

GOALS OF THE RETREAT

Bring students and faculty together to:

- Evaluate and improve all aspects of our training program
- Provide training/engagement opportunities on issues important to our trainees' development that are not part of the usual academic curriculum.

AGENDA

11:30-12:00	Lunch Pick Up
12:00-12:15	Welcome and Overview
12:15-12:35	Featured Student Talk: Alexis Thornburg <i>Uncoupling the genetics driving adiposity and cardiometabolic disease</i>
12:35-1:10	Professional Development Session: Dr. Tyler Starr <i>With an opening from myChoice by Shruti Vaidya</i>
1:10-1:20	~10 Minute Break~
1:20-1:40	Featured Student Talk: Rowan Hart <i>Microevolutionary cophylogeny</i>
1:40-2:15	Community and Divisional Values: Dr. Robert Carrillo: <i>The Balancing Act: Research, Community, and Everything in Between</i>
2:15-2:25	~10 Minute Break~
2:25-2:45	Featured Student Talk: Liz Gibbons <i>Integrative analysis highlights coordination across host single-cell gene expression and gut microbiome in IBD remission</i>
2:45 - 3:25	Genetics and Society Session (virtual): <i>Journalism at the interface of Science and Society: Carl Zimmer</i>
3:25 - 3:35	~10 Minute Break~
3:35 - 4:00	Reflections on Graduate Training: Prof. Audrey Gasch
4:00 - 5:00	Town Hall and Breakout Discussions: Improving the GME program

SPECIAL GUESTS



Dr. Audrey P. Gasch

Professor, Genetics
Director, Center for Genomic Science Innovation
University of Wisconsin-Madison



Dr. Tyler Starr

PhD Biochemistry & Molecular Biophysics 2012
Assistant Professor, Biochemistry
University of Utah



Dr. Robert Carrillo

Associate Professor, Molecular Genetics
Associate Dean, Community and Divisional Values
Biological Sciences Division
University of Chicago



Carl Zimmer

Science Columnist (*New York Times*), Science Writer,
and Author of 13 books, including *She Has Your Mother's
Laugh: The Powers, Perversions, and Potential of Heredity*.

WORK-IN-PROGRESS PRESENTATIONS



Alexis Thornburg

Human Genetics (2020)



Rowan Hart

Ecology and Evolution (2022)



Liz Gibbons

Genetics, Genomics and Systems Biology (2022)

CURRENT TRAINEES

Armin Adly (ECEV)
Harry Black (ORGB)
Alexander Chen (GGSB)
Maxwell Devine (DVBI)
Ernesto Gagarin (GGSB)
Claire Gray (HGEN)
Gabriel Hatto (GGSB)
Quinn Hauck (HGEN)
Mei Knudson (GGSB)
Diego Morales Sánchez (EVOL)
Elizabeth Polston (ECEV)
Henry Raeder (HGEN)
Camryn Schmelzer (CAMB)
Namiko Service (DVBI)
Genevieve Tostevin (ECEV)
Jonathan Wiese (ECEV)

1ST YEAR TRAINEES

Erik Anderson
Zachary Bellido
Nasser Elhajjaoui
Julia Holder
Kaitlyn Hutchins
Caitlin O'Sullivan
Wynne Radcliffe

STEERING COMMITTEE

Luis Barreiro
Elizabeth Heckscher
Marcus Kronforst
Catherine Pfister
Victoria Prince
Urs Schmidt-Ott
Francois Spitz
Matthias Steinrucken

PROGRAM DIRECTORS

Francesca Luca
John Novembre
Alexander Ruthenburg
Joseph Thornton

RESEARCH ADVISOR

Joe Thornton
Heather Marlow
Yoav Gilad
Schmidt-Ott
Ronan O'Malley
Francois Spitz
Rama Ranganathan
Yang Li
Aly Khan
John Bates
Julia Kreiner
Haky Im
Yoav Gilad
Marcus Kronforst
Lauren Carley
Matthias Steinrucken

GME ALUMNI *(still in training)*

Busayo Bolonduro (GGSB)
Cecily Choy (HGEN)
Honorine Destain (DVBI)
Benjamin Epley (ECEV)
Paula Fernandez-Begne (ECEV)
Renee Fonseca (HGEN)
Elizabeth Gibbons (GGSB)
Saideep Gona (GGSB)
Gabriela Haddad (GGSB)
Taylor Hains (EVOL)
Rowan Hart (ECEV)
Jenks Hehmeyer (ORGB)
Brendan Jamison (GGSB)
Koray Kasan (ORGB)
Pinky Lee (GGSB)
Matthew McDonough (CAMB)
Erik McIntire (HGEN)
Maria Meneses (HGEN)
Raven Moten (GGSB)
Kellen Riall (GGSB)
Casey Richards (ECEV)
Jamarcus Robertson (DVBI)
Rio Salazar (CAMB)
Sofia Sheikh (ECEV)
Luciano Simonetta (DVBI)
Josh Sodicoff (GGSB)
Dylan Sosa (ECEV)
Sam Swank (DVBI)
Karl Tayeb (GGSB)
Alexis Thornburg (HGEN)
Zachary Weber (GGSB)

GENETIC MECHANISMS AND EVOLUTION TRAINING PROGRAM RETREAT



APRIL 10TH, 2026
11:30 AM - 5:00 PM
GCIS 301/303

UChicagoBiosciences