



# Lurie Cancer Center Symposium & Scientific Poster Session

**Wednesday, June 18, 2025**

2:00 p.m - 6:30 p.m.

Robert H Lurie Medical Research Center • 303 E. Superior St., Chicago • Hughes Auditorium

The **17th Annual Lurie Cancer Center Symposium** will feature presentations from graduate students and post-doctoral fellows from our labs. A keynote lecture will be given by Kay Macleod, PhD, of the University of Chicago.

The **Scientific Poster Session**, which will take place immediately following the symposium, will feature the work of students and postdoctoral fellows from the laboratories of Lurie Cancer Center members on Northwestern's Evanston and Chicago campuses.

**You must register your poster by June 13.**

There is no fee to attend. Refreshments will be served during the poster session.

More information and registration is available at:

[cancer.northwestern.edu/symposium](https://cancer.northwestern.edu/symposium)

## CO-CHAIRS

**Janice Lu, MD, PhD**

Professor  
Medicine (Hematology and Oncology)

**Yaping Liu, PhD**

Assistant Professor  
Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics

## TRAINEE COMMITTEE

**Yoshii Ma** (DGP Graduate Student, Yaping Liu Lab)

**Claire Chaikin** (DGP Graduate Student, Clara Peek Lab)

2:00 p.m.	<b>Welcome</b> <b>Yaping Liu, PhD</b> Assistant Professor, Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics
2:05 p.m.	<b>Rare Subset of T Cells Form Heterotypic Clusters with Circulating Tumor Cells to Foster Cancer Metastasis</b> <b>David Scholten</b> (PhD Candidate, Huiping Liu lab)
2:25 p.m.	<b>Defining, Characterizing, and Targeting Chronic Proteotoxic Stress in Cancer</b> <b>Austin Klein</b> (PhD Candidate, Marc Mendillo lab)
2:45 p.m.	<b>LKB1-Class IIa HDAC Axis Governs Tumor Cell Metabolism and Identity</b> <b>Irena Gushterova</b> (PhD Candidate, Lillian Eichner lab)
3:05 p.m.	<b>Break</b>
3:15 p.m.	<b>KEYNOTE ADDRESS</b> <b>Mitophagy and Mitochondrial Stress Responses in Cancer</b> <b>Kay Macleod, PhD</b> University of Chicago
4:05 p.m.	<b>Genomic Language Model Mitigates Chimera Artifacts in Nanopore Direct RNA Sequencing</b> <b>Yangyang Li</b> (PhD Candidate, Rendong Yang lab)
4:25 p.m.	<b>Explainable Deep Learning Reveals Regulatory Elements and Heterogeneity of RNA Polymerase II Pausing in Transcription Termination</b> <b>Sheng Wang</b> (PhD Candidate, Zhe Ji lab)
4:45 p.m.	<b>Closing Remarks</b> <b>Janice Lu, MD, PhD</b> Professor, Medicine (Hematology and Oncology)
4:50 p.m.	<b>Awards Presentation</b>
5:10 p.m.	<b>Reception &amp; Scientific Poster Session</b>
6:30 p.m.	<b>Adjourn</b>