

2026 Community Lecture Series

Hosted by: Stem Cell Research Center's Co-Directors, Leslie Thompson, PhD & Brian J. Cummings, PhD
The presentations will be geared towards the public and non-experts – we invite everyone to attend!



“Combating Brain Fog After Cancer Therapies”

Munjal Acharya, PhD &
Casey Hudson, PhD Candidate

Date: January 27, 2026



“Stem Cell Immunotherapies for Breast Cancer Metastasis”

Devon Lawson, PhD & Tim McMullen, PhD

Date: May 5, 2026



Stem Cell Awareness Day

Aileen Anderson, PhD

Date: October 6, 2026



“Timing Is Everything: Circadian Regulation of Intestinal Stem Cells”

Selma Masri, PhD & Amy Song, Graduate Student

Date: March 10, 2026



“Changing Paradigms in the Treatment of Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia in Adults”

Alex Minella, MD & Nick Pannunzio, PhD

Date: June 2, 2026



“Harnessing Sweetness to Treat Cancer and Autoimmunity”

Michael Demetriou, MD PhD & Paresh Purohit, PhD

Date: November 3, 2026



“Beyond the Mix: How Sorting Mesenchymal Stem Cells Could Improve Clinical Outcomes”

Tayloria Adams, PhD & Tia Wilson, PhD Candidate

Date: April 7, 2026



“Fine Tuning Brain Tissue Formation in a Dish to Model Neurological Disorders”

Momoko Watanabe, PhD & Raymond Wang, MD

Date: September 15, 2026



“Neural Stem Cell Trials for Traumatic Brain Injury – Past, Present, & Future”

Brian Cummings, PhD & Jefferson Chen, MD, PhD

Date: December 1, 2026



Scan to Register

Monthly on Tuesday | 7:00 – 8:00 PM | UCI, Gross Hall Thorp Conference Center