

The Norman Fleischer NYC Regional Diabetes Symposium

May 8, 2026

8:15 AM – 8:55 AM | Breakfast & Check-in

8:55 AM – 9:00 AM | Welcome Remarks

Morning Session

Chair: **Lale Ozcan, MD** (Columbia)

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM | Session 1A: Faculty Talks

- **Alus (Fnu) Xiaoli, PhD** (Einstein) — *The Role of Cyclin C (CCNC)-Mediator Complex in Hepatocytes*
- **Timothy Kenny, PhD** (MSSM) — *Understanding Organismal Metabolism Through the Lens of Nutrient Transport*
- **Jesse Platt, MD, PhD** (WCM) — *Proteolethargy is a Pathogenic Mechanism in Chronic Disease*

10:00 AM – 10:30 AM | Session 1B: Lightning Talks

- **Sarah Cardoso, MS** (Columbia) — *Mapping Insulin Receptor Signaling Using De Novo Designed Agonists*
 - **Jijo Wilson, PhD** (WCM) — *Circadian Glucocorticoid Rhythms Coordinate Insulin Secretion, Clearance, and Sensitivity to Maintain Glucose Homeostasis*
 - **Kimberly Izarraras, BS** (Rutgers) — *Kisspeptin Mitigates Hepatic De Novo Lipogenesis in Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated Steatotic Liver Disease*
 - **Stanislovas Jankauskas, PhD** (CCNY) — *Beta-Cell Resilience and Mitochondrial Quality Control During Age-Related Onset of Type 2 Diabetes*
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10:30 AM – 11:00 AM | Coffee Break

Mid-Day Session

Chair: **Claudia Doege, MD** (Columbia)

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM | Session 2A: Faculty Talks

- **Ezequiel Dantas, PhD** (NYU) — *The Effects of Refined Carbohydrates on Systemic Immunity*
- **Kushal Dey, PhD** (MSKCC) — *Linking the Genetic and Stress-Induced Perturbation Landscape of Pancreatic Islets to Type 2 Diabetes Genetics*
- **Daorong Feng, PhD** (Einstein) — *Adipocyte-Derived Extracellular Vesicle Secretion, in vivo and in vitro*

12:00 PM – 12:30 PM | Session 2B: Lightning Talks

- **Niki Brisnovali, MS** (MSSM) — *MMAB Inhibition Activates a Mitochondrial Stress-GDF15 Axis That Protects Against Cardiometabolic Disease*
- **Tamires Duarte Afonso Serdan, PhD** (NYU) — *Axon guidance signaling in adipose tissue development and function*
- **Serena Zhang, BA** (Einstein) — *Glucose Homeostasis and the Risk of Pre-Heart Failure in a U.S. Hispanic/Latino Population*
- **Veronica Uribe-Echevarria, PhD** (NYU) — *Wnt9a Prevents Fatty and Fibrotic Infiltration in Diabetic Mice by Reducing the Proportion of Infiltrated Macrophages*

12:30 PM – 2:00 PM | Lunch, Posters & Networking

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM | Keynote Lecture

The Norman Fleischer legacy: **Meredith Hawkins, MD** (Einstein)

Introduction of the Keynote Speaker: **Rebecca Haeusler, PhD** (Columbia)

Robert Eckel, MD (UC Denver)

The Evolving Translational Science of Lipoprotein Lipase in Metabolic, Cardiovascular, and Neurodegenerative Diseases

Afternoon Session

Chair: **Amy Rumora, PhD** (Columbia)

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM | Session 3: Faculty Talks

- **Kenichi Sakamoto, PhD** (Rutgers) — *The Role of the Sympathetic Nervous System and Adipose Tissue Lipolysis in Estrogen Deficiency-Induced Insulin Resistance*
- **Joshua Cook, PhD** (Columbia) — *Insulin and Its Discontents: Decoding Human Hyperinsulinemia*
- **Michael Garshick, MD** (NYU) — *Strategies to Mitigate Endothelial Damage in Diabetes*