



National Science Foundation

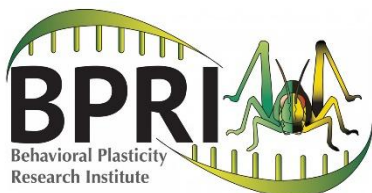
# 2023 BPRI Research Symposium

May 15-16, 2023

*Ting Tsung and Wei Fong Chao Foundation Conference Center, Houston, Texas*



*APS  
and  
MANAE*



Organized by the BPRI Trainee Leadership Council

# Introduction

The Behavioral Plasticity Research Institute's Student Leadership Council is excited to announce the research symposium on phenotypic plasticity, to be held on May 15-16, 2023, at the Ting Tsung and Wei Fong Chao Foundation Conference Center in Houston, Texas. This event will gather experts from genomics, epigenomics, transcriptomics, neurophysiology, behavior, ecology, microbiology, and evolutionary biology, to share their insights and knowledge about phenotypic plasticity.

The symposium's objectives are to:

- Foster opportunities for networking, collaboration, and idea exchange among researchers interested in phenotypic plasticity, to advance the understanding of phenotypic plasticity.
- Encourage exploration and discussion of integrative research ideas, with the goal of enhancing collaborative research both within and outside of the BPRI.
- Disseminate research initiatives, strategies, and outcomes of the BPRI to a broader audience to increase awareness of the institute's work and its impact.

## Organizing Committee

Alexis Acoff, MS Student, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, [aacoff@siue.edu](mailto:aacoff@siue.edu)

Audélia Mechti, PhD Student, Texas A&M University, [audelia.mechti@tamu.edu](mailto:audelia.mechti@tamu.edu)

Doris Ling, PhD Student, Washington University in St. Louis, [dling@wustl.edu](mailto:dling@wustl.edu)

Jiayi Luo, PhD Student, Baylor College of Medicine, [jiayi.luo@bcm.edu](mailto:jiayi.luo@bcm.edu)

Dr. Maeva Techer, Postdoctoral fellow, Texas A&M University, [maeva.techer@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:maeva.techer@ag.tamu.edu)

Mehreen Tahir, PhD Student, Arizona State University, [smtahir2@asu.edu](mailto:smtahir2@asu.edu)

Muchun Niu, PhD Student, Baylor College of Medicine, [mniu@bcm.edu](mailto:mniu@bcm.edu)

# Conference Agenda

<https://bcm.zoom.us/j/99782300807?pwd=bHEyZFgyZnozNHM3WGFIUzVvMndiUT09>



Password: 909700

*The symposium's timekeepers will be Dr. Maeva Techer and Mehreen Tahir*

Monday, 15th of May 2023

Location	Time (CT)	Item	Facilitator
Main Auditorium	8:50-9:15	Logistics information (Jiayi Luo) Welcome from leadership council (Doris Ling) Documental series introduction (Brittany Peterson) BPRI Introduction (Hojun)	
Main Auditorium	9:15- 10:15	<b>Keynote Talk 1 - What aphids can tell us about the evolution and development of phenotypic plasticity</b> Jennifer Brisson, Ph.D. Rochester University	Muchun Niu
Hallway	10:15-10:25	Coffee break	Mehreen Tahir
Main Auditorium	10:25-11:25	<b>Keynote D&amp;I Talk 2 - Mutually enriching mentorship: building a genuine community of support.</b> Michele Clark, Ph.D. Arizona State University	Doris Ling
Hallway	11:25-11:30	Coffee break	Doris Ling
Main Auditorium	11:30-12:30	Faculty panel discussion: questions from trainees	Stephen Richard
Hallway	12:30-1:30	Lunch and group picture	Jiayi Luo
Main Auditorium	1:30-2:00	Team building/connectivity activity	Mehreen Tahir and Doris Ling
Main Auditorium	2:00-3:00	<b>Keynote Talk 3 - Behavioral, physiological and fitness responses to environmental challenges in pollinators.</b> Jon Harrison, Ph.D., Professor, Arizona State University	Mehreen Tahir
Hallway	3:00-3:10	Coffee break	Mehreen Tahir
Hallway	3:10-4:30	Poster Session	Jiayi Luo and Audélia Mechti
Main Auditorium	4:30-5:00	Oral Presentations (session A)	
	5:00 - 6:00	Personal Break	
6550 Bertner Avenue, Houston, TX 77030	6:00-7:00	Dinner/Social Gathering	<a href="#">Wolfgang Puck</a>

Tuesday, 16th of May 2023

Location	Time (CT)	Item	Facilitator/Presenter
Main Auditorium	9:00-9:15	Opening	Audélia Mechti
Main Auditorium	9:15- 10:15	<b>Keynote Talk 4 - Evolution and the Flexible Organism</b> David Pfennig, Ph.D. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	Audélia Mechti
Hallway	10:15-10:20	Coffee break	Audélia Mechti
Main Auditorium	10:20-11:20	<b>Keynote Talk 5- Epigenomic Plasticity of Aging as a Vulnerability to Environmental Exposures</b> Cheryl Walker, Ph.D., Professor, Baylor College of Medicine	Jiayi Luo
Hallway	11:20-11:30	Coffee break	Jiayi Luo
Main Auditorium	11:30-12:30	<b>Phenotypic Plasticity: Insights from Keynote speakers</b> (a panel discussion)	Hojun Song
Hallway	12:30-1:30	Lunch	Jiayi Luo
Parallel session: @ Main Auditorium	1:30-2:30	<b>Keynote Talk 6: Traversing Job Searches in Academic and Industry Spaces: Comparisons and Contrasts</b> Paul Rainey, Ph.D. Senior Career Coordinator for Graduate Students, Texas A&M University (PI and Trainees in different rooms)	Mehreen Tahir
Parallel session @ Breakout Room	1:30-2:30	<b>Discussing strategies for project renewal (Session is open to BPRI faculty members, future collaborators, and experts)</b>	Fabrizio Gabbiani and Hojun Song
Main Auditorium	2:30 - 4:00	Oral Presentations (session B)	Brittany Peterson and Maeva Techer
Main Auditorium	4:00 - 5:00	<b>Reflection, Assessing Progress, and Planning for Success (BPRI discussion)</b> (1) What have we accomplished so far? (2) What are the most important things we are currently working on? and (3) What are the goals we should seek to achieve over the funded period?	Erez Aiden and Hojun Song
Main Auditorium	5:00 - 5:10	<b>Closing Remarks &amp; Awards for Best Poster and Oral Presentation</b>	Hojun Song

## Symposium Participants

Please note that the list of participants provided here is current as of April 20th and is subject to change. An updated and final list of participants will be made available later. Participants attending the Symposium virtually are denoted by an asterisk (\*).

First Name	Last Name	Email	Institution
<b>Addisie</b>	Geremew	aygeremew@pvamu.edu	Prairie View A&M University
<b>Alex</b>	Keene	<a href="mailto:akeene@bio.tamu.edu">akeene@bio.tamu.edu</a>	Texas A&M University
<b>Alexander*</b>	Figueroa	baf5@rice.edu	Rice University
<b>Alyssa</b>	Canova	acanova@tamu.edu	Texas A&M University
<b>Amit*</b>	Hegde	amithegdevargasara@gmail.com	Karnatak University
<b>Anna</b>	Childers	<a href="mailto:anna.childers@usda.gov">anna.childers@usda.gov</a>	USDA/Bee Research Laboratory
<b>Arianne</b>	Cease	acease@asu.edu	Arizona State University
<b>Aruna</b>	Weerasooriya	adweerasooriya@pvamu.edu	Prairie View A&M University
<b>Audélia</b>	Mechti	audelia.mechti@tamu.edu	Texas A&M University
<b>Barani</b>	Raman	barani@wustl.edu	Washington University in St. Louis
<b>Bert</b>	Foquet	<a href="mailto:bjfoque@ilstu.edu">bjfoque@ilstu.edu</a>	Illinois State University
<b>Breann*</b>	Richey	brichey@tamu.edu	Texas A&M University
<b>Brittany</b>	Peterson	bripete@siue.edu	Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
<b>Charcacia*</b>	Sanders	ctsanders@pvamu.edu	Prairie View A&M University
<b>Chenghang</b>	Zong	czong@bcm.edu	Baylor College of Medicine
<b>Cheryl</b>	Walker	cheryl.walker@bcm.edu	Baylor College of Medicine
<b>Christopher</b>	Brennan	cbrennan@tamu.edu	Texas A&M University
<b>Cristian</b>	Gomez	c.d.gomezsaavedra@wustl.edu	Washington University in St. Louis
<b>David</b>	Pfennig	<a href="mailto:dpfennig@unc.edu">dpfennig@unc.edu</a>	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
<b>David</b>	Bellini	david.bellini@bcm.edu	Baylor College of Medicine
<b>Debra</b>	Murray	ddm@bcm.edu	Baylor College of Medicine
<b>Doris</b>	Ling	dling@wustl.edu	Washington University in St. Louis
<b>Erez</b>	Aiden	<a href="mailto:erez@erez.com">erez@erez.com</a>	Baylor College of Medicine
<b>Eric</b>	Shah	eric.shah@tamu.edu	Texas A&M University
<b>Fabrizio</b>	Gabbiani	gabbiani@bcm.edu	Baylor College of Medicine
<b>Gregory*</b>	Sword	gasword@tamu.edu	Texas A&M University
<b>Gil</b>	Shaulsky	gshaulsky@gmail.com	Baylor College of Medicine
<b>Herman</b>	Dierick	dierick@bcm.edu	Baylor College of Medicine
<b>Hojun</b>	Song	hsong@tamu.edu	Texas A&M University
<b>Jack*</b>	McKermitt	jtmcker@ilstu.edu	Illinois State University
<b>Jenn</b>	Brisson	jennifer.brisson@rochester.edu	Rochester University
<b>Jenna</b>	Kurten	jsk@tamu.edu	Texas A&M University
<b>Jiayi</b>	Luo	jiayil@bcm.edu	Baylor College of Medicine

First Name	Last Name	Email	Institution
<b>Jodie*</b>	Jawor	<a href="mailto:jjawor@nsf.gov">jjawor@nsf.gov</a>	National Science Foundation
<b>John*</b>	Hatle	<a href="mailto:jhatle@unf.edu">jhatle@unf.edu</a>	University of North Florida
<b>Jon</b>	Harrison	<a href="mailto:j.harrison@asu.edu">j.harrison@asu.edu</a>	Arizona State University
<b>Josh</b>	Randall	josh.randall@yale.edu	Yale University
<b>Karin</b>	Pfennig	kpfennig@unc.edu	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
<b>Katrina</b>	Pfennig	kpfennig1@unc.edu	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
<b>Kim</b>	Lopez	KL2@bcm.edu	Baylor College of Medicine
<b>Laura</b>	Carson	lecarson@pvamu.edu	Prairie View A&M University
<b>Laura*</b>	Rengifo	<a href="mailto:lrengif@ilstu.edu">lrengif@ilstu.edu</a>	Illinois State University
<b>Laura</b>	Lavery	ll101@rice.edu	Rice University
<b>Madeline</b>	Severson	Madeline.Severson@bcm.edu	Baylor College of Medicine
<b>Maeva</b>	Techer	maeva.tech@ag.tamu.edu	Texas A&M University
<b>Marion*</b>	Le Gall	marionlegall314@gmail.com	Arizona State University
<b>Michele</b>	Clark	michele.clark@asu.edu	Arizona State University
<b>Mira</b>	Ries	miraries@asu.edu	Arizona State University
<b>Muchun</b>	Niu	muchun.niu@bcm.edu	Baylor College of Medicine
<b>Neema</b>	John	nkjohn2@asu.edu	Arizona State University
<b>Olga</b>	Dudchenko	olga.dudchenko@bcm.edu	Baylor College of Medicine
<b>Paul</b>	Rainey	plrainey@tamu.edu	Texas A&M University
<b>Ravi*</b>	Timsina	timsina.ravi@gmail.com	Tribhuvan University
<b>Richard</b>	Dewell	dewell@bcm.edu	Baylor College of Medicine
<b>Richelle*</b>	Marquess	mtbugnut@gmail.com	Texas A&M University
<b>Rick</b>	Overson	roverso@asu.edu	Arizona State University
<b>Sarah</b>	Hilal	shilalusa@tamu.edu	Texas A&M University
<b>Soumi</b>	Mitra	Soumi.Mitra@bcm.edu	Baylor College of Medicine
<b>Spencer</b>	Behmer	s-behmer@tamu.edu	Texas A&M University
<b>Stephen</b>	Richards	stephenr@bcm.edu	Baylor College of Medicine
<b>Sydney</b>	Millerwise	smillerw@asu.edu	Arizona State University
<b>Syeda</b>	Tahir	smtahir2@asu.edu	Arizona State University
<b>Tamir*</b>	Lichaa	tlchaa@asu.edu	Arizona State University
<b>Taniya</b>	Koswatta	taniya.koswatta@ag.tamu.edu	Texas A&M University
<b>Victoria</b>	Mgbemena	vemgbemena@pvamu.edu	Prairie View A&M University
<b>Vivian</b>	Peralta Santana	vaps@tamu.edu	Texas A&M University
<b>Wanhe</b>	Li	wli01@tamu.edu	Texas A&M University

## Contacts

For logistics information please contact Richard Dewell, Ph.D., BPRI Research Coordinator, Cell: 225-772-7920 or email: [dewell@bcm.edu](mailto:dewell@bcm.edu)

For other inquiries please contact Taniya Koswatta, Ph.D., BPRI Education Coordinator, Cell: 979-204-3209 or email: [taniya.koswatta@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:taniya.koswatta@ag.tamu.edu)

