National Institutes of Health
Office of Dietary Supplements

2025–2026 Seminar Series

Research Scholars' Symposium

Wed., Sept. 17 | 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. ET

Please join our panelists who will discuss their work as Fellows at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Registration is required to attend.

Luka Culig, Ph.D., is a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Epigenetics and Stem Cell Aging Unit of the National Institute on Aging (NIA). His research examines how epigenetic reprogramming and metabolic interventions can be coordinated with cell replacement strategies to promote systemic rejuvenation. He uses longitudinal deep phenotyping with hematological profiling and flow cytometry to track the systemic effects of longevity interventions in transgenic mouse models.

He received his M.Sc. in molecular biology at the University of Zagreb and gained additional research experience at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. Dr. Culig earned his Ph.D. in neuroscience from the University of Tours under Dr. Catherine Belzung, where his work showed that enhancing adult hippocampal neurogenesis can buffer against the effects of chronic stress. During his doctorate, he also collaborated with Dr. Paul Frankland's lab at The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, Canada, investigating the role of stress on the mouse brain functional connectome. After his doctorate he joined the NIA Section on DNA Repair before moving to Dr. Isabel Beerman's laboratory in 2022, where he studies in vivo partial epigenetic reprogramming and NAD+ metabolism in aging and hematopoiesis.

His research spans stem cells, aging and stress biology, and metabolic interventions, with a long-term goal of translating mechanistic insights into interventions that preserve cognitive and systemic health throughout the lifespan.

Thierry Gauthier, Ph.D., is a Research Fellow at NIH's National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR), focusing on studying how metabolism influences immune responses. He earned a Ph.D. from the Marie-and-Louis-Pasteur University in France, where he studied how the phagocytosis of apoptotic cells by macrophages can be harnessed as a therapeutic during neuroinflammation development. He joined the NIH in 2018, first as a Visiting Fellow and then as a Research Fellow as part of the Mucosal Immunology Section at NIDCR. Dr. Gauthier's research focuses on understanding how metabolism influences macrophages and T-cell functions. He notably showed that the anti-inflammatory cytokines TGF-beta and Activin A are crucial regulators of macrophage metabolism that can be targeted in inflammatory diseases such as sepsis, psoriasis, or cancer. Dr. Gauthier received several awards, such as the NIH ODS Research Scholars Program 2024 and the 2023 CIG William E. Paul Award for the Best Paper in Cytokine Research.