

BIOS 206 Brief Speaker Biographies:

Michele Calos, Ph.D. – Course Organizer; Professor, Department of Genetics, Stanford University School of Medicine. Michele obtained a B.A. in Zoology at Oxford University, and completed a Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Harvard University under the direction of Walter Gilbert. She did postdoctoral studies with Jeffrey Miller in Geneva, Switzerland.



Michele then became an Assistant Professor in the Dept. of Genetics at Stanford. Michele's lab has developed a series of vectors and cell lines useful in genome engineering. Current focus is to develop a comprehensive stem cell therapy for muscular dystrophies, using patient-derived iPSC, correction of disease genes, differentiation to muscle precursor cells, and engraftment.

Matthew Porteus, M.D., Ph.D. – Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics, Stanford University School of Medicine. Matt was an undergraduate at Harvard, then obtained MD and PhD degrees from Stanford. He completed residency and



fellowships at Children’s Hospital, Harvard Medical School and did postdoctoral research with David Baltimore at MIT and Cal Tech. He is board certified in Pediatric Hematology-Oncology. He was an Assistant Professor at UT Southwestern Medical School before moving to Stanford. Matt’s lab performs genome targeting to address a variety of hematopoietic diseases.

Jane Lebkowski, Ph.D. – President of Research, Asterias Biotherapeutics, Inc., Menlo Park, CA. Jane obtained her undergraduate degree in Biology and Chemistry



at Syracuse University and her Ph.D. in Biochemistry at Princeton University. While at Princeton, her Ph.D. Advisor, Ulli Laemmli, moved his laboratory to Geneva, Switzerland. Jane met Michele Calos there and accepted an invitation to do a postdoc at Michele’s new lab at Stanford. After a successful postdoc, Jane entered the biotech industry, first at Applied Immunosciences, which was bought by Rhone-Poulenc Rorer, then at Geron, Inc., where she was Senior Vice President of Regenerative Medicine and CSO and led the stem cell program that carried out the first-ever clinical trial utilizing human embryonic stem cells. After Geron stopped work on stem cells, the relevant intellectual property was obtained by a new company, Asterias, which is continuing to pursue clinical trials with ESC for spinal cord injury.

Ann Tsukamoto, Ph.D. Executive Vice President of Scientific and Strategic Alliances, StemCells Inc. Ann was an undergraduate at UC San Diego. She obtained



her Ph.D. at UCLA and carried out postdoctoral research with Harold Varmus at UCSF. She joined the biotech company SyStemix from 1989 – 1997, where she was involved with isolation of the hematopoietic stem cell. Ann joined StemCells Inc, in 1998, where she has held several leadership roles overseeing isolation and application of human neural and liver stem cells to various diseases.

Birgitt Schuele, M.D., Associate Professor at The Parkinson’s Institute. Dr. Schuele was a medical student at Goerg August University Goettingen, did an internship in Neurology and Neurogenetics at the University Leubeck, and was a postdoctoral



fellow in the Department of Genetics at Stanford, working with Uta Francke. Birgitt Directs the Research Program in Gene Discovery and Stem Cell Modeling at the Parkinson’s Institute, an institute in Sunnyvale, CA that both treats patients and carries out research.



Joseph Wu, M.D., Ph.D. Dr. Wu obtained his M.D. from Yale and completed residency and cardiology fellowship training and a Ph.D. at UCLA. He is currently Director of the Stanford Cardiovascular Institute and a Professor in the Departments of Medicine (Cardiology) and Radiology at Stanford University School of Medicine.

Joe Gold, Ph.D., Assistant Director, Translational Research, Cardiovascular Institute, Stanford. Prior to Stanford, Joe was Senior Director, Neurobiology and Cell



Therapies at Geron and Senior Director, Stem Cell Biology and Research Operations at Geron. He obtained a Ph.D. in Cell and Developmental Biology at Harvard University.

Casey Case, Ph.D. Executive Vice President Research, SanBio Inc., Mountain View, CA. Dr. Case obtained a Ph.D. in Biochemistry at UC Davis and did postdoctoral



studies in Molecular Genetics at UCLA. He worked at OSI Pharmaceuticals, Amgen (Tularik), Sangamo BioSciences, and Multispan, prior to SanBio. SanBio is concerned with cell therapy, stem cell research, and regenerative medicine.



Gary Steinberg, M.D., Ph.D. Professor and Chair, Dept. Neurosurgery, Stanford. Gary was an undergraduate in Biology at Yale and obtained M.D. and Ph.D. degrees at Stanford. He is founder and Co-Director of the Stanford Stroke Center and Director of the Stanford Institute for Neuro-Innovation and Translational Neurosciences. He has performed clinical trials with human embryonic stem cells for spinal cord injury and with mesenchymal stem cells for stroke.