

RCR Summer 2026 Speaker List

Class date	Speaker(s)	Subject
7-Jul	Milda Saunders	Mentorship and Building Your Research Team
9-Jul	Sam Volchenbom	Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning (AIML) & Ethics
14-Jul	Meharvan (Sonny) Singh	PI Responsibilities
16-Jul	Jim Lynch	Ethics of Human Experimentation; IRB
21-Jul	Eric Ginsburg	Intellectual Property; Patents and Tech Transfer
23-Jul	Rochelle Naylor	Responsible Authorship and Reviewing
28-Jul	Mallory Snyder Okubanjo	Conflicts of Interest: Research and Industry
30-Jul	Jessica Felgenhauer	Ethical Treatment of Animals in Research and Sex as a Biological Variable
4-Aug	Elaine Worcester	Academic Fraud/Research Misconduct
6-Aug	Doriane Miller	Health Equity & Community Engagement in Research
11-Aug	Emily Anderson	Ethical Issues in Genetics & Biobanking

Milda Saunders, MD, MPH

Milda Saunders is an Associate Professor in the Section of General Internal Medicine, Faculty in the MacLean Center for Clinical Medical Ethics and Assistant Dean for Multicultural Affairs at the Pritzker School of Medicine. She uses her clinical, research and ethics expertise to serve as the Living Donor Advocate Physician for the Transplant Center and the Research Subject Advocate for the Institute of Translational Medicine (ITM). Dr. Saunders' research focuses on reducing disparities and improving the quality of care received by patients with advanced chronic kidney disease (CKD). She is currently NIH-funded to develop and test an educational module for hospitalized patients with advanced CKD in order to increase their knowledge about and preparation for renal replacement therapy.

She worked as a policy analyst at the Urban Institute and Abt Associates before attending medical school at University of Pennsylvania. After Penn, she obtained her MPH at Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. She then completed her combined internal medicine-pediatrics residency at the University of Chicago.

Sam Volchenbom, MD, PhD, MS

Dr. Sam Volchenbom is a Professor in the Department of Pediatrics and Associate Chief Research Informatics Officer for the Biological Sciences Division. He is the Dean of Master's Education and the Director of the Informatics Core for the Institute for Translational Medicine. He designed and launched the UChicago Master's in Biomedical Informatics. He is also the Program Director for the Clinical Informatics Fellowship Program.

His clinical specialty is pediatric hematology / oncology, caring for kids with cancer and blood diseases. His research group includes the University of Chicago's Pediatric Cancer Data Commons, a group dedicated to liberating and democratizing international data for pediatric malignancies.

Meharvan Singh, PhD

Dr. Meharvan (Sonny) Singh serves as Vice Provost for Research, Loyola University Chicago; Vice Dean of Research, Stritch School of Medicine; and Professor of Cell and Molecular Physiology Loyola University Chicago. He joined Loyola University Chicago in 2019 as Professor of Cell and Molecular Physiology and Vice Dean of Research in the Stritch School of Medicine. More recently (2020), he has taken on a broader, University-wide role as Vice Provost for Research, where he oversees research administration across Loyola's three campuses. Dr. Singh continues to maintain an active program of research that focuses on his long-standing interest in understanding how hormones, like estrogen, progesterone and testosterone, affect the brain, particularly within the context of "normal" brain aging and such degenerative diseases as Alzheimer's disease and stroke. He has successfully supported his research through numerous grants from both federal (National Institutes of Health (NIH), Department of Defense) and private agencies (e.g., the Alzheimer's Association). His research has led to numerous publications that helped shape our current understanding of how hormones affect the brain and shed light into the biological basis for sex differences in the prevalence and/or risk for diseases like Alzheimer's disease, stroke and more recently, invasive brain tumors. In addition to his role as a researcher and educator, he also serves on editorial boards for several journals, continues to participate on grant review panels, and also serves on such national committees as the Group on Research Advancement and Development (GRAND), an affinity group under the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), where he currently serves as Chair-Elect.

James Lynch

James Lynch is a Certified IRB Professional with 5 years of research experience and over 20 years of experience in the IRB field. He is the Associate Director of the BSD IRB with a focus on IRB Policy and Education. He is a current IRB Member on all three IRB Committees and conducts reviews on all submission types. He has provided training to hundreds of faculty, staff, residents, and fellows on the ethical conduct of human subject research.

Eric Ginsburg, PhD

Eric Ginsburg holds an S.B. degree from MIT and a Ph.D. from Caltech, both in Chemistry. His graduate work focused on the synthesis and characterization of soluble electrically conducting polymers. After a postdoc at the IBM Almaden Research Center, he worked in R&D at Eastman Kodak and Abbott Laboratories. He has worked at the University of Chicago since 200, first in UChicagoTech then in the Polsky Center, on the identification, evaluation, protection and commercialization of inventions arising from University research. He has managed a large portfolio of technologies from diverse scientific disciplines including various aspects of chemistry, molecular engineering and medical imaging. In addition, Eric is a registered Patent Agent and a CLP (Certified Licensing Professional).

Rochelle Naylor, MD

Dr. Rochelle Naylor is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics with a secondary appointment in Medicine in the Section of Adult and Pediatric Endocrinology, Diabetes, and Metabolism at the University of Chicago. Dr. Naylor's research interests are in genetic and atypical forms of diabetes. She is a co-Investigator of the US National Monogenic Diabetes Registry housed at the University of Chicago. Her research focuses on maturity-onset diabetes of the young (MODY) – addressing delays in accurate genetic diagnosis and precision medicine for the various subtypes. She has demonstrated the cost-effectiveness of genetic testing for MODY and is also working to address inequities in who benefits from diabetes precision medicine. She has explored barriers to participation in diabetes genetics research by racial and ethnic minorities and is working to increase diagnosis and understanding of MODY in these populations. She is participating in the American Diabetes Association Precision Medicine in Diabetes Initiative and is also an investigator of the rare and atypical diabetes network, or RADIANT study, which aims to discover and define rare and atypical forms of diabetes with the hope that this will lead to better diagnoses, improved treatments, and potential prevention of these diseases.

Mallory Snyder, MS, MPH, CSSGB

Mallory Snyder is the Director of Research Integrity in University Research Administration, leading the Conflict of Interest Office. Prior to joining the University of Chicago in September 2018, she held management positions in research program operations and regulatory affairs at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine since 2009. She received her Master of Public Health degree in Health Management and Policy from Benedictine University and her Master of Science degree in Regulatory Compliance from Northwestern University.

Jessica Felgenhauer, MS, DVM, DACLAM

Dr. Jessica Felgenhauer is a veterinarian with the Animal Resources Center at the University of Chicago who specializes in laboratory animal medicine. She obtained her undergraduate degree at the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana in Integrative Biology followed by her veterinary degree at Colorado State University. Dr. Felgenhauer completed a residency at the University of Washington in Seattle where she performed research within the Center of Lung Biology and completed a Masters' degree in Comparative Animal Medicine.

Elaine Worcester, MD

Director of the Essentials of Patient Oriented Research (EPOR) course sponsored by the Institute for Translational Medicine. The course is offered as three 10-week segments (Fall, Winter and Spring) covering topics relevant to clinical research including elements of study design, ethical aspects of translational medicine and the responsible conduct of research, and basics of statistics for human research. Lectures are given by many members of the Biological Science Division; many of them noted translational researchers.

Her research group investigates mechanisms of kidney stone formation, including studies of human

physiology, surgical mapping and biopsy of stone patients, and detailed histology of renal papillary tissue from stone formers of differing phenotypes to find the pathways that lead to stone growth in the kidneys, and potential targets for prevention and treatment. These studies involve collaboration between investigators from both clinical and basic science backgrounds, which will be the paradigm for most clinical researchers in future.

Doriane C. Miller, MD

Dr. Miller's research focuses on the intersection of health disparities and race. She has served as the project director for several studies designed to augment care by promoting collaboration among physicians, patients and families. Dr. Miller's work in the area of improving asthma outcomes through school and community interventions was noted by the American Academy of Asthma, Allergy and Immunology with a 2006 Special Recognition Award. Under her leadership, physicians, educators and community members work to improve population health outcomes for residents on the South Side of Chicago through community-engaged research, demonstration and service models. Dr. Miller serves as Director, Center for Community Health and Vitality; Director, Health Equity Integration, Institute for Translational Medicine and Vice-dean, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Biological Sciences Division University of Chicago, and has served as chair of the Addressing Disparities Advisory Panel of the Patient Centered Outcome Research Institute and also was a member of the National Quality Forum Committee: Improving Population Health—The Role of Communities.

Emily Anderson, PhD, MPH (Director of RCR)

Emily E. Anderson is an associate professor. She teaches research ethics and responsible conduct of research to graduate and medical students as well as courses in empirical bioethics and global bioethics. Her areas of interest and expertise include researcher and physician professionalism and misconduct; ethical issues in research with vulnerable populations; informed consent; institutional review board (IRB) policy; and the application of qualitative research techniques to the study of research ethics. Dr. Anderson has published articles in the American Journal of Bioethics, Ethics and Behavior, Journal of Law Medicine and Ethics, Academic Medicine, Accountability in Research, and the Journal of Empirical Research on Human Research Ethics (JERHRE). She serves as associate editor for Narrative Inquiry in Bioethics. She also has almost 20 years of experience serving on six different IRBs and frequently presents at conferences including the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities (ASBH) and Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research (PRIM&R). Dr. Anderson has also been a co-investigator on several federally-funded research and educational projects.

Dr. Anderson is the Principal Investigator/Project Director of the Loyola University Chicago-Ukrainian Catholic University (LUC-UCU) Doctoral and Post- Doctoral Bioethics Fellowship Program. This program provides advanced training in research ethics in English to scholars and professionals from Ukraine. The aim of this program is to train a critical mass of bioethics experts who will hold positions of scholarship and leadership in health research institutions in Ukraine. These individuals will be instrumental in providing direction on matters of research ethics to their educational institutions, government agencies, and international organizations. This program is a partnership between the Neiswanger Institute and UCU's School of Bioethics.