



# **CFAR FUTURE LEADERS IN HIV RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM**

*Program*

**Tuesday, April 16, 2019**

**Co-Sponsored by**  
**AIDS Research Institute (ARI)**  
**Global Health Sciences (GHS)**  
**Center for AIDS Prevention Studies (CAPS)**



**Mahley Auditorium**  
**Gladstone Institutes**  
**Mission Bay Campus**  
1650 Owens Street, San Francisco

*Welcome to the Future Leaders Annual Symposium 2019*

## Message from UCSF-Gladstone CFAR Directors:

The Andy I. Choi Mentoring Program of the UCSF-Gladstone Center for AIDS Research will offer Bay Area investigators a glimpse into the **future of HIV research** with a half-day symposium on Tuesday, April 16, 2019, at the **Gladstone Institutes' Mahley Auditorium**.

UCSF-Gladstone CFAR Co-Directors Paul Volberding, MD, and Warner Greene, MD, PhD, will provide a venue for promoting the work of future leaders in HIV research. The speaker lineup features a group of talented HIV/AIDS investigators from our Mentoring Program. Research presentations will span basic, translational, clinical, epidemiologic, and preventive aspects of HIV.

A highlight of the symposium will be the keynote presentation by Drs. Paul Volberding and Warner Greene. An additional highlight will be the presentation of the **CFAR Early-Career Research Excellence Awards** to recognize and honor three outstanding early-career investigators.

### Agenda

The Program was developed by Drs. Jonathan Fuchs and Monica Gandhi, the leadership team of the CFAR Mentoring Program.

*"The UCSF-Gladstone CFAR regards its mentoring program as a key achievement. Supporting the next generations of leading investigators ensures that the amazing success we have attained continues as we face the ongoing challenges of this epidemic. The mentorship symposium is our annual showcase of that new leadership."*

– Dr. Volberding

*"Better mentoring has become an academic imperative. We believe this symposium, which is the culmination of CFAR's year-long mentoring program, will provide our young investigators with an excellent opportunity to share their results with the larger community."*

– Dr. Greene



(Photo 2015 Symposium)

# Symposium Program

## Speakers and Bios

8:00-9:00 AM

### Continental Breakfast

9:00-9:10 AM

### Opening Remarks

CFAR Co-Directors Paul Volberding, MD; and Warner Greene, MD, PhD.  
Jonathan Fuchs, MD, MPH; and Monica Gandhi, MD, MPH; Co-Directors of  
The Andy I. Choi Mentoring Program



**Paul Volberding,  
Warner Greene**

9:10 - 9:45

### Keynote Presentation:

### *Mentoring Young HIV/AIDS Investigators in a Rapidly Changing Landscape*



**Andrew Kerkoff,  
MD, PhD**

9:45 - 10:05

Dr. Kerkoff is an infectious disease fellow in the Division of HIV, Infectious Diseases, and Global Medicine and is an HIV provider at the San Francisco VA Hospital. His primary research is based in Zambia and is focused on gender-disparities in the tuberculosis (TB) care cascade; he ultimately aims to design and implement novel interventions to improve men's engagement and retention in TB care services in sub-Saharan Africa. He also has a longstanding research interest in identifying improved means for diagnosing HIV-associated TB and is involved in ongoing projects related to the evaluation of novel point-of-care diagnostics and improved screening strategies.

### *Point of Care and Points to Care: Improving the Diagnosis of HIV-Associated Tuberculosis in Sub-Saharan Africa*



**Michael Peluso,  
MD**

10:05 - 10:25

Dr. Peluso is a clinical fellow in the Division of HIV, Infectious Diseases, and Global Medicine at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital. His research as a medical student and resident focused on the pathogenesis of HIV within the central nervous system and led him to develop an interest in mechanisms related to HIV persistence, which he has continued to pursue as a fellow at UCSF. His current work with Dr. Steven Deeks focuses on understanding the immunologic mechanisms by which certain individuals can naturally control HIV and developing interventions that may allow individuals to achieve post-treatment HIV control.

### *Cerebrospinal Fluid Soluble CD30 Elevation Despite Suppressive Antiretroviral Therapy Suggests Central Nervous System HIV Persistence*



**Sushama  
Telwatte, PhD**

10:25 - 10:45

Dr. Telwatte is a postdoctoral scholar at the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Health Care System. She completed her Ph.D work at the Burnet Institute and Monash University (Melbourne, Australia), investigating the role of synonymous mutations in HIV-1 reverse transcriptase selected during drug therapy. These mechanistic studies inspired her to pursue her long-standing interest in HIV persistence during her postdoctoral studies. Her current work with Assoc. Prof. Steven Yukl focuses on uncovering the mechanisms underlying HIV persistence, latency, and reactivation; particularly at the single-cell level using primary cell models and *ex vivo* tissues.

### *Differential Effect of Latency Reversing Agents on Blocks to HIV Transcription in Gut and Blood*

10:45-11:00 AM

**BREAK**

# Symposium Program



**Paul Wesson,  
PhD**

**11:00 - 11:20**

**Dr. Wesson** is a postdoctoral fellow in the Center for AIDS Prevention Studies (CAPS). He received his PhD in Epidemiology from UC Berkeley (under the mentorship of Drs. Art Reingold and Willi McFarland), where his dissertation research focused on methods to sample and estimate the size of hard-to-reach populations. While a postdoctoral fellow, he developed two novel approaches to estimating the sizes of key populations at risk for HIV infection. As a postdoc in CAPS, he also works with Dr. Sheri Lippman to apply rigorous statistical methods to investigate and quantify the social determinants of HIV infection among adolescent girls and young women in South Africa.

***Estimating the Number of Female Sex Workers in Namibia Using a Respondent Driven Sampling Adjustment to the Reverse Tracking Method (RadR): A novel approach***

**11:20 - 11:30**

## **EARLY CAREER RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AWARDS**

**Presenting:** CFAR Co-Directors Dr. Paul Volberding, Warner Greene, and CAPS Director, Dr. Marguerita Lightfoot



**Andrea  
Gramatica,  
PhD**

**11:30 - 11:50**

**Dr. Gramatica** is a scientist in Warner Greene's laboratory at the Gladstone Institute of Virology and Immunology. His research focuses on identifying new, non-toxic, small-molecule compounds that antagonize HIV latency in CD4 T cells. He is now collaborating with Dr. Louis Picker's lab at the Oregon Health & Science University to study whether one of the compounds he has identified can reverse latency in vivo in SIV-infected rhesus monkeys on suppressive antiretroviral treatment. Dr. Gramatica studied Biotechnology (BS) and Industrial Biotechnology (MS) in Milan, Italy, and received his PhD from the Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany.

***Early-Career Award: Excellence in Basic Science***

***AKT/mTOR Activators Antagonize HIV-1 Latency Ex Vivo***



**John A  
Saucedo, PhD**

**11:50-12:10**

**Dr. Saucedo** is a health psychologist and Assistant Professor with the Center for AIDS Prevention Studies at UCSF. His research focuses on the drivers of HIV treatment and care outcomes among Latinx patients, and highlights the complexities of research for immigrant communities and in Spanish. He works with Latinx patients at the SALUD Clinic within the Ward 86 HIV Clinic at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and within the CFAR network of Integrated Clinical Systems.

***Early-Career Award: Excellence in Behavioral Science***

***Addressing the Psycho-Social Drivers of HIV Treatment and Care Outcomes among Latinx Communities Impacted by HIV: Rethinking How We Approach Health Disparities Research***



**Matthew  
Spinelli, MD**

**12:10 - 12:30**

**Dr. Spinelli** is an Infectious Disease fellow in the Division of HIV, ID, and Global Medicine at the Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital. His research focuses on PrEP care outcomes and adherence measurement. New projects involve the use of point-of-care diagnostics to enhance PrEP counseling and motivate adherence. He sees patients in the Positive Health Program at Ward 86 and in the Infectious Diseases clinic at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital.

***Early-Career Award: Excellence in Clinical Science***

***Urine Tenofovir Levels by a Novel Immunoassay Are Associated with Future HIV Seroconversion on PrEP: Implications for Point-of Care Monitoring of Adherence***

**Join us for a Networking Lunch after the program!**