
9:39 - 9:59am	Tumor long-noncoding RNA expression signatures associated with breast cancer prognosis *Zhihong Gong, PhD, Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center*	
10:00 - 10:25am	**Coffee Break**	
10:25 - 11:58am	**Session II: RNA Therapeutics and Regulatory RNAs** **Session Chair: TBN**	**Room 2120A (2nd floor)**
10:25 - 10:27am	Session II Introduction *TBD*	
10:27 - 10:29am	Introduction of Session II Keynote Speaker *Xuhang Liu, PhD, Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center*	
10:30 - 11:30am	**KEYNOTE: Chemical Engineering of Therapeutic RNAs for Extrahepatic Delivery** ***Anastasia Khvorova, PhD, University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School***	
11:30 - 11:44am	Tumor-specific lncRNA IGF1R-AS1 trans-regulates chromatin interactions associated with oncogenic MYC signaling *Yongyong Yang, PhD, Northwestern University*	

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11:44 - 11:58am	The role of lncRNA NRIR in HIV-1 infection in macrophages *Eliana Kenner, University at Buffalo*	
12:00 - 1:00pm	**LUNCH**	**ROOM 1220 (1ST FLOOR)**
1:00 - 2:52pm	**SESSION III: CONTROL OF TRANSLATION** **SESSION CHAIR: TBN**	**ROOM 2120A (2ND FLOOR)**
1:00 - 1:02pm	Session III Introduction *TBD*	
1:02 - 1:04pm	Introduction of Session III Keynote Speaker *Sarah Walker, PhD, University at Buffalo*	
1:04 - 2:04pm	**KEYNOTE: ZAK (and GCN2) activation at the colliding ribosome** ***Rachel Green, PhD, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine***	
2:04 - 2:24pm	CDC123 functional impairments noncanonically induce the Integrated Stress Response and are linked to a novel neurodevelopmental disorder *Sara Young-Baird, PhD, Uniformed Services University*	
2:24 - 2:38pm	Observing intersubunit dynamics in single yeast ribosomes *Amy Grove, Graduate Student, University of Rochester*	
2:38 - 2:52pm	Inosine misincorporation into mRNA triggers the integrated stress response *Naa Nuerki Adade, PhD Candidate, University at Albany*	
2:52 - 3:12pm	**COFFEE BREAK**	
3:12 - 4:48pm	**SESSION IV: RNA REGULATION IN STRESS AND DISEASE** **SESSION CHAIR: TBD**	**ROOM 2120A (2ND FLOOR)**
3:12 - 3:14PM	Session IV Introduction *TBD*	
3:14 - 3:34pm	EIF4G2-Dependent Translation of Pro-Fibrotic mRNAs Is Essential for Cardiac Fibroblast Activation *Peng Yao, PhD, University of Rochester*	
3:34 - 3:54pm	What do they do, though? Examining the impact of G3BPs and stress granules on stress-induced gene expression changes *Jarrett Smith, PhD, University of Chicago*	
3:54 - 4:14pm	The RIDD activity of *C. elegans* IRE1 modifies neuroendocrine signaling in anticipation of environment stress to ensure survival *Tali Gidalevitz, PhD, Drexel University*	

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4:14 - 4:34pm Systematic interrogation of the CFTR 5' UTR identifies targetable regulatory elements
Rachel Niederer, PhD, University of Michigan Medical School

4:34 - 4:48pm Translational control of a unique bicistronic gene linked to Prader-Willi Syndrome
Lucy Johnson, PhD, Carnegie Mellon University

5:00 - 6:30pm **Social Reception / Poster Session** **Atrium (2nd floor)**

Wednesday, June 17, 2026

8:00am **Registration and Continental Breakfast** **Room 1220 (1st floor)**

8:30 - 10:20am **Session V: RNA Editing, Structures, and Condensates** **Room 2120A (2nd floor)**
Session Chair: TBN

8:30 - 8:32am Session V Introduction
TBD

8:32 - 8:52am In vivo and in vitro characterization of RNA editing activity of human and mouse APOBEC2-4 enzymes
Santosh Patnaik, Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

8:52 - 9:06am Developing a 9-dimensional RNA-barcode to characterize RNA-containing structures
James Seuch, Graduate Student, University at Rochester

9:06 - 9:26am From single molecule to collective phase behavior: modeling structural ensemble, ion atmosphere, and aging of RNA condensate
Hung Nguyen, PhD, University of Buffalo

9:26 - 9:40am RNA encodes programmable condensate phase behavior through competing interactions
Gable Wadsworth, University at Buffalo

9:40 - 10:00am Cell cycle-informed studies of hnRNPC reveal Transcriptome Vulnerabilities of rapidly dividing cells
Daniel Benhalevy, PhD, Tel Aviv University

10:00 - 10:20am **Coffee Break**

10:20 - 12:33pm **Session VI: Transcription and Splicing** **Room 2120A (2nd floor)**
Session Chair: TBN

10:20 - 10:22am Session VI Introduction
TBD

10:22 - 10:24am Introduction of Session VI Keynote Speaker
Veena Prahlad, PhD, Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

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10:25 - 11:25am	**KEYNOTE: Long-Range Transcriptional and Architectural Interplay of Enhancers, Facilitators and Promoters** ***John Lis, PhD, Cornell University***
11:25 - 11:45am	Quantitative Measurements of Early Transcriptional Elongation and Termination *Hojoong Kwak, PhD, New York Medical College*
11:45 - 12:05pm	RNA Binding Protein and Modified Oligonucleotides Regulate the Splicing of the Slit Diaphragm Components at the Filtration Barrier *Shipra Agrawal, PhD, Stony Brook University*
12:05 - 12:19pm	A High-Throughput Method for Quantifying Transcription Elongation Rate *Chathura Udayantha Perera, PhD, Candidate University at Buffalo*
12:19 - 12:33pm	The importance of being non-triplet in alternative splicing *Shameerudeen Athavudeen, PhD Candidate, UC Riverside*
12:33pm	**POSTER AWARDS**
12:50pm	**LUNCH** **ROOM 1220 (1ST FLOOR)**