

Stem Cell Spotlight Newsletter

July 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS

Stay tuned for fall events. Have a wonderful summer!

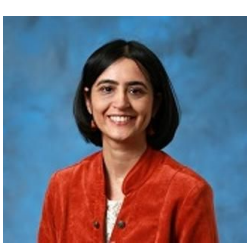
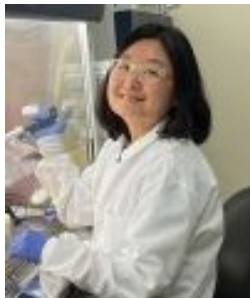
SCRC SPOTLIGHT



Exciting News: Seiler Lab Research Accepted by Two Prestigious Journals this Month!
Congratulations to all authors on two remarkable publications this month! Studies on a protective peptide treatment for vision loss was accepted in Scientific Reports. And the development of a new rat model for studying retinal degeneration, accepted in Translational Vision Science & Technology (TVST).
<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-026-62834-3>

Big Wins for the Eguchi Lab: Publications, Grants, and Presentations!

- The lab's research on improving heart cell function in Duchenne muscular dystrophy was published in Molecular Therapy - Advances!
- A new NIH grant was secured to study heart complications in female carriers of the disease.
- Asuka Eguchi was also a presenter at the American Heart Association Basic Cardiovascular Scientific Sessions in Boston, MA.



New NINDS R01 Grant Awarded to the Pathak Lab!
Exciting news, the Pathak Lab has been awarded a new R01 grant from NINDS to study how the PIEZO1 protein drives mechanical signaling in brain and nerve development.

Funding



CIRM FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:
Please click here for the latest on the CIRM website.

TO INITIATE A PROPOSAL SUBMISSION THROUGH SCRC: Click here to complete the intake form to initiate a proposal submission through SCRC.

Click here to see the FAQs attached about F&A funding, and visit the following for additional information updates:

- [Judge largely blocks Trump's executive orders ending federal support for DEI programs](#)
- [Impact of Federal Executive Orders and Directives on Federal Grants and Contracts](#)
- [UC Federal Updates Page](#)

Please reach out to Randy if you have any specific questions or concerns.

SCRC FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

- The Sue & Bill Gross Stem Cell Research Center is now accepting applications for up to three seed grants of \$50,000 each, open to all SCRC members with new and innovative ideas in stem cell or regenerative medicine research. Proposals must incorporate the use of the center's shared core resources and include a lay summary, project narrative, budget, and biosketch in a single PDF. The deadline to apply is September 1, 2026. *For full details and to submit your proposal, click here:*
<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/019f5da914c1701a8a386b8953dfb44d>
- Resubmission support awards of \$5,000–\$10,000 are now available through the Sue & Bill Gross Stem Cell Research Center to help UCI SCRC faculty members revise and resubmit manuscripts and grant proposals, with up to three awards available per year. Applicants should prepare a single PDF including the original manuscript or grant, reviewer critiques, a plan for addressing feedback, a budget, personnel details, and the PI's NIH biosketch. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and reviewed as needed. *For full details and to submit your proposal, click here:*
<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/019f5cc8cad87a3c87f1ee4ce4ba98b2>

UCI SKIN CENTER OPPORTUNITY:

- Seed grants of \$40,000 each are now available through the UC Irvine NIAMS P30 Skin Biology Resource-based Center to support new and innovative skin biology and disease research projects aimed at competing for future NIH funding, with up to three awards available and priority given to interdisciplinary collaborations, projects utilizing the center's Resource Cores, and proposals led by assistant professors. Applicants should prepare a single PDF including a lay summary, project narrative, budget, NIH biosketches for all PIs, and a current other support document. The deadline to apply is September 14, 2026. *For full details and to submit your proposal, click here:*
<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/1d0fb6b7619e4d75a8fcd1f14dead782>

Purchasing

Reminder: Share Your Feedback on UCIBuy+

Our department is seeking your feedback on the UCIBuy+ system to help assess its effectiveness in improving procurement visibility, streamlining approvals, and ensuring compliance. If you have not yet done so, please complete the brief survey by July 24, 2026. Your input, whether from submitting requests or approving transactions, is essential to help us enhance the system.

Survey

HR Updates/Resources

Healthy Living Series

- UCI Health: Healthy Living series will help you discover how to live well and equip you with the tools you need to improve your life and well-being.
- No cost webinar series
- Next Webinar: July 28th | "Manage Stress"
- 3-4 p.m. every other Tuesday

Read More about the Healthy Living Series

Diabetes Support Group (Hybrid)

- UCI Health: Join us for our diabetes support group where we provide emotional support, resources, and peer connection for individuals as well as caregivers managing diabetes and pre-diabetes. In each support group, we will go over various topics geared toward needs of participants such as resources, advocacy tips, emotional support, peer connection, stress management and healthy lifestyle practices.
- No cost hybrid series
- Next Webinar: Aug 11 | "Sun Safety & Diabetes"

Read More About Diabetes Support Group

Kaiser Webinar Series

- Activate Your Healthy Mind-Healthy Body
- No cost webinar series
- Next Webinar: Aug 17, 2026 | "Back to School, Back to Basics"

Click to read more about Kaiser Webinar Series

Life Resources Program (LRP) ComPsych Guidance Resources

- (844) 824-3273
- Faculty & Staff Support Services
- Negar Shekarabi, Psy.D.
 - Program Director, Occupational Health
 - nshekar@hs.uci.edu

Click to read more Life Resources Program (LRP) ComPsych Guidance Resources

REACH Program (Referral, Education, Assessment and Counseling for Healers)

Click to read more about REACH Program

UCI Susan Samuelli Integrative Health Institute

Throughout the year, we offer a variety of mindfulness classes, including Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR), Mindful Self-Compassion (MSC), Mindfulness-Based Relapse Prevention (MBRP) and Mindful Parenting workshops

Click to read more about UCI Susan Samuelli Integrative Health Institute

Travel Reimbursements

Click here to review the UC travel policy highlights, and please review these before booking. Feel free to reach out if you have any questions.



REIMBURSEMENT FORMS:
Click here to download all forms on the SCRC Purchasing Webpage

We would like to send a reminder regarding UCI travel policies to keep in mind if you plan on seeking reimbursement for your travels (ie. conferences and events).

Please refer to the policies below:

- Airfare must be coach or economy class only
- Lodging maximum is \$333/night before taxes and fees – the maximum applies **per room**, not per person. Even if you share a room with another traveler, the room must cost no more than \$333/night.
- The maximum for **meals & incidental expenses** is \$92/day. The only instance in which you may pay for another person's meals is if you are hosting a business meeting over a meal. In this case, you must provide an **attendee list and agenda**, and the **meal maximums listed here** apply.
- In general, you may not pay for another person's expenses, however you may share a room, shuttles, taxis, etc. with another traveler. One person can pay for the room, taxi, etc., and request reimbursement.
- If you are including personal days on the trip (extending travel dates more than 24 hrs before or after the conference dates), you must provide a **pre-trip airfare comparison quote** that shows how much the flight would have cost without personal days. Reimbursement will be based on the lesser amount. Any expenses incurred during **personal travel** are not reimbursable.
- Keep all itemized receipts to submit with your reimbursement. Receipts must include **proof of payment** (ex. Paid with Visa XXXX); Please see the **reference guide for supporting documentation** for more info.
- **No exceptions for receipts that are not itemized – bank account screenshots are acceptable as further backup to confirm amount totals such as tip (in such instances where tip amount is not included on the receipts)**
- Any mileage requests must include a screenshot of the route taken (gmaps, apple maps etc.) **Mileage rate: \$0.725**
- Reimbursement requests must be submitted within 45 days after the end of the trip.

SCRC Building Information

Click here to view a full list of the SCRC Core Staff

Click here to view a full list of the shared equipment and other resources that SCRC offers

- Shared equipment is reserved via iLab. [Click here to register for iLab.](#)
- Questions? Please email Allia Fawaz (fawaza@uci.edu)

Conference rooms

- Conference rooms 2005, 2034, 3001, and 3034 may be booked through iLab. [Click here to register for iLab.](#)
 - They can also be reserved at the tablet kiosks outside each conference room. Directions for reserving at the kiosks are posted next to them.
- The Thorp conference center on the 4th floor (4000) and the 4th floor boardroom (4002) are reserved through Kristina Yan (tkzyan@hs.uci.edu).

Building Access:

- If you require a keycard to be activated, please email the 5 or 6-digit number on your keycard and your PI's approval to Allia Fawaz (fawaza@uci.edu)
- If your lab does not have a spare keycard to activate, please send your lab's KFS account and project code with your PI's approval to purchase one
- Lost or stolen keys/keycards should be reported to both the PI/lab manager and Allia Fawaz (fawaza@uci.edu) immediately.
- **Reminder:** You should NOT grant access to the building (e.g., by holding a door to the building open) to anyone without a keycard unless they are known to you. Also, doors to the building should NOT be propped open to allow access.

Share Your Voice – SCRC Comments & Suggestions Box

Our virtual Comments & Suggestions Box is here to capture your ideas!

Click here to submit any comments or suggestions anonymously

Want to be featured in a Newsletter?

Have a recent event, achievement, or pet to be featured in a future newsletter? [Please click here to complete the request form with your information.](#)

UC Irvine Stem Cell Research Center
<https://stemcell.uci.edu/>