

**50th Anniversary of the Alfred E. Mann  
Department of Biomedical Engineering at USC  
Celebrating our Students, Past, Present and Future  
PROGRAM | September 3–4, 2026**

**September 3 (Thursday) — Research Symposium  
Michelson Center for Convergent Bioscience (MCB)**

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**7:00 AM** Registration and Breakfast

**8:00 AM Welcome, Introductions & Leadership Panel**

8:00 AM – Eun Ji Chung, Associate Professor, Welcome Remarks

8:03 AM – USC President Beong-Soo Kim, Opening Remarks

8:08 AM – Peter Yingxiao Wang, BME Department Chair, Celebrating BME's 50 Years of Accomplishments

8:33 AM – Leadership Panel Discussion moderated by Peter Yingxiao Wang

- Shrikanth Narayanan, Vice President for Presidential Initiatives
- Gaurav Sukhatme, Dean (Interim), USC Viterbi School of Engineering
- Carolyn Meltzer, Dean of Keck School of Medicine

**9:00 AM – SESSION 1. Mathematical / Computational Biosystems (Moderator: Michael Khoo)**

9:05 AM Keynote — Stacey Finley, USC

- *Understanding the tumor ecosystem: Insights from computational modeling*

9:30 AM Speaker 1 — Ki Chon, UConn

- *Sensors and Signals*

9:50 AM Speaker 2 — Keyue Shen, USC

- *AI-Guided Single-cell Metabolic Profiling for Precision Medicine in Leukemia*

10:10 AM Speaker 3 — Sheng Li, USC

- *Variability as Signal: AI that Predicts Leukemia from Cell-to-Cell Heterogeneity*

10:30 AM – Session concludes

**10:30 AM** Coffee Break

**10:45 AM – SESSION 2. Biomedical Devices and Imaging (Moderator: Cristina Zavaleta)**

10:45 AM Keynote — Ellis Meng, USC

- *Microtechnologies enabling discovery, community, and clinical translation*

11:10 AM Speaker 1 — Maral Mousavi, USC

- *Analysis beyond the clinical lab: Advancing point-of-care and wearable diagnostics*

11:30 AM Speaker 2 — Adam Bush, UT Austin

- *Superpowers and Secret Weapons*

11:50 AM Keynote — Mark Humayun, USC

- *Retinal Implants to Restore Sight*

12:10 PM Speaker 3 — Qifa Zhou, USC

- *Wearable Ultrasound for Vision Restoration and Biomedical Applications*

12:30 PM – Session concludes

**12:30 PM** Lunch and PhD Poster Session

**2:00 PM – SESSION 3. Molecular / Cellular Systems (Moderator: Eun Ji Chung)**

2:00 PM Keynote — Omid Veisheh, Rice University

- *Bioengineering Cell-based Therapeutics*

2:25 PM Speaker 1 — Megan McCain, USC

- *Engineering Microphysiological Systems to Decode Human Cardiac Diseases Across the Lifespan*

2:45 PM Speaker 2 — Beth Pruitt, UC Santa Barbara

- *The Mechanobiology of hiPSC-derived Cardiomyocyte Models*

3:05 PM Speaker 3 — Laura Marcu, UC Davis

- *Fluorescence Lifetime Imaging in Clinical Interventions: An Odyssey that Started at USC*

3:30 PM – Session concludes

**3:30 PM** Coffee Break

**4:00 PM – SESSION 4. Neuroengineering (Moderators: Francisco Valero-Cuevas & Maryam Shanechi)**

4:00 PM Keynote — Charles Liu, USC

- *Engineering Inflection Points in Neurorestoration – Maximizing Synergies Between Engineering and Medicine*

4:25 PM Speaker 1 — Hong Chen, Washington University

- *Neurosonics: Unlocking the Brain with Ultrasound to Transform Brain Health*

4:45 PM Speaker 2 — Yaoheng (Mack) Yang, USC

- *Acoustic transparency enabling functional ultrasound imaging through skull in mouse and primate*

5:05 PM Speaker 3 — Spencer Kellis, Blackrock Neurotech

- *Scaling Brain-Computer Interfaces: From Clinical Foundation to Everyday Use*

5:30 PM – Session concludes

**6:00 – 8:00 PM 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Reception (Town & Gown)**

6:00 PM – Reception begins

- MEDesign and ASBME Student Team Exhibits

6:30 PM – Program

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**September 4 (Friday) — Alumni & Student Activities  
Michelson Center for Convergent Bioscience (MCB)**

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**8:00 AM** Registration and Breakfast

**9:00 AM** Peter Yingxiao Wang, Welcome and Opening Remarks

**9:05 AM** Carla Mann Woods, Distinguished Guest Address

**9:15 AM** Megan McCain, Our Academic Programs and Student Life

**Morning Program Moderator: Michael Khoo**

**Student Panel Moderators: Dominic De La Torre, Nicholas Dorgan, Toshi Nagai, Sarah Rundquist, Riya Verma**

**9:25 AM** Student Organizations Showcase — ASBME and MEDesign Leadership Teams

*Presentations on their activities and roles in BME education at USC.*

**9:50 AM** Coffee Break

**10:00 AM** PANEL 1 — The BME Advisory Board: Alumni Reflections and Career Journeys

- Dan Maneval, Jay Jiang, Soheila Mirashemi, Dixie Baker, Sandeep Gulati, Poonam Gulati, Peter Garcia-Meza **Moderator: Dominic De La Torre**

**10:30 AM** PANEL 2 — Medical Devices: Diagnostic and Therapeutic **Moderator: Nicholas Dorgan**

- Panelists: Rinda Sama MS '04 (Spiro Medical), Zheng Lin PhD '06 (Restora Medical), Vivek Sheike MSBME '16 (Abbott), Susmita Chatterjee PhD '08 (Maplight Therapeutics), Manish Bathija MS '03 (Eli Lilly), Santiago Kow '02 (Medtronic)

**11:00 AM** PANEL 3 — Biotech and Pharma **Moderator: Sarah Rundquist**

- Panelists: Vasily Belozerooff PhD '01 (Amgen), Wenbo Chen PhD '20 (Merck), Rui Zhu PhD '11 (Genentech), Anh Le PhD '10 (Cedars-Sinai Medical Center), Joy Hsu PhD '09 (Genentech), Lu Xu PhD '03 (Biotech in Stealth)

**11:30 AM** PANEL 4 — Entrepreneurship and Biotech Startups **Moderator: Toshi Nagai**

- Panelists: Aiman Abdel-Malik PhD '88 (Stellarwave Technologies), Robert Sciabassi PhD '71 (Computational Diagnostics), Mya S. Thu MS '05 (VisiCell Medical), John Schultz '88 (JRS Consulting), Navya Davuluri PhD '14 (CurieAi), Nicholas Wettels PhD '11 (Sensate Robotics)

**12:00 PM** PANEL 5 — Academia and Healthcare **Moderator: Riya Verma**

- Panelists: Fred Redfern '79, MD, Quang Nguyen '88, MD '92 (Scripps Clinic), David Mittelstein '13, MD-PhD '22 (UCSD), Adam Bush PhD '17 (UT Austin), Ki Chon PhD '93 (Univ of Connecticut), Laura Marcu PhD '98 (UC Davis), Sabrina Sy BS '23 (MD Candidate, Harvard-MIT HST), Javier Jo PhD '02 (U Oklahoma)

**12:30 – 3:00 PM** Extended Lunch, Q&A with Alumni Panelists and Alumni/Student Mixer

**2:00 PM** Remarks & Announcement by Megan McCain

- Tours of BME instructional labs and facilities for visiting alumni

**3:00 PM** Adjournment of Event