Genetic Mechanisms and Evolution Training Program
Retreat

March 29, 2024
GCIS 301/303
11:30 AM - 5:00 PM

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

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

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)

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

GME Leadership
Co-Program Directors
John Novembre
Alexander Ruthenburg
Joseph Thornton

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

Program Administrator
Melissa Williams
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.

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

### Student Presentations

- **Taylor Hains**
- **Honorine Destain**
- **Karl Tayeb**