



6th Patricia Levy Zusman International Workshop on Neuroregeneration



Houston Methodist Research Institute
Department of Neurosurgery
Center for Neuroregeneration



Organizing Committee: Phil Horner, PhD; Karim Fouad, PhD; Erica Dale, PhD; Matthew Hogan, PhD; Isis Torres; Gillian Hamilton, PhD; Debbie Vu, MA

Tuesday March 2, 2027

*** Please note: all timings provided are in CST (US Central Standard Time Zone)*

4:00pm-4:15pm	Welcome Remarks Philip Horner, PhD, Houston Methodist Research Institute (HMRI) Karim Fouad, PhD, University of Alberta Erica Dale, PhD, University of Florida	HMRI 2 nd Floor Boardroom
4:15pm-4:45pm	Ice Breaker <i>Topic TBD</i>	HMRI 2 nd Floor Boardroom
4:45pm-5:30pm	Poster Blitz Presentations for Trainees <i>Moderator: Sailee Lavekar, PhD, HMRI</i>	HMRI 2 nd Floor Boardroom
5:30pm-6:30pm	Dinner <i>limited seating, invited guests only</i>	HMRI 2 nd Floor Boardroom
6:30pm-6:50pm	Stakeholder Presentation Kelsey Peterson	HMRI 2 nd Floor Auditorium
6:50pm-8:20pm	"Move Me" Movie Screening	HMRI 2 nd Floor Auditorium
8:20pm-8:40pm	Movie Q&A with Kelsy Peterson	HMRI 2 nd Floor Auditorium

Wednesday March 3, 2027

***Please note: all timings provided are in CST (US Central Standard Time Zone)*

8:00am-8:30am	Registration and Breakfast	HMRI 2 nd Floor Auditorium
8:30am-8:40am	Welcome Comments Philip Horner, PhD, HMRI Karim Fouad, PhD, University of Alberta Erica Dale, PhD, University of Florida	HMRI 2 nd Floor Auditorium
8:40am-8:50am	Introduction to Gallery Wall and Facilitation Techniques Karina Branson, Conversketch	HMRI 2 nd Floor Auditorium
8:50am-9:30am	Keynote Speaker James Fawcett, PhD, Cambridge University	HMRI 2 nd Floor Auditorium
9:30am-9:50am	Coffee Break/Gallery Viewing	HMRI 2 nd Floor Auditorium
9:50am-10:00am	Sketching 101 Karina Branson, Conversketch	HMRI 2 nd Floor Auditorium
10:00am-11:00am	Session 1: How Does the Brain Adapt to Injuries or Diseases? <i>Moderator: Philip Horner, PhD, HMRI</i> <i>Speakers: Alan Faden, MD, University of Maryland</i> <i>Noam Harel, MD, PhD, Mount Sinai</i> <i>Teresa Pitts, PhD CCC-SLP, University of Missouri</i>	HMRI 2 nd Floor Auditorium



11:00am-11:10am	Open Data Commons Karim Fouad, PhD, University of Alberta	HMRI 2 nd Floor Auditorium
11:10am-11:20am	Catalyst Award Introduction and Example Pitch Philip Horner, PhD, HMRI Karim Fouad, PhD, University of Alberta Erica Dale, PhD, University of Florida	HMRI 2 nd Floor Auditorium
11:20am-11:30am	2025 Workshop Mini-Grant Winner Usha Nekanti, PhD, HMRI Zohaib Nisar Caan, PhD, Weill Cornell Medicine	HMRI 2 nd Floor Auditorium
11:30am-12:00pm	Brainstorming Session & Team Building Philip Horner, PhD, HMRI Karim Fouad, PhD, University of Alberta Erica Dale, PhD, University of Florida	HMRI 2 nd Floor Auditorium
12:00pm-1:00pm	Speed Networking Lunch	HMRI 2 nd Floor Boardroom
1:00pm-2:00pm	Trainee Presentations Moderator: Zohaib Nisar Caan, PhD, Weill Cornell Medicine	HMRI 2 nd Floor Auditorium
2:00pm-2:05pm	Visual Summary Walkthrough Karina Branson, Conversketch	HMRI 2 nd Floor Auditorium
2:05pm-2:15pm	Gallery Viewing/Transition to Poster Session	
2:15pm-3:45pm	Poster Session	Intercontinental Hotel
4:15pm-9:00pm	Houston Rodeo (<i>invited guests only</i>)	Meet: 1 st Floor Intercontinental Hotel

Thursday March 4, 2027

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8:00am-8:30am	Registration and Breakfast	HMRI 2 nd Floor Auditorium
8:30am-9:10am	Keynote Speaker Christine Schmidt, PhD, University of Florida	HMRI 2 nd Floor Auditorium
9:10am-10:10am	Session 2: The Role of Animal Research in Neuromodulation <i>Moderator:</i> Erica Dale, PhD, University of Florida <i>Speakers:</i> Siamak Salavatian, PhD, University of Pittsburgh Dimitri Sayenko, PhD, HMRI Natasha Wilkins, PhD, Duke University	HMRI 2 nd Floor Auditorium
10:10am-10:45am	Brainstorming Session & Team Building	HMRI 2 nd Floor Auditorium
10:45am-11:30am	Session 3: Technical Innovations <i>Moderator:</i> Matthew Hogan, PhD & Isis Torres, HMRI <i>Speakers:</i> Jimmy Golihar, PhD, HMRI Boxuan Zhao, PhD, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign	HMRI 2 nd Floor Boardroom
11:30am-12:30pm	Lunch and Networking	HMRI 2 nd Floor Boardroom



12:30pm-1:30pm	Session 4: The Role of AI in Scientific Progress <i>Moderator:</i> Karim Fouad, PhD, University of Alberta <i>Speakers:</i> R. James Cotton, MD, PhD, Northwestern University Abel Torres Espin, PhD, University of Waterloo Ruogu Fang, PhD, University of Florida Ubbo Visser, PhD, University of Miami	HMRI 2 nd Floor Auditorium
1:30pm-2:00pm	Coffee Break/Gallery Viewing	HMRI 2 nd Floor Auditorium
2:00pm-3:00pm	Session 5: Device Development Versus Device Implementation <i>Moderator:</i> Damiano Barone, MD, PhD, HMRI <i>Speakers:</i> Taniel Winner, PhD, Emory University Elvira Pirondini, PhD, University of Pittsburgh Sadaf Usmani, PhD, University of Florida	HMRI 2 nd Floor Auditorium
3:00pm-3:30pm	Transition to Intercontinental Hotel	
3:30pm-3:45pm	In Memoriam	Intercontinental Hotel
3:45pm-4:15pm	Keynote Speaker Phillip Popovich, PhD, The Ohio State University	Intercontinental Hotel
4:15pm-4:30pm	Mini-Grant Elevator Pitch Introduction Moderators: Philip Horner, PhD, HMRI Karim Fouad, PhD, University of Alberta Erica Dale, PhD, University of Florida	Intercontinental Hotel
4:30pm-5:10pm	Mini-Grant Elevator Pitches	Intercontinental Hotel
5:10pm-5:15pm	Visual Summary Walkthrough Karina Branson, Conversketch	Intercontinental Hotel
5:30pm-6:45pm	Dinner & Awards	Intercontinental Hotel
6:45pm-7:00pm	Closing Comments Philip Horner, PhD, HMRI Karim Fouad, PhD, University of Alberta Erica Dale, PhD, University of Florida	Intercontinental Hotel