

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSIOLOGY
and
MOLECULAR SYSTEMS MEDICINE INITIATIVE

Visceral and Interoceptive Systems Physiology

October 29, 2025 in HSIB 306
Full day Networking and Research Symposium

8:30 Welcoming remarks

8:45 Keynote Address: **Sahib Khalsa, MD PhD. UCLA:**
Interoceptive Neuroscience: at the intersection of health and disease

9:30 **Maya Kaelberer, PhD. U of A:** *What the gut tells the brain*

9:50 **Kati Gothard, MD PhD. U of A:** *Interoception and decision making*

10:10 **Mario Romero-Ortega, PhD. U of A:** *Wiretapping the
heart-spleen and brain-renal conversations*

10:30 – 11:00. Coffee break

11:00 Keynote Address: **Eliza Bliss-Moreau, PhD. UC Davis:**
Animal models of interoception

11:45 Closing Discussion of the morning session

12:00 – 1:30 Poster session and time for Lunch

1:30 **Paulo Pires, PhD. U of A:** *How to interpret the BOLD
signal in human interoceptive research*

1:50 **Haijiang Cai, PhD. U of A:** *Satiation in the amygdala
and parabrachial nucleus*

2:10 **John Konhilas, PhD. U of A:** *Does the gut play a role
heart disease?*

2:30 **Kara Marshall, PhD. Baylor College of Medicine:** *Interoceptive signals
from the urinary tract*

2:50 – 3:00 Short break

3:00 **Diego Bohorquez, PhD. Duke University:** *Our gut sense in health and
disease*

3:30 – 4:00 Closing Discussion of the afternoon session

