

The HDL Workshop

Exploring the Biology and Clinical Utility of High Density Lipoproteins

2026 HDL Workshop Exploring the Biology and Clinical Utility of High-Density Lipoproteins

Co-Hosted by Dr. Marit Westerterp and Dr. Scott Gordon

Hyatt Regency Bellevue
Evergreen Ballroom (G,H,I)
Bellevue, WA
May 16, 2026

The HDL Workshop provides an opportunity for researchers in the HDL community to discuss the latest developments in the field. This highly interactive international forum features short talks and stimulating discussions among the attendees and speakers. All times are in PST.

Session 1: HDL and the Brain

12:00 PM–12:25 PM **Lunch**

12:25 PM–12:30 PM **Welcome, and Introduction**

Marit Westerterp and/or Scott Gordon (Co-Chairs)

12:30 PM–1:15 PM **Keynote Lecture**

“HDL and the Brain”

Cheryl Wellington, PhD (Professor, University of British Columbia)

1:15 PM–1:30 PM

“Nanodiscs with Embedded Acid Sphingomyelinase for Potential Enzyme Replacement Therapy to Treat Niemann-Pick Disease”

Vasanthi Narayanaswami, PhD (Professor, California State University Long Beach)

1:30 PM–1:45 PM

“Triglycerides in Small HDL and Incident Dementia in Older Adults”

Danni Li, PhD (Associate Professor, University of Minnesota Twin Cities)

Session 2: Structure and Function of HDL

1:45 PM–2:15 PM

“When HDL Fights Back: Exchangeable ApoA-I Disrupts LDL-Proteoglycan Binding”

Amy Shah, MD (Professor, Cincinnati Children’s Hospital)

2:15 PM–2:30 PM

“The Role of the HDL Phospholipidome: Does Structural Composition Dictate Function and Disease?”

Rafael Zubiran, MD (Postdoc, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute)

2:30 PM–2:35 PM “Nanobodies for HDL Subspecies Differentiation”
Samantha Powell, PhD (Chemist, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory)

2:35 PM–3:00 PM **Coffee Break**

3:00 PM–3:15 PM “PIP2 regulates in vitro and in vivo nascent HDL biogenesis”
Swati Sharma, PhD (Postdoc, Cleveland State University)

Session 3: HDL, Inflammation, and Immunity

3:15 PM–3:45 PM “CETP is a Critical Regulator of HDL During Sepsis”
Liam Brunham, MD PhD (Associate Professor, University of British Columbia)

3:45 PM–4:15 PM “Lymph node stromal cell production of apolipoprotein E promotes immune responses during intestinal infection”
Katie Poholek, MD PhD (Assistant Professor, University of Pittsburgh)

4:15 PM–4:45 PM “HDL/SR-BI Beyond Cholesterol and Cardiovascular Disease: A Central Regulator of Stress Response in Host Defense”
Xiangang Li, PhD (Professor, University of Kentucky)

4:45 PM–5:10 PM **Short Break**

Session 4: Jack Oram Award Session

5:10 PM–5:15 PM Introduction to Jack Oram Award Lecture
Mary Sorci-Thomas (Professor, Medical College of Wisconsin)

5:15 PM–6:00 PM **Jack Oram Award Lecture**
“Reflections on a career: Serendipity meets talent and discovery”
Nancy Webb, PhD (Professor Emeritus, University of Kentucky)

Session 5: Posters and Lite Dinner

6:00 PM–8:30 PM **Poster Presentations and Happy Hour**

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Posters:

1. “Are circulating carotenoids novel biomarkers for HDL function?”
 - Jaume Amengual, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
2. “HDL-Associated Proteins Bind HDL via Protein-Protein Interactions with ApoA1 and ApoA2”
 - Ryan P. Barney, University of Kentucky
3. “Triglycerides in small HDL and incident dementia in older adults”
 - Li Danni, University of Minnesota Twin Cities
4. “Overexpression of SAA in the liver impairs plasma and hepatic lipid metabolism and promotes liver fibrosis in apolipoprotein E-deficient mice”
 - Ailing Ji, University of Kentucky
5. “Additive Association of Apolipoprotein L1 Risk Genotype With Circulating Apolipoprotein L1 Protein Levels in African American Adults”
 - Gregory Vorobiev, University of California San Francisco
6. “Biophysical characterization of Lipid-Bound Apolipoprotein E using cryo-EM and chemical crosslinking”
 - Chinemerem P. Ogbu, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
7. “PIP2 induced nanotube formation regulates HDL metabolism”
 - Ashutosh Prince, Cleveland State University
8. “HDL-C and delirium after cardiac surgery”
 - Loren E. Smith, University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine
9. “Screening and repurposing FDA-approved drugs for blocking inflammasome activity and improving HDL function”
 - Kara Timinski, Cleveland State University
10. “Abca1 null mice abolished adult neurogenesis at the hippocampal dentate gyrus”
 - Maki Tsujita, Nagoya City University Graduate School of Medical Sciences
11. “RNA-to-Protein Cross-Linking based Mass Spectrometry Reveals RNA Binding Domain on Apolipoprotein A-I”
 - Kasey C. Vickers, Vanderbilt University Medical Center
12. “Characterization of Brain Lipoproteins in Interstitial Fluid from Mice with Neuroinflammation”
 - Rowan S. Woolridge, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
13. “Identification of Scavenger Receptor BI as a Scavenger of Free Heme That Is Essential for Protection Against Pathological Hemolysis”
 - Jimmy Xue, University of Kentucky
14. “Nanobodies for HDL Subspecies Differentiation”
 - Samantha Powell, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

NOTES: