



GRAD

SLAM

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA



Friday, May 3, 2024

gradslam.universityofcalifornia.edu

LinkedIn, 222 Second Street, San Francisco

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

10:30 a.m.

WELCOME

Pamela Brown
Vice President,
Institutional Research &
Academic Planning,
University of California,
Office of the President

OPENING REMARKS

Nathan Bostrom, Executive
Vice President and Chief
Financial Officer,
University of California, Office
of the President

GRAD SLAM PRESENTATIONS

REMARKS

David Rubin, M.D., MSCE
Executive Vice President,
UC Health,
University of California,
Office of the President

LUNCH RECEPTION

1:00 p.m.

AWARD PRESENTATIONS

Nathan Bostrom, Executive
Vice President and Chief
Financial Officer,
University of California, Office
of the President

Yvette Gullatt
Vice President,
Graduate and Undergraduate
Affairs, and Vice Provost,
Equity, Diversity and Inclusion,
University of California,
Office of the President

PRESENTATION ORDER

Melis Çakar
*Cerebellum: From
(un)fashionable to pivotal science*
UCLA **NEUROSCIENCE**

Sasha Neil Pimento
*Opening doors for Alzheimer's
disease care*
UC DAVIS **COMPUTER SCIENCE**

Natalie Pedicino
*From mucus factory to virus
factory: A novel gut virus' global
impact on children*
UC SANTA CRUZ **MOLECULAR,
CELL AND DEVELOPMENTAL
BIOLOGY**

Onwodi Ifejeokwu

Kill the cancer; Spare the brain!

UC IRVINE **ANATOMY AND
NEUROBIOLOGY**

Victoria Chevé
*A bacterium's journey: From gut to
brain*

UC BERKELEY **MOLECULAR AND CELL
BIOLOGY**

Iris Garcia-Pak
The Brain: An exclusive VIP club
UC SAN DIEGO **NEUROSCIENCES**

Ilina Bhaya-Grossman
*The magic of language
understanding*
UCSF **BIOENGINEERING**

Kacie Ring
Healthy forests, healthy humans
UC SANTA BARBARA **ECOLOGY,
EVOLUTION AND MARINE BIOLOGY**

Shannon Brady
*Thinking out loud: Is self-talk a secret
to success?*
UC RIVERSIDE **PSYCHOLOGY**

Ambarish Varadan
Gut viruses: Friends or foes?
UC MERCED **QUANTITATIVE AND
SYSTEMS BIOLOGY**

GRAD SLAM IS A RESEARCH COMMUNICATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS DESIGNED TO MAKE THEIR WORK, ITS PURPOSE AND ITS VALUE ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC. IN THIS TOURNAMENT-STYLE COMPETITION, GRADUATE STUDENTS SHOWCASE THEIR ABILITY TO PRESENT THEIR RESEARCH IN THREE MINUTES IN A WAY THAT ENLIGHTENS AND ENTERTAINS A GENERAL AUDIENCE. THE UC-WIDE GRAD SLAM FEATURES WINNERS FROM EACH OF UC'S 10 CAMPUSES COMPETING FOR THE SYSTEMWIDE PRIZE.

MEET OUR JUDGES



Diana Chu

is a professor of Biology at San Francisco State University whose research

investigates molecular mechanisms that package and transmit DNA during sperm formation and are vital for fertility and development. Work from the Chu Lab has been published in *Nature*, *eLife* and *PLoS Genetics* and is funded by the National Science Foundation and National Institutes of Health. As the coordinator of the graduate program at SF State, Chu also develops and teaches courses in science communication, science writing and research skills.



Daphne Jomo

is a Cal-Bridge Scholar and author majoring in Computer Engineering at

San Francisco State University. Jomo is deeply committed to the advancement of technology accessibility for all. Her interests include sustainable energy implementation, the development of energy-efficient smart tech for underserved rural communities, the integration of technology in health care and the application of technology in infrastructure development.



Nancy Lee

was appointed to the UC Board of Regents by Governor Gavin Newsom. She is the

executive vice president of international business operations and

chief of staff to Robert A. Iger at The Walt Disney Company. Lee holds an M.B.A. from MIT's Sloan School of Management, a J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center and a B.A. from the University of Chicago.



James A. Steintrager

is a professor of English, Comparative Literature and European Languages and

Studies at UC Irvine and chair of the UC Academic Senate. He specializes in 17th- and 18th-century English, French and German literature, aesthetics and intellectual history, and he also writes, translates and curates in the interdisciplinary field of sound studies. Steintrager's recent publications include a translation and critical presentation of the Marquis de Sade's philosophical guidebook, *Journey to Italy* (University of Toronto Press, 2020). He received a B.A. in French and Politics from Wake Forest University and a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from Columbia University.



Stephanie Weisman

is the founder and artistic/executive director of The Marsh, a premier venue for

solo performance. The Marsh produces 500 shows a year at its San Francisco and Berkeley theaters and provides classes in performance development for underserved youth. Weisman received the Meritorious Achievement Award from Bay Area Theatre Critic's Circle and was named A Local Hero by the *Bay Guardian*. She holds a B.A. in Psychology and M.A. in Creative Writing from SUNY Buffalo.

ABOUT UC GRADUATE STUDIES

The University of California offers outstanding graduate programs across a wide spectrum of fields with more than 735 degree offerings. UC enrolls nearly 65,000 graduate students (master's, Ph.D. and professional school students) across its 10 campuses. Alumni of UC graduate programs are responsible for hundreds of inventions, startups, published research and groundbreaking discoveries every year.

ADVOCATE FOR UC!

The University of California creates public benefits for California, our nation and the world. The UC Advocacy Network works with government officials and policymakers in Sacramento and Washington, D.C., to highlight the impact of UC's contributions. We need your help to spread the word.

Thousands of higher education advocates are already making their voices heard. Together, our letters, emails, phone calls and actions will help shape policies that will ultimately move UC — and California — onward. Please lend your voice to support UC. Together, we are making a difference.

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