

Stem Cell Spotlight Newsletter

May 2026

Important Updates! Purchasing Fiscal Close Deadlines

In preparation for the upcoming fiscal close and year-end financial activities, please note the important deadlines that will impact lab supply purchasing.

Fiscal Close Deadlines:

As we approach the end of the fiscal year, it is crucial to **adhere to the following deadlines** for placing supply orders and expense reimbursement requests:

- **06/5/2026:** Last day to submit PALCard purchases
- **06/06/2026:** UCI Buy High Value requisitions (\$5,000 or more)
- **06/12/2026:** Travel and Expense reimbursements, Disbursement Vouchers

To ensure your orders are **processed before fiscal close**:

1. Review your supply needs for the coming months
2. Submit your order requests as soon as possible
3. Clearly mark any urgent or time-sensitive orders

If you have any questions or concerns about your orders or the fiscal close process, please don't hesitate to contact **Alex Corona, SCRC Procurement Analyst** at amcorona@uci.edu

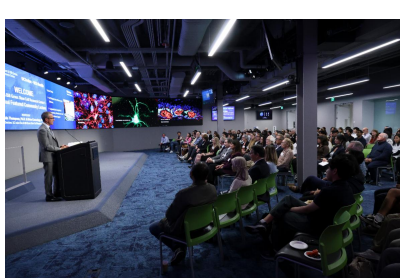
Upcoming Events

Community Lecture Series

Tuesdays from 7 - 8 pm in Thorp Conference Center

June 2 2026 | Alex Minella, MD * Nick Pannunzio, PhD
• "Changing Paradigms in the Treatment of Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia in Adults"

[Click Here to RSVP for 2026 Community Lectures](#)



Stem Cell Seminar Series

Fridays from 11-12 PM in Thorp Conference Center

June 12th | Jianhua Yu, PhD

- "iPSC-derived Immune Cells for Immunotherapy"



Skin Distinguished Speaker Series

Fridays from 11-12 PM in Thorp Conference Center & on Zoom

June 5th | Wilson Liao, PhD

- "Cutting Edge Psoriasis: Updates on Pathogenesis and Management."

[Click here for the Skin Distinguished Speaker Series Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 963 6269 7873

SCRC SPOTLIGHT



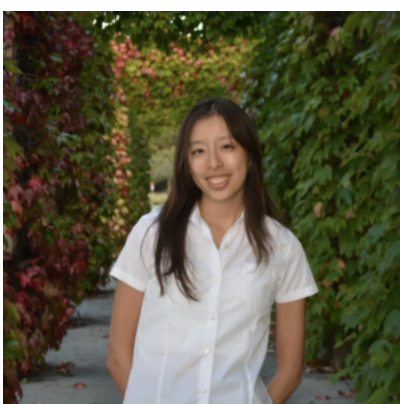
From Postdoc to Professor: Congratulations Ghazaleh Eskandar-Sedighi!

We are delighted to congratulate Ghazaleh, a postdoctoral researcher in the Matthew Blurton-Jones Lab, on her offer to join the University of British Columbia (UBC) in Vancouver as an Assistant Professor! Her team is incredibly proud of this well-deserved achievement as she launches her academic career. Please join us in wishing her all the best in this exciting next chapter!

Spotlight on T32 Graduate Student Carey Hudson

What an incredible milestone for Carey Hudson on receiving both the Top Ranked Judges' Choice Award and the People's Choice Award at the UCI School of Medicine Annual Graduate Day! Carey conducts her research under the advisorship of Munjal Acharya.

Carey also recently published her research on the [neuroprotective potential of stem cell-derived EVs in reversing cancer therapy-related cognitive impairments](#).



Undergraduate Researcher Allison Jian Honored with CNLM James Tait Goodrich Award

We proud to highlight undergraduate BIO199 research student Allison Jian on receiving the prestigious [CNLM James Tait Goodrich Award for Excellence in Neurobiology](#)! Mentored in the Acharya lab, Allison's hard work and dedication have earned her this distinguished recognition.

Munjal Acharya Recognized for Team Science Excellence

Congratulations to Munjal Acharya on receiving the prestigious [Team Science Award](#) from the Center for the Neurobiological Medicine (CNLM), a remarkable recognition of her collaborative contributions to advancing neuroscience research!

Munjal's research abstract has also been selected for presentation at the upcoming Aegean Conference, further highlighting the impact and reach of his innovative work. [Learn more about the Aegean conference here](#).



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 FAOs attached about F&A funding](#), and visit the following for additional information updates:

- [Judge largely blocks Trump's executive orders ending federal support for DEL 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

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 Culinary Health Program

[Click to read more about UCI Culinary Health 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 (i.e. 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/>