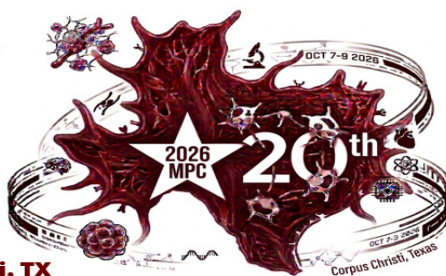


20th MIDWEST PLATELET CONFERENCE

Oct 7-9, 2026, Corpus Christi, TX



Program

Wednesday, October 7, 2026

5:00-8:30 PM: Registration

6:30-8:30pm **SCIENTIFIC SESSION 1: *The Bio-Engineering Frontier & New Approach Methodologies (NAMs)***

Co-Chairs/Moderators: **Lijun Xia and Debra Newman**

15 min/5 min **Heyu Ni** (University of Toronto)

Crosstalk Between Platelets and Immune System: A Story of Atorvastatin

15 min/5 min **Anandi Krishnan** (Rutgers University)

The Versatile Platelet: a Bridge to Translational Medicine

15 min/5 min **Abhishek Jain** (Texas A&M University)

Platelets-on-Chip: Hemostasis to Immunomodulatory Functions in Thrombosis and Cancer Models

15 min/5 min **Emily P. Mihalko** (University of Pittsburgh)

Functional Platelet Phenotyping Under Flow to Assess Hemostatic Dysfunction and Rescue

15 min/5 min **Marie Hollenhorst** (Harvard Medical School)

Glycoantigens in Immune-Mediated Platelet Disorders

8 min/2 min **Krista Hilmas** (Abstract Presenter; NC State University and UNC)

Sexual Dimorphism in PLP-mediated Clotting Mechanics

8 min/2 min **Yan Zhang** Trainee (Abstract Presenter; Texas A&M University)

The cGAS-STING Axis Regulates Platelet Activation and Thrombosis

8:30-10:30pm **RECEPTION and POSTER SESSION 1**

Thursday, October 8, 2026

6:15- 7:00am "Sunrise Yoga/Run" on the beach for early-rising attendees.

6:30-8:00am Breakfast and Registration

8:00-8:20am **Conference Welcome**

Dean of College of Pharmacy, Vice President/Chief Operating Officer of Health Science Center, Texas A&M University Vice President for Research

8:20-10:00am SCIENTIFIC SESSION 2: Platelet Signaling, Thrombopoiesis, and Activation

Co-Chairs/Moderators: **TBD and Qingchao Qiu**

15 min/5min

Sidney (Wally) Whiteheart (University of Kentucky)

Platelet "Cell Biology" is Surprising: Roles for Secretion, Endocytosis, and Bioenergetics in Hemostasis and Beyond

15 min/5 min

Randal Westrick (Oakland University)

Arl6ip5 Deficiency Protects Against Thrombosis and Results in a Mouse Hyperventilation Phenotype

15 min/5 min

Hervé Falet (Versiti)

Novel Insights into Platelet and Megakaryocyte Integrin $\beta 1$ Regulation by PACSIN2

15 min/5 min

Liang Zheng (University of Kansas)

ANKRD26 Regulation and Platelet Homeostasis

8 min/2 min

Andrew Mack (Abstract Presenter; University of Illinois at Chicago)

Activation of FAK and PYK2 by Reactive Oxygen Species in Platelets and their Roles in Mediating Integrin Outside-in Signaling

8 min/2 min

Yizhi Jiang (Abstract Presenter; Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation)

Platelet GNE Regulates Thrombopoiesis and Platelet Clearance

10:00-10:30am Networking/Coffee Break

10:30am-12:00pm SCIENTIFIC SESSION 3: The Platelet-Metabolic Nexus

Co-Chairs/Moderators: **Jesse Rowley and Yana Roka-Moija**

15 min/5 min

Sanjana Dayal (University of Iowa)

Protective Mechanisms of Age-associated Platelet Activation and Thrombosis

15 min/5 min

Maria Barrachina (Nationwide Children's Hospital)

Lipid Landscapes of Thrombopoiesis: How Saturated Fat Reshapes Platelet Formation and Function

15 min/5 min

Wei Li (Marshall University)

Teaching an Old Dog New Tricks: Emerging Roles of Na/K Homeostasis and Sex Hormones in Thrombotic Disease

15 min/5 min

Tyler Benson (University of Cincinnati)

Intraluminal Thrombus Growth, Platelet Activation, and Progression of Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms

8 min/2 min

Olamilekan George (Abstract Presenter; Medical College of Wisconsin)

DAZAP2 is a Novel ADAMTS7-Interacting Protein Expressed in Human and Murine Platelets

12:00-12:10pm

Lunch Transition Time

12:10-1:00pm

Lunch & Career Development Workshop

Co-Chairs/Moderators:

TBD and Melissa Jauquet

12 min

Transitioning to Independence (**Ze Zheng**, Versiti)

12 min

Industry and Academia Partnerships (**Beth Bouchard**, Prolytix)

12 min

Federal Government (**TBD**)

15 min

Panel Discussion/Questions

1:00-2:00pm

POSTER SESSION 2

2:00-3:30pm

SCIENTIFIC SESSION 4: Platelet Architects of Disease I

Co-Chairs/Moderators:

Mark Larson and TBD

15min/5 min

Jaehyung Cho (Washington University St. Louis)

The Paradox of Hypoxia in Platelet Activation and Arterial Thrombosis

15 min/5 min

Shahnaz Qadri (Texas A&M University)

Environmental Sensing by Platelet Ion Channels: Emerging Roles in Homeostasis and Thrombosis

- 15 min/5 min **Anu Aggarwal** (Cleveland Clinic)
The mechanism of thrombosis in Fibromuscular Dysplasia
- 15 min/5 min **Robert Lee** (University of North Carolina)
Impact of Injury Compression on Hemostatic Plug Formation in Mouse Models of Platelet Dysfunction
- 8 min/2 min **Abigail Ajanel** (Abstract Presenter; Washington University in Saint Louis)
The role of PEAR1 in Platelet Function in Aging

3:30-3:50pm Networking Break

3:50-5:40pm **SCIENTIFIC SESSION 5: Platelet Architects of Disease II**

Co-Chairs/Moderators: **Brian Storrie and Afolashade (Shade) Onunkun**

- 15 min/5 min **Xiaoping Du** (University of Illinois at Chicago)
New Roles of Platelets and G13-integrin Interaction in Thrombo-inflammatory Diseases
- 15 min/5 min **X. Long Zheng** (University of Kansas)
Novel Therapeutics for TTP
- 15 min/5 min **Ishac Nazy** (McMaster University)
Beyond HIT: The Emerging Spectrum of Thrombotic Anti-PF4 Immune Disorders
- 15 min/5 min **Jasim Ahamed** (Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation)
Role of Platelet TGF-beta1 in Normal and Disease States
- 15 min/5 min **James Michael** (Thomas Jefferson University)
Emerging Inflammatory Mechanisms that Drive Heparin-induced Thrombocytopenia
- 8 min/2 min **Sravva Nimmala** (Abstract Presenter; Oakland University)
Regulation of TLT-1 Ectodomain Shedding: A PKC ADAM10/17 Signaling Axis in Platelet Biology

6:00pm **Transportation to USS Lexington**

6:45-10:45pm **20th Anniversary Banquet & Reception (USS Lexington)**
Celebration of 20th MPC: Remarks by Peter Newman (Versiti)

Friday, October 9, 2026

6:30-8:00am Breakfast

8:00-10:00am **SCIENTIFIC SESSION 6: Novel Antiplatelets and Advanced Technologies**

Co-Chairs/Moderators: **Joshua Muia and TBD**

15min/5min **RenRen Wen** (Versiti)

Prothrombotic B-cell Responses: Friend or Foe

15min/5min **Michael Holinstat** (University of Michigan)

Targeting the Platelet for Prevention and Treatment of Rare Microvascular Thrombotic Diseases

15min/5min **Andrew Yee** (Baylor College of Medicine)

Dissecting Ligands of Platelet Receptors

15min/5min **Rajan Sah** (Washington University)

Mechanoelectrical Regulation of Purinergic Signaling in Platelets: A Novel Therapeutic Target

15min/5min **Xu Han** (Case Western Reserve University)

Towards the Structural-Omics of Platelet Membrane Proteins

15 min/5 min **TBD**

10:00-10:30am Networking Break & 21st Midwest Platelet Conference Presentation of Host Site/Voting

10:30am-12:00pm SCIENTIFIC SESSION 7: Hot Topics (Top Scoring Trainee Abstracts)

Co-Chairs/Moderators: **Yunfeng Chen**

10min/3min **Sadia Kamal** (Texas A&M University)

Paternal Thirdhand Cigarette Smoke and Electronic Waterpipe Vapor Exposure and Platelet Dysfunction in Offspring Mice

10min/3min **Anthony Sloan** (Cleveland Clinic)

A Sex-Specific Platelet Switch Controls Anti-Tumor Immunity in Glioblastoma

10min/3min **Caitlin Schneider** (Michigan State University)

Resolution of Experimental Acute Liver Injury is Accelerated by Targeting VWF-Platelet Interactions

10min/3min

Shayan Mohammadmoradi (University of Kentucky)

NBEAL2 Deficiency Drives Early Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Rupture in Males and Overrides Female Protection

10min/3min

Nuoya Peng (Versiti)

Platelets Transfer Functional mRNA Cargo to Other Cells During Thrombosis

10min/3min

Kamal Kumar (University of Utah)

Loss of Mitochondrial Fission Protein Fis1 Impairs Platelet Function Despite Preserved Mitochondrial Morphology

12:00-12:30pm **Closing Remarks, Boxed Lunch (To Go) & Awards**

Awards Presentation