

2024-2025 Vanderbilt Digestive Diseases Research Center (VDDRC) Retreat
Obesity, Metabolism, and Nutrition Research Group

Wednesday, April 16, 2025

9:00 am – 3:30 pm

Langford Auditorium

Richard M. Peek, Jr., MD

Mina Cobb Wallace Professor of Medicine and Pathology, Microbiology, & Immunology
Director, Vanderbilt Digestive Diseases Research Center

9:00 – 9:25 am

A role for nutrient sensing in Glp1r agonist-induced weight loss

Julio E. Ayala, PhD

Associate Professor of Molecular Physiology and Biophysics

9:25 – 9:50 am

Obesogenic memory: Can we shed the past?

Nathan Winn, PhD

Assistant Professor of Medicine

Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition

9:50 – 10:15 am

Immune dysregulation induced by GLP-1 receptor activation

Mona Mashayekhi, MD, PhD

Assistant Professor of Medicine

Division of Diabetes, Endocrinology, and Metabolism

10:15 – 10:35 am

Simple solutions to complex flow cytometry

David Flaherty

Managing Director, VDDRC Flow Cytometry Scientific Research Core

10:35 – 10:50 am

Break

10:50 - 11:15 am

New roles for nucleotides in obesity

Elma Zaganjor, PhD

Assistant Professor of Molecular Physiology and Biophysics

11:15 – 11:40 am

Dietary protein tunes the liver-alpha cell axis

Danielle Dean, PhD

Assistant Professor of Medicine and Molecular Physiology and Biophysics

11:40 – 1:15 pm

Lunch/Posters

1:15 – 1:40 pm

Steatotic liver disease in persons with HIV

Curtis Gabriel, MD, PhD

Assistant Professor of Medicine

Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition

1:40 – 2:05 pm

Thoughtful strategies for combating obesity in resource-limited settings

Tiwalade Awosanya, MD

Meharry Medical College

2:05 – 2:25 pm

Advances in proteomics, metabolomics, and lipidomics analyses of digestive diseases

Kevin L. Schey, PhD

Professor of Biochemistry and Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences

Stevenson Chair in Biochemistry

Director, VDDRC Mass Spectrometry Scientific Research Core

2:25 – 2:40 pm

Break

2:40 - 3:30 pm

Keynote Speaker – Martin J. Blaser, MD

Understanding systemic diseases originating in the gut

Professor of Medicine and Pathology & Laboratory Medicine

Henry Rutgers Chair of the Human Microbiome

Rutgers University