

SESSION **TIME** **PRESENTER / TITLE**

DAY 1 — Monday, May 18, 2026

8:00–8:30 *Registration & Light Breakfast*

Opening Remarks 8:30–8:40 **Renee Heffron, PhD**
Div. of Infectious Diseases, Dept. of Medicine; Director, UAB CFAR
Opening Remarks & Welcome

SESSION 1: Immunology & Co-morbidities | Moderator: Hui Hu, PhD

8:45–9:05 **Paul Goepfert, MD**
Div. of Infectious Diseases, Dept. of Medicine
HLA-E and HIV immune control

9:05–9:25 **Christina Ochsenbauer, PhD**
Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Dept. of Medicine
Entry & neutralization in HIV immunology

9:25–9:45 **Taru Dutt, PhD**
Div. of Laboratory Medicine, Dept. of Pathology
Lung-resident B cells in TB; HIV implications

Abstract Talk 9:45–10:00 **Rania Smeltz, PhD Candidate**
Dept. of Microbiology
Combination long-acting regimen for the simultaneous prevention of HIV and Mtb co-infections

10:00–10:20 *Coffee Break*

SESSION 2: Diagnostics, Pharmacology & Substance Use | Moderator: Christina Ochsenbauer, PhD

10:25–10:45 **Hirotaaka Ata, MD, PhD**
Dept. of Emergency Medicine
RNA-based GC/CT diagnostics

10:45–11:05 **Angela Calderón, PhD**
Dept. of Drug Discovery & Development · Auburn University
Kratom–HIV drug interactions

Abstract Talk 11:05–11:20 **Yanqi Zhu, PhD Candidate**
Dept. of Surgery
HIV proteins disrupt dopamine transporter lipid binding to modulate amphetamine sensitivity

11:20–12:30 *Networking Lunch*

SESSION 3: Implementation Science × Bench Science | Moderator: Aadia Rana, MD

12:35–12:50 **Larry Hearld, PhD**
Dept. of Health Services Administration
Beyond the Breakthrough: Why Great (Bench) Science Isn't Enough
Translational & Implementation Science in Infectious Disease

12:50–1:05 **Robin Lanzi, PhD**
Dept. of Health Behavior, School of Public Health
Community Engaged Dissemination and Implementation Sciences: Where Community, Lived Experience, and Action Meet

1:05–1:20 **UAB HIV Implementation Science Resources and Services** | Robin Lanzi & Larry Hearld

SESSION 4: AI/ML & Systems Biology | Moderator: James Kobie, PhD

1:25–1:45 **Jake Chen, PhD**
Dept. of Biomedical Informatics & Data Science (SPARC)
AI drug discovery pipelines

1:45–2:05 **William Bradford, MD**
Div. of Infectious Diseases, Dept. of Medicine
AI tools using 1917 Clinic data to identify alcohol misuse

Abstract Talk 2:05–2:20 **Skye Opsteen, MD/PhD Candidate**
Div. of Infectious Diseases, Dept. of Medicine
Integrated approach to long COVID immune signature identification in people with and without HIV

2:20–3:20 **KEYNOTE — Rasmi Thomas, PhD**
Laboratory of Integrative Multiomics, U.S. Military HIV Research Program · Walter Reed Army Institute of Research
HIV systems biology / AI/ML: multi-omics to mechanisms

Poster Session 3:20–5:00 **Poster Presentations & Networking**
All accepted abstract posters on display — authors present at boards

The Marnix E. Heersink Conference Center | Altec Styslinger Genomic Medicine & Data Sciences Building, UAB

SESSION **TIME** **PRESENTER / TITLE**

DAY 2 — Tuesday, May 19, 2026

8:00–8:30 *Registration & Light Breakfast*

8:30–8:35 *Welcome & Day 2 Overview*

SESSION 5: Comorbidities | Moderator: Nathan Erdmann, MD, PhD & Skye Opsteen

8:40–9:00 **Gaurav Goyal, MD**
Div. of Hematology & Oncology, Dept. of Medicine
HIV-associated malignancies

9:00–9:20 **Mohammed Siddiqui, MD**
Div. of Cardiovascular Disease, Dept. of Medicine
Hypertension in people with HIV

Abstract Talk 9:20–9:35 **Taylor Taylor, PhD**
Dept. Family & Community Medicine
EMPOWER-HIV: Linking childhood adversity, immune activation, and chronic pain to empower physical activity in aging with HIV

9:35–9:55 *Coffee Break*

SESSION 6: HIV Cure & Long-Acting Therapeutics | Moderator: Angela Wahl, PhD

10:00–10:20 **J. Victor Garcia-Martinez, PhD**
Dept. of Microbiology (Chair)
HIV cure models & persistence platforms

10:20–10:40 **Manse Kim, PhD**
Dept. of Microbiology
Single-injection, two-ARV long-acting formulation

Abstract Talk 10:40–10:55 **Kevin Maroney, PhD Candidate**
Div. of Infectious Diseases, Dept. of Medicine
HLA-E restricted RL9 and KF11-specific CD8+ T cells detected in acutely HIV-acquired people with HIV using novel multimer synthesis protocol

Trainee Talk 10:55–11:10 **Stephanie Suinn, PhD Candidate**
Dept. of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics
Structure of human importin beta bound to HIV-1 Rev

11:10–12:10 **KEYNOTE — Mathias Lichterfeld, MD, PhD**
Div. of Infectious Diseases; Ragon Institute · Harvard Medical School / Brigham & Women's Hospital
HIV cure: targeting the reservoir

12:10–12:15 *Concluding Remarks*