



## PRESS RELEASE

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Topics: **Health & Medicine; Research**

### An RNA Symposium to “process” RNA discoveries

March 25th and 26th, 2021, 11:00–2:30 EST, the University of Michigan (U-M) [Center for RNA Biomedicine](#) will be hosting its 5th Annual Symposium, titled “Processing RNA.” The event will be virtual (Zoom) and live (not recorded). It is free and open to all; [registration is required](#). [MiSciWriters](#) will blog about the event.

RNA research shapes revolutionary scientific paths, from fundamental science discoveries in the labs to powerful biomedical applications for patients. The rapid rise of RNA-guided genome editing tools and mRNA-based vaccinations demonstrate the tremendous impact of such breakthroughs.

To help us “process” these advances, the U-M Center for RNA Biomedicine organized its 2021 Annual symposium on topics ranging from RNA processing to RNA structure and CRISPR tools. Over 300 participants are expected.

Five renowned keynote speakers will present about some of the latest challenges and breakthroughs in foundational and translational RNA research:

[Brenda Bass, Ph.D., University of Utah](#), on self and non-self dsRNA  
[Tracy Johnson, Ph.D., UCLA](#), on the control of gene expression  
[Christopher Lima, Ph.D., Sloan-Kettering Institute](#), on the destruction of RNA  
[Kevin Weeks, Ph.D., University of North Carolina](#), on large RNAs  
[Feng Zhang, Ph.D., MIT](#), on novel CRISPR technologies

Six U-M junior RNA scientists will present their research in “data blitz” talks, each of seven minutes plus questions. The abstracts were competitively selected to represent the breadth and depth of U-M RNA research:

Adrien Chauvier, Ph.D., Chemistry, College of LSA  
Daniel Peltier, M.D., Ph.D., Pediatrics, Medical School  
Meredith Purchal, Program in Chemical Biology, College of LSA  
Cathy Smith, Computational Medicine and Bioinformatics, Medical School  
Shannon Wright, Neurology, Medical School  
Yan Zhang, Ph.D, Biological Chemistry, Medical School

Detailed schedule and program are available [here](#).

The 2021 Symposium is co-sponsored by the Center for RNA Biomedicine, the University of Michigan Biosciences Initiative, and Lexogen.

The U-M Center for RNA Biomedicine fosters and promotes the U-M RNA research community. Since its inception in 2016, the Center has organized an annual symposium, taking place end of March. These symposia bring the RNA research community together to discuss the latest discoveries in the field and the next scientific inquiries. Over 300 participants from U-M and other RNA research institutions have registered every year. The annual RNA symposium is the Center's flagship event.

The U-M Center for RNA Biomedicine is the largest academic RNA research center in the US. It gathers over 150 faculty and their labs, across seven schools and colleges of the Ann Arbor campus. This membership reflects the interdisciplinary requirement and collaborative spirit of RNA research.