

## Current Trainees

Saideep Gona 2021  
Jenks Hehmeyer 2021  
Pinky Lee 2021  
Kellen Riall 2021  
Casey Richards 2021  
Jamarcus Robertson 2021  
Sofia Sheikh 2021  
Sam Swank 2021  
Cecily Choy 2022  
Ben Epley 2022  
Liz Gibbons 2022  
Rowan Hart 2022  
Brendan Jamison 2022  
Koray Kasan 2022  
Maria Meneses 2022  
Luciano Simonetta 2022

## Year 1 Students

Alexander Chen (2023)  
Ernesto Gagarin (2023)  
Emmanuel Garza (2023)  
Claire Gray (2023)  
Quinn Hauck (2023)  
Emily Hendricks (2023)  
Omar Salcedo (2023)  
Jonathan Wiese (2023)

## Trainee Advisors

Haky Im  
Heather Marlow  
Ronan O'Malley  
Jeremy Berg  
Tim Wootton  
Heather Marlow  
Marcus Kronforst  
Ellie Heckscher  
Luis Barreiro  
Joseph Thornton  
Ran Blekman  
Matthias Steinrucken  
Yoav Gilad  
Urs Schmidt-Ott  
Carole Ober  
Robert Carrillo

## Student Alumni

Ezra Amiri  
Busayo Bolonduro  
Carlos Cortez  
Honorine Destain  
Paula Fernandez-Begne  
Renee Fonseca  
Gabriela Haddad  
Taylor Hains  
Matthew McDonough  
Erik McIntire  
Shreya Ramachandran  
Rio Salazar  
Dylan Sosa  
Karl Tayeb  
Alexis Thornburg  
Raven Watson  
Zachary Weber

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## GME Leadership

### Co-Program Directors

John Novembre  
Alexander Ruthenburg  
Joseph Thornton

### Program Administrator

Melissa Williams

### Steering Committee

Luis Barreiro  
Elizabeth Heckscher  
Marcus Kronforst  
Catherine Pfister  
Urs Schmidt-Ott  
Francois Spitz  
Victoria Prince  
Lucia Rothman-Denes

# Genetic Mechanisms and Evolution Training Program Retreat



March 29, 2024

GCIS 301/303

11:30 AM - 5:00 PM



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
CHICAGO

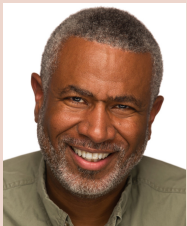
The purpose of the retreat is to bring students and faculty together to evaluate and improve all aspects of our training program and provide training/engagement opportunities on issues important to our trainees’ development that are not part of the usual academic curriculum.

11:30-12:00	Lunch Pick Up
12:00-12:15	GME: Welcome and Overview
12:15-12:35	Featured Student Talk: Taylor Hains “Comparative karyotypic differences between macrochromosomes and microchromosomes in three genera of parrots”
12:35-1:10	Professional Development session: with alumni Dr. Olivia Gray (Variant Bio) and Dr. Abby Stayart (myCHOICE Program Director)
1:10-1:20	10 Minute Break
1:20-1:40	Featured Student Talk: Honorine Destain “Maintenance of adult neuronal identity through opposing inputs on a single transcription factor”
1:40-2:15	DEI session: Building inclusive scientific communities with Dr. Christina Roman (BSD Associate Director of Diversity and Inclusion)
2:15-2:25	10 Minute Break
2:25-2:45	Featured Student Talk: Karl Tayeb "Fine-mapping in non-normal models"
2:45-3:25	Genetics and Society session: Dr. Amanda Townley (National Center for Science Education) “The role of scientists as boundary pioneers to impact public understandings of science”
3:25-3:35	10 Minute Break
3:35-4:00	Reflections on graduate training: Professor Scott Edwards (Harvard)
4:00-5:00	Town Hall and breakout discussions

# Special Guests

## Scott Edwards, PhD

Alexander Agassiz Professor, Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology, Harvard University; member, U.S. National Academy of Sciences; former Division Director of Biological Infrastructure, U.S. National Science Foundation



## Olivia Gray, PhD

(UChicago HGEN 2021)  
Senior Scientist, Health Data  
Variant Bio



## Amanda L. Townley, PhD

Executive Director  
National Center for Science Education



## Abby Stayart, PhD

(UChicago GGSB 2012)  
myCHOICE Program Director



## Christina Roman, PhD

(UChicago BMB 2021)  
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Program Manager  
Office of Diversity and Inclusion  
Biological Sciences Division



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# Student Presentations



Taylor Hains



Honorine Destain



Karl Tayeb