



The XXVIIIth North American Testis Workshop

Of Flies, Mice, and Men: Novel Models That Are Changing Our Understanding of Testis Biology

APRIL 15-18, 2026 • EMBASSY SUITES SCOTTSDALE

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

Chair: Robert Viger, PhD • Vice Chair: Monika Ward, MSc, PhD

*All sessions will be located in the Mohave and Kiva Rooms unless otherwise noted. *Not CME Accredited*

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

4:00 pm – 8:30 pm	Registration/Information Desk Open <i>Silverman Foyer</i>
6:00 pm – 6:15 pm	Welcome and Opening Remarks <i>Program Chair: Robert Viger, PhD - Laval University, Canada</i>
6:15 pm – 7:15 pm	KEYNOTE ADDRESS Testis-induced Tissue Remodeling During Sex Differentiation <i>Richard Behringer, PhD - MD Anderson Cancer Center, USA</i>
7:15 pm – 9:00 pm	Testis Workshop Welcome Reception <i>Silverman Terrace</i>

Thursday, April 16, 2026

7:30 am – 6:00 pm	Registration/Information Desk Open <i>Silverman Foyer</i>
8:00 am – 8:45 am	BENCHMARK LECTURE I
8:00 am	Introduction <i>Introducer: Monika Ward, MSc, PhD - University of Hawaii, USA</i>
8:05 am	The Y Chromosome: Evolution, Function and Fragility <i>James Turner, MB, PhD - Crick Institute, United Kingdom</i>
8:45 am – 11:30 am	SESSION I: GENETIC AND EPIGENETIC MECHANISMS IN THE TESTIS <i>Moderators: Erika Matunis, PhD - Johns Hopkins University, USA; Maria Camila Hoyos Sanchez, MS - Texas Tech University, USA</i>
8:45 am	Gene Expression During First-wave Spermatogenesis in Opossum Reveals Evolutionary Innovation in Placental Mammal Regulatory Programs <i>Bluma Lesch, MD, PhD - Yale School of Medicine, USA</i>
9:15 am	Investigating Nondisjunction in the Male Germline Using a Novel Chromosome Fusion Model in Drosophila Virilis <i>Jullien Flynn, PhD - Laval University, Canada</i>
9:45 am	Discussion
10:00 am	BREAK <i>Hacienda/Paloma</i>
10:30 am	Short Talk #1: Epigenetic Consequences of 25-Year Spermatogonial Stem Cell Cryopreservation on Regenerated Spermatogenesis Revealed by Single-Cell Multiomics <i>Eoin Whelan, PhD</i>
10:45 am	Short Talk #2: License to Kill: Loss of Mouse Y Chromosome-Encoded Zfy Leads to Disruption of Germ Cell DNA Integrity and Apoptosis <i>Benazir Yarbabaeva, BS</i>
11:00 am	Short Talk #3: Deciphering the Sperm RNA Code of Aging with PANDORA-seq <i>Qi Chen, MD, PhD</i>
11:15 am	Short Talk #4: How a Single Molecule Can Control the Balance Between SSC Self-Renewal vs. Differentiation <i>Chiara Capponi, PhD</i>



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Thursday, April 16, 2026 (continued)

11:30 am - 12:00 pm	FLASH TALKS I <i>Moderators: Robert Viger, PhD - Laval University, Canada; Léa Lafranchise - Laval University, Canada</i>
11:30 am	Poster 02: TBCCD1, a Testis-Dominant Centrosomal Protein, Is Essential for Spermiogenesis Progression in Mice <i>Lisha Yin, MD</i>
11:32 am	Poster 04: Mono-(2-ethylhexyl) Phthalate (MEHP) Triggers Macrophage Inflammation and Disrupts Leydig Cell Steroidogenesis In Vitro <i>Kassim Traore, PhD</i>
11:34 am	Poster 05: GLP-1 Receptor Agonists and Male Reproductive Health: A Scoping Review of Endocrine, Seminal, and Sexual Outcomes <i>Nelssy Escalante, MD</i>
11:36 am	Poster 06: Chromatin Remodeler SMARCA5 Primes Male Germline Differentiation through Cooperation with the Pioneer Factor DMRT1 <i>Yuka Kitamura, PhD</i>
11:38 am	Poster 08: Mapping Ancient Pathways of Spermatogenesis to Advance Understanding of Male Infertility Only <i>Melissa Patton, BS</i>
11:40 am	Poster 09: DAXX Directs H3.4-to-H3.3 Histone Replacement During Spermatogenesis <i>Yu-Han Yeh, BS, MS</i>
11:42 am	Poster 12: Amyloids in Mammalian Spermatozoa as Potential Carriers of Epigenetic Inheritance <i>Kimberly Garza, BS</i>
11:44 am	Poster 13: Intriguing Interactions: Coculturing Immature Germ Cells Alongside Mature Somatic Cells Affects Spermatogenesis In Vitro in Testis-on-chip System <i>Mahmoud Huleihel, PhD</i>
11:46 am	Poster 14: Prevalence of Chlamydia trachomatis Infection Among Mongolian Men and Its Association With Male Infertility: An PCR-Based Study <i>Arnabyek Sauletybek, HCLD, MD, MS</i>
11:48 am	Poster 15: Uncovering Changes in Sertoli Cell Gene Expression During Minipuberty to Understand The Foundations of Male Fertility <i>Nadia Edelsztein, PhD</i>
11:50 am	Poster 16: Germ Cell-Specific Fatty Acid Beta-Oxidation is Required for Quantitatively Normal Spermatogenesis in the Mouse <i>Grace Neiswanger, BS</i>
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm	LUNCH ON YOUR OWN
1:30 pm - 2:15 pm	BENCHMARK LECTURE II
1:30 pm	Introduction <i>Introducer: Monika Ward, MSc, PhD - University of Hawaii, USA</i>
1:35 pm	Structural Biology of Sperm <i>Zhen Chen, PhD - California Institute of Technology, USA</i>
2:15 pm - 5:00 pm	SESSION II: REGULATION OF MALE FERTILITY <i>Moderators: Brian Hermann, PhD - University of Texas at San Antonio, USA; Eoin Whelan, PhD - University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, USA</i>
2:15 pm	CatSper Channels in Reproductive Medicine <i>Jean-Ju Chung, PhD - Yale School of Medicine, USA</i>
2:45 pm	Development of RBM46 Small Molecular Degradars for Reversible Male Contraception <i>Yaxia Yuan, PhD - UT Health San Antonio, USA</i>
3:15 pm	Discussion



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Thursday, April 16, 2026 (continued)

3:30 pm	BREAK <i>Hacienda/Paloma</i>
4:00 pm	Short Talk #5: Functional and Clinical Implications of Extrachromosomal Circular DNA in the Human Germline <i>Xin Zhang, PhD</i>
4:15 pm	Short Talk #6: Physiological Zinc Levels Stimulate Vigorous Motility in Mouse Sperm <i>Anne Carlson, PhD</i>
4:30 pm	Short Talk #7: Choline Concentration in Testicular Tissue Is Associated with Sperm Density in Men with Azoospermia <i>Ana Planinic, MD, PhD</i>
4:45 pm	Short Talk #8: Sertoli Cell Regulation of the Complement System <i>Alexis Rodriguez, MS</i>

Friday, April 17, 2026

7:00 am – 6:00 pm	Registration/Information Desk Open <i>Silverman Foyer</i>
8:00 am – 8:45 am	BENCHMARK LECTURE III
8:00 am	Introduction <i>Introducer: Robert Viger, PhD - Laval University, Canada</i>
8:05 am	Shapes, Sizes and Strategies: Exploring Sperm Diversity in Wildlife <i>Gabriela Mastromonaco, PhD - Toronto Zoo, Canada</i>
8:45 am – 11:30 am	SESSION III: DEVELOPMENTAL PROCESSES IN THE TESTIS <i>Moderators: Tony De Falco, PhD, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, USA; Antoni Riera-Escamilla, PhD - Oregon Health & Science University, USA</i>
8:45 am	Stem Cell Dynamics in the Aging Zebrafish Testis <i>James Gagnon, PhD - University of Utah, USA</i>
9:15 am	The Evolution of Plastic and Canalized Testicular (and Ovarian) Development in Turtles with and without Sex Chromosomes Involve Primary Cilia <i>Nicole Valenzuela, PhD - Iowa State University, USA</i>
9:45 am	Discussion
10:00 am	BREAK <i>Hacienda/Paloma</i>
10:30 am	Short Talk #9: The Developmental Gonad - Single Cell Expression Atlas (DG-SEA); An Interactive App for Exploring Male Gonad Development <i>Helen Castillo - Madeen, MS</i>
10:45 am	Short Talk #10: The Role of Glucocorticoids in Fetal Testis Development and Function <i>Tony DeFalco, PhD</i>
11:00 am	Short Talk #11: Leydig Cell-specific GATA4 Knockouts Reveal Novel Roles in the Origin and Differentiation of Leydig Cells <i>Léa Lafranchise, MS</i>
11:15 am	Short Talk #12: Visualization of Fully Condensed Mouse Sperm Chromosomes <i>Hieu Nguyen, PhD</i>



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Friday, April 17, 2026 (continued)

11:30 am - 12:00 pm	FLASH TALKS II <i>Moderators: Robert Viger, PhD - Laval University, Canada; Jenna Weber, BA - University of Utah, USA</i>
11:30 am	Poster 21: In Vitro Culture of Human Germ Cells Within a Human iPS-cell Derived Testis-like Environment <i>Stefan Schlatt, PhD</i>
11:32 am	Poster 22: Fetal Origins of Human Spermatogenic Failure <i>Antoni Riera-Escamilla, PhD</i>
11:34 am	Poster 23: Spatial and Temporal Heterogeneity of Marker-Defined Leydig Cell Populations Across Primate Testis Prenatal Development and Aging <i>Fritzie Celino-Brady, PhD</i>
11:36 am	Poster 26: Comparison of 4% Paraformaldehyde and Modified Davidson's Fixative on the Histomorphology and RNA Preservation of Non-Human Primate Testes <i>Madison Held, BA</i>
11:38 am	Poster 27: Acetaminophen, Genistein, and Their Mixture target immature Sertoli and Leydig Cells in Juvenile Rodents <i>Nicole Mohajer, MS</i>
11:40 am	Poster 28: Side-effects of Busulfan Prepared in Different Drug Carriers (Dimethyl sulfoxide, Fluted pumpkin seeds, Olive and Soya oils) on the Biology of Testis of Wistar Rats <i>Sunny Abarikwu, PhD</i>
11:42 am	<i>Withdrawn</i>
11:46 am	Poster 32: Translate Benchside to Bedside of Various Surgical Strategies for Male Potency Reconstructions and Vice Versa <i>Geng-Long Hsu, MD</i>
11:48 am	Poster 33: Is Chain Coil an Option for Treating Patients with Impotence Resulting from Penile Venocclusive Dysfunction <i>Geng-Long Hsu, MD</i>
11:50 am	Poster 34: Epigenetic Effects of Adverse Lifestyle Choices in Males <i>Laura Chavez, MS</i>
11:52 am	Poster 36: Paternal Insulin Resistance Imprints Testicular Structural Remodeling in Male Offspring <i>Gleide de Avelar, DVM, MS, PhD</i>
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm	LUNCH ON YOUR OWN
1:30 pm - 2:15 pm	BENCHMARK LECTURE IV
1:30 pm	Introduction <i>Introducer: Mariana Giassetti, DVM, PhD - Baylor University, USA</i>
1:35 pm	Germline Stem Cell Technologies in Fish: Toward Sustainable Aquaculture and Biodiversity Conservation <i>Goro Yoshizaki, PhD - Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology, Japan</i>
2:15 pm - 5:00 pm	SESSION IV: TESTIS FUNCTION AT HOME AND IN THE WILD <i>Moderators: Jannette Dufour, PhD - Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, USA; Alexis Rodriquez, MS - Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, USA</i>
2:15 pm	Environmental Reprogramming of Testis Development: Insights from a Swine Model <i>Amy Desaulniers, PhD - University of Nebraska-Lincoln, USA</i>
2:45 pm	Environment to Epigenome - Transient Exposure Reveals New Paradigms that Modulate Mature Sperm Function <i>Brad Daigneault, PhD - University of Florida, USA</i>
3:15 pm	Discussion
3:30 pm	BREAK <i>Hacienda/Paloma</i>



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4:00 pm	Short Talk #13: Characterization of an Insect Epididymis <i>Tim Karr, PhD</i>
4:15 pm	Short Talk #14: Flow Cytometric Sorting Alters Capacitation Progression of Boar Sperm and Increases Polyspermy During In Vitro Fertilization <i>Karl Kerns, PhD</i>
4:30 pm	Short Talk #15: Limiting YAP Transcriptional Activity is Essential for Sertoli Polarity and Seminiferous Tubules Integrity in Mice <i>Laureline Charrier</i>
4:45 pm	Short Talk #16: Optical Tissue Clearing And 3D-image Analysis Provides Novel Insights into Testicular Architecture of Primates <i>Stefan Schlatt</i>
5:00 pm – 6:30 pm	Poster Session <i>Silverman Foyer</i>

Saturday, April 18, 2026

7:30 am – 11:00 am	Registration/Information Desk Open <i>Silverman Foyer</i>
8:30 am – 11:00 am	SESSION V: METABOLISM AND TESTIS FUNCTION <i>Moderators: Jacques Tremblay, PhD – Laval University, Canada;</i> <i>Laureline Charrier – Université de Montréal, Canada</i>
8:30 am	Bile Acids and Testicular Functions: From Nematodes to Mice and Humans <i>David Volle, PhD – Université Clermont Auvergne, France</i>
9:00 am	Effects of GLP-1 Receptor Agonists on Sertoli Cell Metabolism and Other Testicular Functions <i>María Fernanda Riera, PhD – Centro de Investigaciones Endocrinológicas, Argentina</i>
9:30 am	Discussion
9:45 am	Short Talk #17: Is Lipid Damage the Key? An Exploration of Arachidonate 15-lipoxygenase (ALOX15) as a Molecular Conduit Between Infertility and Body-wide Health in Male Mice <i>Nathan Burke, PhD</i>
10:00 am	Short Talk #18: Decoding Meiotic Metabolism: Metabolic Switch During Spermatogenesis <i>Nina Mayorek, PhD</i>
10:15 am	Short Talk #19: Testicular Sperm Transmit Diet-Induced Phenotypes Independent of Epididymal Exposure <i>Zhuqing Wang, MS, PhD</i>
10:30 am	Short Talk #20: MAGEA Proteins Buffer Metabolic Stress by Regulating Glycolytic and Stress-Response Pathways in Germ Cells and Cancer <i>María Camila Hoyos Sanchez, MS</i>
10:45 am	Concluding Remarks & Acknowledgments <i>2026 Program Chair: Robert Viger, PhD – Laval University, Canada</i>
10:55 am	Announcement of the XXIXth North American Testis Workshop <i>2028 Program Chair: Monika Ward, MSc, PhD – University of Hawaii, USA</i>