



# FLORIDA WORM MEETING

Saturday, June 8, 2024

Florida Institute of Technology  
Gordon Nelson Health Sciences Building  
Auditorium, Room 141



## Meeting organizers

Melissa Borgen, Florida Institute of Technology  
Keith Choe, University of Florida  
Eric Guisbert, Florida Institute of Technology  
Karen Kim Guisbert, Florida Institute of Technology  
Sandy Westerheide, University of South Florida

## Support

*The meeting is generously supported by a Scientific Meeting Grant from The Company of Biologists, Union Biometrica, USA Scientific, and the College of Engineering and Science at the Florida Institute of Technology.*

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10:30-10:55 AM Registration, poster set-up and refreshments

10:55-11:00 AM Opening remarks by Melissa Borgen, Florida Institute of Technology

*Note: Talk times include 15 minutes for the talk and 5 minutes for questions for PIs and 12 minutes for the talk and 3 minutes for questions for others.*

## **Session I**

Session Chair: Gihan Athapaththu (University of Florida)

11:00-11:20 AM **Modeling lipid-metabolism diseases in *C. elegans*, from genetics to mechanisms**

Xiaofei Bai, University of Florida

11:20-11:35 AM **Identification of proteotoxic and proteoprotective bacteria that non-specifically affect proteins associated with neurodegenerative disease**

Alyssa Walker, University of Florida (Czyz lab)

11:35-11:50 AM ***ceb-1* is a key regulator of Tauopathy-induced autophagy**

Aidan Anderson, Florida Institute of Technology (Borgen lab)

## **Plenary Talk**

Session Chair: Karen Kim Guisbert (Florida Institute of Technology)

11:50-12:20 PM **Now worm proteins are the ones that are cool**

Katie Walstrom, New College

12:30-1:30 PM            **Lunch (Panther Dining Hall, FIT Campus)**

1:30-3:00 PM            **Poster Session**  
(Hallways outside of Gordon Nelson Health Sciences Building auditorium, room 141)

**Session 2**  
Session Chair:            Zachary Markovich (University of Florida)

3:00-3:20 PM            **Understanding the sojourn time of a mutation in *C. elegans***  
Janna Fierst, Florida International University

3:20-3:35 PM            **Mutational Makeover: Fitness Impacts of SNPs and Structural variations  
Shifts in *C. elegans***  
Rohita Kapila, Florida International University (Fierst lab)

3:35-3:50 PM            **Xenobiotic Detoxification in *C. elegans*: The case of 1-hydroxyphenazine  
(1-HP)**  
Muhammad Zaka Asif, Florida Atlantic University (Blakely lab)

3:50- 4:20 PM            **Group photo and coffee break**

**Session 3**  
Session Chair:            Alyssa Walker (University of Florida)

4:20-4:40 PM            **Molecular mechanisms and natural variation of environmental toxicant  
responses**  
Tim Crombie, Florida Institute of Technology

4:40-4:55 PM            **A mitochondrial unfolded protein response (mitoUPR)-independent role of  
DVE-1 in longevity regulation**  
Yi Sheng, University of Florida (Xiao lab)

4:55-5:10 PM            **Mitochondria and the demise of neurons: Investigation of synaptic  
mitochondria in aged neurons**  
Steven Beck, University of Florida (Min lab)

5:10-5:25 PM            **Beyond nonsense: investigating the role of the nonsense-mediated mRNA  
decay pathway on healthspan**  
Taylor McElroy, University of Florida (Min lab)

5:30- 6:00 PM            **Closing Remarks and Poster Awards**

6:00 PM                    **Dinner** (Panther Dining Hall)

7:30 PM                    **Social time** (Hotel Melby, rooftop bar)