



Gordon Research Conferences

# Biomechanics in Vascular Biology and Disease

Biomechanics and Mechanobiology of Cardiovascular Disease and Rejuvenation

July 20 - 25, 2025 | Ventura, California

**Abstract deadline: March 10, 2025**



Gordon Research Seminar (GRS) will be held as a forum for the graduate, post-doctoral, and early career.



Ventura Beach Marriott  
2055 Harbor Boulevard  
Ventura, California, United States

## 2025 GRC Biomechanics in Vascular Biology and Disease Program (**tentative**) Biomechanics and Mechanobiology of Cardiovascular Disease and Rejuvenation

### Sunday (July, 20)

2:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Arrival and Check-in
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Dinner
7:30 pm - 7:50 pm	Introductory Comments by GRC Staff / Welcome and Introduction from the Chairs Introduction of Keynote speakers by discussants
7:50 pm - 9:30 pm	<b>Keynote Session:</b> Discussants: <b>Frank Gijzen</b> (Erasmus Medical Center, Netherlands) and <b>Ellie Tzima*</b> (Oxford University, United Kingdom)
7:50 pm - 8:20 pm	<b>Alison Marsden*</b> (Stanford University, United States) <amarsden@stanford.edu> "Model-guided treatment planning in pediatric cardiology"
8:20 pm - 8:40 pm	Discussion
8:40 pm - 9:10 pm	<b>Martin Schwartz</b> (Yale University, United States) <martin.schwartz@yale.edu> "The role of cell-cell junctions in endothelial fluid shear stress mechanotransduction"
9:10 pm - 9:30 pm	Discussion
9:30 pm - 10:30 pm	Social Hour

### Monday (July, 21)

7:30 am - 8:30 am	Breakfast
8:30 am - 9:00 am	Group Photos
9:00 am - 12:30 pm	<b>Mechanosensors and Signal Transduction</b> Discussants: <b>Sharon Gerecht*</b> (Duke University, United States), <b>Julien Vermot</b> (Imperial College London, United Kingdom)
9:00 am - 9:15 am	<b>Hanjoong Jo</b> (Emory University and Georgia Tech, United States) <hjo@emory.edu> "Flow-induced reprogramming of endothelial cells, FIRE, in atherosclerosis development"
9:15 am - 9:20 am	Discussion
9:20 am - 9:35 am	<b>David Beech</b> (University of Leeds, United Kingdom) <D.J.Beech@leeds.ac.uk> " Vascular Piezo mechanoreceptors "
9:35 am - 9:40am	Discussion
9:40am - 9:55 am	<b>Irena Levitan*</b> (University of Illinois at Chicago, United States) <levitan@uic.edu> " Lipid regulation of endothelial stiffness in obesity and aging "
9:55 am - 10:00am	Discussion

10:00 am - 10:15am	<b>Luisa Ariela-Arispe*</b> (Northwestern University, United States) <arispe@northwestern.edu> " Mechanosensitive Notch1 transducer in the endothelium "
10:15 am - 10:20 am	Discussion
10:20 am - 10:50 am	Coffee Break
10:50 am - 11:05 am	<b>Jun-ichi Abe</b> (MD Anderson, United States) <JAbe@mdanderson.org> " Endothelial Senescence and Metabolic Shifts Under Turbulent Flow "
11:05 am - 11:10 am	Discussion
11:10 am - 11:25am	<b>Alexander Cartagena-Rivera*</b> (National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering, NIBIB, United States) <alexander.cartagena-rivera@nih.gov> "Viscoelastic Property and Barrier Role of the Glycocalyx in Cells"
11:25 am - 11:30 am	Discussion
11:30 am - 11:45 am	<b>Kimiko Yamamoto</b> (The University of Tokyo, Japan) <kyamamoto@m.u-tokyo.ac.jp> "Distinct regulation of gene expression by laminar and disturbed flow in human vascular endothelial cells "
11:45 am – 11:50 am	Discussion
11:50 am – 12:05 pm	<b>Manu Platt</b> (NIBIB, National Institutes of Health, United States) <manu.platt@nih.gov> " Accelerated Elastin and Collagen Remodeling in Sickle Cell Disease: Biomechanical and Biochemical Stimuli "
12:05 pm - 12:10 pm	Discussion
12:10 pm - 12:25 pm	<b>Xiaohong Wang</b> (Department of Pharmacology at Tianjin Medical University, China) <iaohongwang@tmu.edu.cn> " Kindlin-2 in the Mechanical Regulation of Vascular Development and Disease "
12:25 pm - 12:30 pm	Discussion
12:30 pm - 1:40 pm	<b>Lunch with senior investigators</b>
1:40 pm - 3:00 pm	Free Time
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	<b>The GRC Power Hour™</b> Organizers: <b>Naomi Chesler*</b> (University of California, Irvine, United States), <b>Manu Platt</b> (NIH, United States)
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm	<b>Poster Session</b> Discussants: <b>Bianca Rodriguez*</b> (Oxford University, United Kingdom), <b>Yun Fang</b> (University of Chicago, United States), <b>B. Rita Alevriadou*</b> (University of Buffalo, United States), <b>Tríona Lally*</b> (Trinity College Dublin, Ireland)
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm	Dinner <b>Evening Sessions</b>
7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	<b>Cardiovascular Hemodynamics and Resilience</b> Discussants: <b>Jolanda Wentzel*</b> (Erasmus Medical Center, Netherlands), <b>Elena Aikawa*</b> (Harvard Medical School, United States),
7:30 pm - 7:45 pm	<b>Peter Stone</b> (Brigham & Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School, United States) <pstone@bwh.harvard.edu> " The Plaque Hypothesis: Fundamental Pathobiology of Coronary Atherosclerosis and Clinical Implications for Chronic Ischemic Heart Disease Management "
7:45 pm - 7:50 m	Discussion
7:50 pm - 8:05pm	<b>Osama Harraz</b> (University of Vermont, United States) <Osama.Harraz@uvm.edu> " Bain endothelial Piezo1 channel in health and disease "
8:05 pm - 8:10 pm	Discussion

8:10 pm – 8:25 pm	<b>Yabing Chen*</b> (Oregon Health Science University, United States) <yabingchen@uabmc.edu> " Vascular smooth muscle cell resilience and aging "
8:25 pm – 8:30 pm	Discussion
8:30 pm – 8:45 pm	<b>Guillermo Luxan</b> (Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany) <uxan@med.uni-frankfurt.de> "The cardiac microvasculature responses in the context of ageing "
8:45 pm – 8:50 pm	Discussion
8:50 pm - 9:05 pm	<b>Nicolas Baeyens*</b> (Université libre de Bruxelles, Belgium) <nicolas.baeyens@ulb.be> " Contribution of flow mechanotransduction in vascular anomalies "
9:05 pm - 9:10 pm	Discussion
9:10 pm - 9:25 pm	<b>Chiara Bellini</b> (Northeastern University, United States) <c.bellini@northeastern.edu> " Deciphering Aortic Aging: Lessons from Mouse Models"
9:25 pm - 9:30 pm	Discussion

## Tuesday (July, 22)

7:30 am - 8:30 am	Breakfast:
9:00 am - 12:30 pm	<b>Biomechanics and Mechanobiology of Aneurysms and Disease</b> <b>Discussants: Robert Taylor</b> (Emory University, United States), <b>Luisa Ariela-Arispe*</b> (Northwestern University),
9:00 am - 9:15 am	<b>Jay Humphrey</b> (Yale University, United States) <jay.humphrey@yale.edu> "Mechanobiological control of vascular adaptation and disease progression"
9:15 am -9:20 am	Discussion
9:20 am – 9:35 am	<b>Bianca Rodriguez*</b> (Oxford University, United Kingdom) <blanca.rodriguez@cs.ox.ac.uk> " Digital Twins: Biophysical Targeted based Drug Delivery to Brain Aneurysms "
9:35 am -9:40 am	Discussion
9:40 am -9:55 am	<b>Choon Hwai Yap</b> (London Imperial College, United Kingdom) <c.yap@imperial.ac.uk> " Deep Learning Generation of Intracranial Aneurysm Geometries to Specific Clinical Morphological Parameters for Fluid Dynamic Investigations "
9:55 am - 10:00 am	Discussion
10:00 am – 10:15 am	<b>Ellie Tzima*</b> (Oxford University University, United Kingdom) <ellie.tzima@cardiov.ox.ac.uk> " Mechanotransducers for endothelial homeostasis "
10:15 am - 10:20 am	Discussion
10:20 am - 10:50 am	Coffee Break
10:50 am - 11:05 am	<b>Peter Weinberg</b> (Imperial College London, United Kingdom) <p.weinberg@imperial.ac.uk> " Screening for heart failure by pulse wave analysis "
11:05 am - 11:10 am	Discussion
11:10 am - 11:25 am	<b>Mabruka Alfaidi*</b> (UNMC, United States) <malfaidi@unmc.edu> " Mechanical activation of Endothelial Reprograming by an Interleukin-1 Receptor Mechanism "
11:25 am – 11:30 am	Discussion

11:30 am - 11:45 am	<b>Naomi Chesler*</b> (University of California, Irvine, United States) <nchesler@uci.edu> " Pulmonary biomechanics and mechanobiology from bench to bedside "
11:45 am - 11:50 am	Discussion
11:50 am - 12:05 pm	<b>Phil Owens</b> (University of Cincinnati, United States) <phillip.owens@uc.edu> "Dual Roles of Mechanosensitive Platelets in Aneurysm Initiation and Progression"
12:05 pm - 12:10 pm	Discussion
12:10 pm - 12:25 pm	<b>Robert Taylor</b> (Emory University, United States) <w.robert.taylor@emory.edu> "The Role Endothelial PGC1 $\alpha$ in AAA"
12:25 pm - 12:30 pm	Discussion
12:30 pm - 1:30 pm	Lunch
1:30 pm - 4:00 pm	Free Time
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm	<b>Poster Session</b> Poster Professors: <b>Jay Humphrey</b> (Yale University, United States) <b>Mabruka Alfaidi*</b> (UNMC, United States), <b>Yabing Chen*</b> (Oregon Health Science University, United States), <b>Arnold Lining Ju</b> (University of Sydney, Australia), Marc Pritzker
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Dinner <b>Evening Session</b>
7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	<b>Valvular Biomechanics and Mechanobiology</b> Discussants: <b>Hanjoong Jo</b> (Emory University and Georgia Tech, United States); <b>Alison Marsden*</b> (Stanford University, United States)
7:30 pm - 7:45 pm	<b>Julien Vermot</b> (Imperial College London, United Kingdom) <j.vermot@imperial.ac.uk> " Cell Mechanics in the Process of Endocardial Remodeling and Cardiac Valve Morphogenesis "
7:45 pm - 7:50 pm	Discussion
7:50 pm - 8:05 pm	<b>Linda L. Demer*</b> (UCLA, United States) <ldemer@mednet.ucla.edu> " Mechanics and mechanobiology of vascular calcification "
8:05 pm - 8:10 pm	Discussion
8:10 pm - 8:25 pm	<b>Joshua Hutcheson</b> (Florida International University, United States) <jhutches@fiu.edu> " Atypical populations in aortic valve structure and function "
8:25 pm - 8:30 pm	Discussion
8:30 pm - 8:45 pm	<b>Kartik Balachandran</b> (University of Arkansas, United States) <kbalacha@uark.edu > " Role of ACE/ACE2 in mediating aortic valve mechanics and disease "
8:45 pm - 8:50 pm	Discussion
8:50 pm - 9:05 pm	<b>Cassandra Clift*</b> (Harvard Medical School / Brigham and Women's Hospital, United States) <clclift@bwh.harvard.edu> " Integration of Cellular Proteomics and Vesiculomics to Assess 3D Bioprinted Model of Calcific Aortic Valve Disease "
9:05 pm - 9:10 pm	Discussion
9:10 pm - 9:25 pm	<b>Jonathan T. Butcher</b> (Cornell University, United States) <jtb47@cornell.edu> " Mechanobiological regulation of fetal outflow tract morphogenesis "
9:25 pm - 9:30 pm	Discussion
9:30 pm - 10:30 pm	Social Hour

## Wednesday (July, 23)

7:30 am - 8:30 am	Breakfast
9:00 am - 12:30 pm	<b>Developmental and Stem Cell Biomechanics toward Precision Medicine</b> Discussants: <b>Jun-ichi Abe</b> (MD Anderson, United States), <b>Susann Beier*</b> (UNSW, Sydney, Australia)
9:00 am - 9:15 am	<b>Sharon Gerecht*</b> (Duke University) <sharon.gerecht@duke.edu> " Matrix mechanics regulation of vascular formation and homeostasis "
9:15 am - 9:20 am	Discussion
9:20 am - 9:35 am	<b>Beth Pruitt</b> (UC Santa Barbara, United States) <blp@ucsb.edu> " Dissecting mechanosignaling in hiPSC disease models "
9:35 am - 9:40 am	Discussion
9:40 am - 9:55 am	<b>Peter Yingxiao Wang</b> (University of Southern California, United States) <ywang283@usc.edu> " Reprogramming Mechanogenetics for Cell Therapy"
9:55 am - 10:00 am	Discussion
10:00 am – 10:15 am	<b>Konstantinos Konstantopoulos</b> (Johns Hopkins University, United States) <Konstant@jhu.edu> " Mechanoenzyme and Cell Mechanointelligence "
10:15 am-10:20 am	Discussion
10:20 am - 10:50 am	Coffee Break
10: 50 am - 11:05 am	<b>Elena Aikawa*</b> (Harvard Medical School, United States) <eaikawa@bwh.harvard.edu> " Discovery of inflammation-dependent mechanisms of cardiovascular calcification "
11:05 am –11:10 am	Discussion
11:10 am - 11:25 am	<b>Ngan F. Huang*</b> (Stanford University) <ngantina@stanford.edu> " Extracellular matrix mechanics on endothelial phenotype "
11:25 am - 11:30am	Discussion
11:30 am - 11:45 am	<b>Yun Fang</b> (University of Chicago) <yfang1@bsd.uchicago.edu> " Precision Nanomedicine Targeting Novel Endothelial Mechano-Sensing Mechanisms to Treat Vascular Disease "
11:45 am – 11:50 am	Discussion
11:50 am - 12:05 pm	<b>Elizabeth Jones*</b> (KU Leuven, Belgium) <liz.jones@kuleuven.be> " Integrating Mechanical Microenvironments the Interplay of Shear Stress Tissue Stiffness and Gene Expression "
12:05 am - 12:10 pm	Discussion
12:10 pm - 12:25 pm	<b>Ying Shen</b> (Baylor College of Medicine, United States) <hyshen@bcm.edu> " Dynamic Phenotypic Transitions of Smooth Muscle Cells in Aortic Disease Progression"
12:25 pm - 12:30 pm	Discussion
12:30 pm - 1:30 pm	<b>Lunch with senior investigators</b>
1:30 pm - 4:00 pm	Free Time
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm	<b>Poster Session</b> Poster Professors: <b>Sharon Gerecht*</b> (Duke University, United States), <b>Peter Yingxiao Wang</b> (University of Southern California, United States), <b>Mabruka Alfaidi*</b> (UNMC, United States), <b>Irena Levitan*</b> (University of Illinois at Chicago, United States)

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Dinner <b>Evening Session</b>
7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	<b>Plaque Biomechanics in Atherosclerosis</b> Discussants: <b>Paul Evans</b> (Queen Mary University, United Kingdom), <b>Linda L. Demer*</b> (UCLA, United States)
7:30 pm - 7:45 pm	<b>Daniela Pirri*</b> (Queens Mary University, London, United Kingdom) <d.pirri@imperial.ac.uk> " EPAS1 Attenuates Atherosclerosis Initiation at Disturbed Flow Sites Through Endothelial Fatty Acid Uptake "
7:45 pm - 7:50 pm	Discussion
7:50 pm - 8:05 pm	<b>Tríona Lally*</b> (Trinity College Dublin, Ireland) <lallyca@tcd.ie> " Imaging Carotid Plaque Structure to Help Predict Rupture "
8:05 pm - 8:10 pm	Discussion
8:10 pm - 8:25 pm	<b>Jolanda Wentzel*</b> (Erasmus Medical Center, Netherlands) <j.wentzel@erasmusmc.nl> " Influence of Multidirectional Wall Shear and Structural Stress on Plaque Progression of Different Phenotype in Human Coronary Arteries "
8:25 pm - 8:30 pm	Discussion
8:30 pm - 8:45 pm	<b>John Shyy</b> (UC San Diego, United States) <jshyy@ucsd.edu> " ACE2, shear stress, and EC biology "
8:45 pm – 8:50 pm	Discussion
8:50 pm – 9:05 pm	<b>Mahsa Dabagh*</b> (University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee, United States) <dabaghme@uwm.edu> " Quantifying the impact of disturbed flow and arterial stiffening on mechanotransduction in endothelial cells"
9:05 pm – 9:10 pm	Discussion
9:10 pm – 9:25 pm	<b>Mike (Chia Lun) Wu</b> (University of Sydney, Australia) <chia.wu@sydney.edu.au> "RBC-Membrane Adhesive Tangles (MATs): A Biomechanical Catalyst for Plaque Thrombosis"
9:25 pm – 9:30 pm	Discussion

## Thursday (July, 24)

7:30 am - 8:30 am	Breakfast
8:30 am - 9:00 am	<b>Business Meeting</b> <i>Nominations for the Next Vice Chair(s); Complete the GRC Evaluation Forms; Discuss Future Dates and Venue; Election of the Next Vice Chair(s)</i>
9:00 am - 12:30 pm	<b>Cardiovascular Imaging and Computation</b> Discussants: <b>Konstantinos Konstantopoulos</b> (Johns Hopkins University, United States); <b>Yun Fang</b> (University of Chicago)
9:00 am - 9:15 am	<b>Lihong Wang</b> (California Institute of Technology, United States) <lihong@caltech.edu> " Photoacoustic, Light-Speed, and Quantum Imaging "
9:15 am - 9:20 am	Discussion
9:20 am - 9:35 am	<b>John Oshinski</b> (Emory University, United States) <jnoshin@emory.edu> " Assessment of prothrombotic hemodynamics in the carotid arteries in subjects who have had a stroke or TIA "
9:35 am - 9:40 am	Discussion



9:40 am - 9:55 am	<b>Jennifer Chung*</b> (University of Toronto, Canada) <jennifer.chung@uhn.ca> " Magnetic Resonance Imaging for Aortic Biomechanics to Evaluate Risk of Aortic Dissection "
9:55 am - 10:00 am	Discussion
10:00 am - 10:15 am	<b>Frank Gijzen</b> (Erasmus Medical Center, Netherlands) <f.gijzen@erasmusmc.nl> " Tensile and Compressive Mechanical Behavior of Human Blood Clot Analogues "
10:15 am - 10:20 am	Discussion
10:20 am - 10:50 am	Coffee Break
10:50 am - 11:05 am	<b>Arnold Lining Ju</b> (University of Sydney, Australia) <arnold.ju@sydney.edu.au> " Towards a 'Digital Twin' for stroke prevention: A microengineered carotid artery platform for personalized thrombotic risk assessment and drug "
11:05 am - 11:10 am	Discussion
11:10 am - 11:25 am	<b>Renita Horton*</b> (University of Houston, United States) <rehorton@central.uh.edu> " Modeling the vascular microenvironment: Implications in Cardiac Health "
11:25 am - 11:30 am	Discussion
11:30 am - 11:45 am	<b>Yichen Ding</b> (UT Dallas, United States) <yichen.ding@utdallas.edu> " Characterize cardiac morphology and contractile function across the entire heart with cellular resolution "
11:45 am - 11:50 am	Discussion
11:50 am – 12:05 pm	<b>Liya Yin*</b> (University of Arizona, United States) <lyin@arizona.edu> " 3D Imaging of Coronary Vascular Architecture in the Mouse Model of Repetitive Ischemia "
12:05 pm - 12:10 pm	Discussion
12:10 pm – 12:25 pm	<b>Anne Robertson</b> (University of Pittsburgh, United States) <rbertson@pitt.edu> "On the role of calcification in the pathology of cerebral aneurysms"
12:25 pm - 12:30 pm	Discussion
12:30 pm - 1:30 pm	<b>Lunch with senior investigators</b>
1:30 pm - 4:00 pm	Free Time
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm	<b>Poster Session</b> Poster Professors: <b>Elizabeth Jones*</b> (KU Leuven, Belgium), <b>John Oshinski</b> (Emory University, United States); <b>Julia Mack*</b> (UCLA, United Sates), <b>Ngan F. Huang*</b> (Stanford University, United States),
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Dinner <b>Evening Session</b>
7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	<b>Cardiovascular Biomechanics and mechanobiology from Bench to Bedside</b> Discussants: <b>Eno Ebong*</b> (Northeastern University, United States), <b>Ngan F. Huang*</b> (Stanford University, United States)
7:30 pm - 7:45 pm	<b>Marc Pritzker</b> (University of Minnesota, United States) <pritz001@umn.edu> " Thera-mechanics: From force to therapy"
7:45 pm - 7:50 pm	Discussion
7:50 pm - 8:05 pm	<b>Susann Beier</b> (UNSW, Sydney, Australia) <s.beier@unsw.edu.au> " Latest insights into atherosclerosis and shear stress using machine learning "
8:05 pm - 8:10 pm	Discussion
8:10 pm - 8:25 pm	<b>Julia Mack*</b> (UCLA, United States) <jmack@mednet.ucla.edu>

	" Flow modulation of endothelial Ca2+ signaling dynamics "
8:25 pm - 8:30 pm	Discussion
8:30 pm - 8:45 pm	<b>Stefania Nicoli*</b> (Yale University, United States) <stefania.nicoli@yale.edu> " The Hidden Life of Untranslated mRNAs at Local Adhesions "
8:45 pm - 8:50 pm	Discussion
8:50 pm - 9:05 pm	<b>B. Rita Alevriadou*</b> (University at Buffalo-SUNY, United States) <alevri@buffalo.edu> " Horizontal Mitochondrial Transfer from Endothelial Cells under Mechanochemical Stress "
9:05 pm - 9:10 pm	Discussion
9:10 pm - 9:25 pm	<b>Hoda Hatoum*</b> (Michigan Technological University, United States) <hhatoum@mtu.edu> "Beyond Flow Patterns: Paving the Way Toward Mechanobiological Insights in Cardiovascular Disease "
9:20 pm - 9:30 pm	Discussion
9:30 pm - 10:00 pm	<b>Award Ceremony (Young Investigator &amp; Best Poster Awards) and Social Hour</b>
<b>Friday (July, 25)</b>	
7:30 am - 8:30 am	Breakfast
9:00 am	Departure