

# Celebrate 60 Years!

Beal Lab & David Lab  
Reunion

June 28 & 29, 2024 | UC Davis  
Davis, California, USA



**June 28 (UC Davis Student Community Center 2nd Floor)**

**9:00 AM: Welcome, coffee, pastries**

**9:30-12:00 PM:** Talks and presentations (with breaks)

**Speaker Session #1 (Session Chair: Steven Merrill)**

**9:30AM:** *Justin Thomas, Senior Scientist, Beam Therapeutics*

"Base Resolution Sequencing of N4-Acetylcytidine in RNA:  
Turning up the heat on the epitranscriptome"

**9:55AM:** *Megan Brinkmeyer, Criminalist, California  
Department of Justice, Sacramento Crime Laboratory*  
"Forensic Firearms Analysis"

**10:20AM:** *Tiannan Hu, Senior Manager in BD & Strategy,  
BioRay Pharmaceutical, "RNA, siRNA, imsRNA: My Journey  
from the Beal lab to Industry and Back"*

**10:45-10:55 AM: Coffee Break**

**Speaker Session #2 (Session Chair: Natalie Dugan)**

**10:55AM:** *Nicole Nunez, Associate Director, Regulatory  
Affairs and Patient Engagement, Eureka Therapeutics, Inc.*  
"The Importance of Science Communication in Biotech"

**11:20AM:** *Erin Doherty, Postdoctoral Fellow, UC  
Berkeley/Doudna lab, "Minimal CRISPR Polymerase is a  
toxin-antitoxin system that safeguards bacterial defense"*

**11:45AM:** *Nik Chmiel, Associate Director, Life Sciences  
Group, BioRad Lab "How to Build an Imaging System"*

**12:15 PM- 2 PM: Lunch (Dos Coyotes)**

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**Speaker Session #3 (Session Chair: Ellen Chu)**

**2:10 PM:** *Rachel Valenzuela,*

*Director of Discovery, UPSIDE Foods,*

*“Applications of Nucleic Acid Research in Cellular  
Agriculture”*

**2:35 PM:** *Paige McKibbin, CSU Campus Fire Marshal.*

*“A Career in Curiosity”*

**3 PM:** *Yuru Wang, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Medicinal  
Chemistry, University of Utah “Development of technology  
for functional investigation of RNA modifications”*

**3:30-3:45 PM: Coffee Break**

**Speaker Session #4 (Session Chair: Sydney Figueroa)**

**3:50 PM:** *Merve Demir, Postdoctoral Associate-*

*Scientist/SBP Medical Discovery Institute “Structure-based  
Drug Design for Drug Targets MtCK and GCDH”*

**4:15 PM:** *Doug Banda, Sr. Scientist, Gene Editing Process  
Development, Bristol Myers Squibb*

*“Third Year Seminar Re-Do: Lessons from grad school  
applied to gene editing PD”*

**4:40 PM:** *Rena Mizrahi, Vice President, Process*

*Development, GigaGen, A Grifols Company, “Thousands-  
Diverse Recombinant Polyclonal Antibodies for Treatment of  
Infectious Disease”*

**5:15 PM: Mingling/Extended Break/Evening Welcome**

**6-8:00 PM: Dinner (Paesano's)**

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## June 29, 2024 (UC Davis Putah Creek Lodge)

**1 PM: Meet at the Putah Creek Lodge!**

**1:30-4:00 PM: Talks/Presentations**

**Speaker Session #5 (Session Chair: Melody Malek )**

**1:35PM:** *Cody Palumbo, Associate Director, Gene Editing Process Development, Sana Biotechnology* "Bridging the Gap: Leveraging Graduate School Skills for Industry Success"

**2PM:** *Holly Vickery, Scientist I, Discovery Sciences, Revolution Medicines* "Discovery and characterization of protein-protein interaction stabilizers"

**2:25 PM:** *Leanna Monteleone, Scientist II, Megagenomi* "Genome editing using novel reverse transcriptases discovered from metagenomics"

**2:50PM:** *Ryan Woods, Director, PR&D Engineering, AMPAC Fine Chemicals* "Adopting New Technology in GMP Operations"

**3:15 PM:** *Chandrima Majumdar, Postdoctoral Researcher, UC Berkeley,* "Structure Activity Relationships and Structural Biology"

**4-5:30 PM: Poster Session & Happy Hour**

**5:30 PM: Dinner, dancing, games, catching up and fun!**

**9 PM: Putah Creek Lodge event ends...  
but the night may young for some :)!**