

5TH ANNUAL

# U-M DRUG DISCOVERY SYMPOSIUM

October 1, 2025 | 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. | Rackham Graduate School



## Symposium schedule

*All research talks will be presented in the Rackham Amphitheater, 4th floor*

- 8:30 a.m.      **Networking with coffee and breakfast**  
*East Conference Room, 4th Floor, Rackham Graduate School*
- 9:00 a.m.      **Symposium welcome**  
Peter Toogood, Ph.D. | Director, Michigan Drug Discovery
- 9:10 a.m.      **“Discovery and engineering of natural product molecules for drug development”**  
David H. Sherman, Ph.D. | Hans W. Vahlteich Professor of Medicinal Chemistry, College of Pharmacy; Professor of Microbiology and Immunology, Medical School; Professor of Chemistry, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Research Professor, Life Sciences Institute
- 10:00 a.m.      **“Small molecule modulators of opioid receptors as potentially safe analgesics”**  
John Traynor, Ph.D. | Edward F. Domino Research Professor of Pharmacology, Medical School; Professor of Medicinal Chemistry, College of Pharmacy
- 10:50 a.m.      **Coffee/snack break**  
*East Conference Room, 4th Floor, Rackham Graduate School*
- 11:10 a.m.      **“From mutations to small molecules: Lessons learned from protein phosphatases”**  
Goutham Narla, M.D., Ph.D. | Louis Newburgh Research Professor of Internal Medicine, Professor of Internal Medicine, Professor of Human Genetics and Program Assistant, Internal Medicine, Medical School
- 12:00 p.m.      **Networking lunch**  
*Assembly Hall, 4th Floor, Rackham Graduate School*
- 1:20 p.m.      **Student spotlight research talks**
- 1:50 p.m.      **“Enabling technologies for revealing druggable paths in RNA biology”**  
Amanda Garner, Ph.D. | Charles Walgreen, Jr. Professor and Professor of Department of Medicinal Chemistry; Director, Interdepartmental Program in Medicinal Chemistry, College of Pharmacy
- 2:40 p.m.      **Coffee/snack break**  
*East Conference Room, 4th Floor, Rackham Graduate School*
- 3:00 p.m.      **Keynote presentation: “(R)Evolution in drug discovery: Reflections on a 40+ year career journey”**  
Joel Barrish, Ph.D. | President & CEO, Avilar Therapeutics; Co-Founder, President & CEO, Conveyor Therapeutics; Venture Partner at RA Capital Ventures
- 4:00 p.m.      **Closing remarks**  
Peter Toogood, Ph.D.