

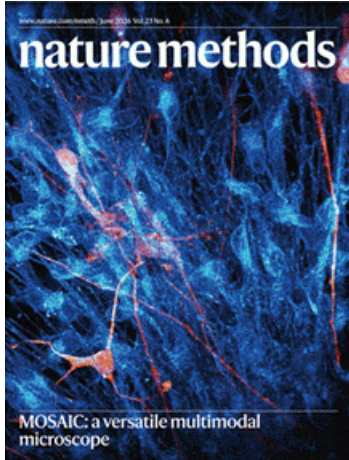
Stem Cell Spotlight Newsletter

June 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS

Stay tuned for fall events. Have a wonderful summer!

SCRC SPOTLIGHT



Pathak Lab's Brain Organoid Image Graces the Cover of Nature Methods

Congratulations to the Pathak lab, their HiPSC-derived brain organoid image was selected as the cover of the June 2026 issue of Nature Methods! The featured article highlights a groundbreaking new modality of lightsheet microscopy developed by thier collaborators Eric Betzig and Gokul Upadhyayula at UC Berkely

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41592-026-03066-1>

More success this season for the Pathak Lab!

- **Nanon Technologies Equipment Grant:** Medha Pathak received a seed grant for the SyncroPatch 384 automated patch clamp instrument, alongside co-investigators Francesco Tombola, Jerome Lacroix, Lyna Luo
- **P30 Skin Center Seed Grant:** Awarded to Medha Pathak and John Lowengrub.
- **NSF GRFP:** Awarded to graduate student Karina Millican
- **CCBS Opportunity Award:** Awarded to graduate students Karina Millican and Tiffany Pugh (Haleh Alimohamadi's lab).
- **Travel Awards:** Postdoc Ignasi Casanellas Mercado received both a School of Medicine travel award and a P30 trainee travel award for the Biophysical Society Annual Meeting.



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.

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: June 30th | "Shop & Cook Healthy"
- 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: July 14th | "Mental Health & Stress Management"

[Read More About Diabetes Support Group](#)

Kaiser Webinar Series

- Activate Your Healthy Mind-Healthy Body
- No cost webinar series
- Next Webinar: June 15th | "Anti-Inflammatory Lifestyle for a Healthy Body & Brain"

[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
 - nshekara@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 Samueli 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 Samueli 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 (kzyan@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/>