



Wednesday, April 8, 2026

8:00-9:00 am	Registration, Continental Breakfast, and Poster Set up
9:00-9:25 am	Opening Remarks Sanjay V. Malhotra, Ph.D., FRSC Director, Center for Experimental Therapeutics Shereef Elnahal, M.D., M.B.A. OHSU President
Session I: 9:25-10:25 am	Academic Drug Discovery I Moderator: Mary Heinricher, Ph.D., Senior Associate Dean; OHSU School of Medicine
9:25-9:40 am	Marc Freeman, Ph.D. Professor and Director of Vollum Institute <i>SARM1 as a therapeutic target for neuroprotection</i>
9:40-9:55 am	David Lewinsohn, M.D., Ph.D. Professor of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine; Director OHSU Center for Global Child Health Research <i>Harnessing the Human Host Response to TB</i>
9:55-10:10 am	Robert Eil, M.D. Associate Professor of Surgery and Cellular, Developmental & Cancer Biology, OHSU <i>Programming Organ-Directed CAR T Cells for Gastrointestinal Cancers</i>
10:10-10:25 am	Rebecca Spain, M.D., M.S.P.H., FAAN Associate Professor of Neurology, OHSU School of Medicine <i>Bench to clinic to bench to drug discovery: Brain-penetrant dithiolanes for progressive multiple sclerosis</i>
10:25-10:45 am	Coffee Break and Poster Session
Session II: 10:45-11:45 am	Academia to Start Ups Moderator: Shivaani Kummar, M.D., Associate Chief Executive & interim Director, Knight Cancer Institute
10:45-11:00 am	Andrew Weinberg, Ph.D. Member and Judith A. Hartmann Endowed Chair, Earle A. Chiles Research Institute <i>Using tumor-reactive T cells as a drug in late-stage cancer patients with solid malignancies</i>
11:00-11:15 am	Danielle Benoit, Ph.D. Professor, Lorry Lokey Chair of the Department of Bioengineering, University of Oregon <i>Revolutionizing musculoskeletal healing through advanced drug delivery solutions</i>
11:15-11:30 am	Thomas Scanlan, Ph.D. Professor, Chemical Physiology and Biochemistry, OHSU School of Medicine <i>Introduction to Autobahn Therapeutics and the OHSU Drug Elunetirom for Treating Depression</i>
11:30-11:45 am	Randy Torralva, M.D. Assistant Professor, VA, OHSU & Founder, CEO, TMTRx <i>Novel medical countermeasures for toxicity and weaponization of ultra-potent synthetic (UPS) opioids</i>
11:45-1:10 pm	Networking Lunch and Poster Session
1:10-1:25 pm	Afternoon Introduction Nathan Selden, M.D., Ph.D. Dean, OHSU School of Medicine Sejal Hati, M.D. Director Oregon Health Authority
Session III: 1:25-2:15 pm	Translating Discoveries: Lab to Clinic Moderator: Nathalie McDowell Johnson, M.D., Legacy Medical Group, Oregon
1:25-1:40 pm	Ahmed Raslan, M.D. Professor and Chair, Neurological Surgery, OHSU School of Medicine <i>Next Generation Brain Interfaces!</i>



1:40-1:55 pm	Min Lu, Ph.D. Professor, Ruijin Hospital, Shanghai Jiao Tong University of Medicine <i>Scientific basis, drug design, and clinical trials for the genuine mutant p53 reactivating compound</i>
1:55-2:10 pm	Eric Roeland, M.D. Associate Professor, Division of Hematology/Medical Oncology, OHSU School of Medicine <i>Symptom Science in Action: Discovery, Solutions, Patient Impact</i>
2:15-2:45 pm	Coffee Break and Poster Session
Session IV: 2:45-3:15 pm	Presentation of KNIGHT Lifetime Achievement Award
Session V: 3:15-4:45 pm	Awardee Lecture Investing in Discovery – Panel Discussion Co-moderators: Sanjay Malhotra, Ph.D. Director, Center for Experimental Therapeutics & Aditi Martin, Ph.D., Senior Director, Collaborations and Entrepreneurship Joe Horsman, Ph.D. Madrona, Investor Michael Phillips, Davis Wright Tremaine LLC, Partner Rob Brown, The Answer Project (TAP); Impact Evaluation Lab Founder Angelica Parente, Ph.D. Civilization Ventures, Operating Partner Rohan Palekar, M.B.A. Freelance Investor Felix Kim, Next Ventures, Principal
4:45-4:50 pm	Closing Remarks Sanjay V. Malhotra, Ph.D.
4:50-6:00 pm	Wine and Cheese Reception and Networking

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Thursday, April 9, 2026

8:00-9:00 am	Registration, Continental Breakfast, and Poster Set up
9:00-9:10 am	Opening Remarks Sanjay V. Malhotra, Ph.D., FRSC Director, Center for Experimental Therapeutics
Session VI: 9:10-10:10 am	Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning Based Drug Discovery Moderator: Laura Heiser, Ph.D., Associate Professor & Vice Chair, Department of Biomedical Engineering, OHSU
9:10-9:30 am	Janani Iyer, Ph.D. Director AI/ML Product, Absci <i>Therapeutic antibody design via generative artificial intelligence</i>
9:30-9:50 am	David Dorr, M.D., M.S. Professor of Medical Informatics and Clinical Epidemiology and Medicine, Division of General Internal Medicine and Geriatrics, School of Medicine, OHSU <i>Creating a virtuous learning and knowledge discovery loop via an AI-enabled Learning Health System</i>
9:50-10:10 am	Shweta Chavan, Ph.D. Principal Scientist, Pathomiq <i>An Interpretable AI-Powered Multi-Modal Platform for Precision Medicine</i>
10:10-10:30 am	Coffee Break
Session VII: 10:30-11:50 am	Academic Drug Discovery II Moderator: Nabil Alkayed, M.D., Ph.D., Professor & Director of Basic and Translational Research, Knight Cardiovascular Institute
10:30-10:50 am	Matthew Taylor, M.D. Associate Member, Earle A. Chiles Research Institute; Medical Director, Providence Cancer Institute Thyroid Cancer Program <i>Fas ligand blockade in cancer immunotherapy</i>
10:50-11:10 am	Rachel Wolters, D.V.M., Ph.D. Assistant Professor, Oregon National Primate Research Center <i>One Injection, Continuous Protection: Gene-Encoded Antibodies for Pediatric HIV Cure Strategies</i>
11:10-11:30 am	Wassana Yantasee, Ph.D., M.B.A. Professor Biomedical Engineering, OHSU School of Medicine <i>Nanoplatfoms Enabling AI-Guided Drug Discovery and Next-Generation Immunotherapy</i>
11:30-1:00 pm	Networking Lunch
1:00-1:10 pm	Afternoon Introduction Bonnie Nagel, Ph.D. Acting Chief Research Officer, OHSU School of Medicine
Session VIII: 1:10-2:30 pm	Academic Entrepreneurship – Panel discussion hosted by Nucleate Portland Moderators: Jee Min Lee & Alexander Honkala Connor Barth, Ph.D., Co-founder and CEO, Trace Biosciences David Farrell, Ph.D., F.A.H.A., Professor, OHSU; Founder & CSO Gamma Diagnostics, Inc Ben Nahir, Ph.D., M.B.A., Partner, Elevate Capital Philip Barish, Ph.D., Senior Alliance Manager, New Ventures
2:30-3:00 pm	Poster Award Announcement & Closing Remarks Bonnie Nagel, Ph.D. and Sanjay V. Malhotra, Ph.D.