

FOURTH ANNUAL
PMI DAY
DECEMBER 5, 2025
SCAIFE HALL
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
OAKLAND, PA

8:15 -
8:45 AM

REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST

8:45 -
8:55 AM

OPENING REMARKS

DR. GREG DELGOFFE

8:55 -
10:00 AM

SESSION I

TBD

Victor Cortez, PhD | Assistant Professor | Department of Immunology

Group B Streptococcus encodes multiple proteins that utilize host heme during bloodstream infection - Gideon Hillebrand | 5th Year Student | Hooven Lab

Impact of Serotype-Independent Capsule Properties on Klebsiella pneumoniae Host Interactions - Emily Kinney | 4th Year Student | Mike Lab

10:00 -
10:20 AM

LIGHTNING TALKS: SESSION A

SELECTED ABSTRACTS FROM POSTER SESSION A

10:20 -
11:10 AM

POSTER SESSION A & COFFEE BREAK

11:10 AM -
12:15 PM

SESSION II

Pairing in situ imaging with in vitro model systems to reveal how Mycobacterium abscessus tolerates antibiotics - William DePas, PhD | Assistant Professor | Department of Pediatrics

Bacterial translocation following PD1 blockade drives immunotherapy response through microbiome-specific T cell polarization - Jessica Jana | 4th Year Student | Overacre Lab

Identifying innate immune mediators required for protection from Rift Valley fever virus hepatitis - Tracey Freeman | 3rd Year Student | McElroy Lab

12:15 -
1:15 PM

LUNCH

1:15 -
1:35 PM

LIGHTNING TALKS: SESSION B

SELECTED POSTER PRESENTATIONS FROM POSTER SESSION B

1:35-
2:25 PM

POSTER SESSION B

2:25-
3:30 PM

SESSION III

Leveraging Mass Spectrometry to Uncover Novel Targets for Treating Neuroinflammation Bill Hawse, PhD | Assistant Professor | Department of Immunology

The RNA-binding protein Arid5a is a novel T cell-intrinsic driver of Graft-versus-Host Disease (GvHD) - Kenta Yamamoto | 3rd Year Student | Gaffen Lab

Chronic TCR signaling rewires mitochondrial metabolism to promote citrate export, driving T cell exhaustion - Kellie Spahr | 5th Year Student | Delgoffe Lab

3:30-
3:50 PM

COFFEE BREAK

3:50 -
4:50 PM

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

TBD

Sean P. Riley, PhD | Associate Professor | University of Maryland

4:50 -
5:00 PM

CLOSING REMARKS

DR. JOANNE FLYNN AND PMI STUDENT PLANNING COMMITTEE

5:00 -
6:00 PM

PMI DAY PHOTO, RECEPTION, ANNOUNCEMENTS

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
MICROBIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY PHD PROGRAM RETREAT