

AGENDA

Monday, October 13th, 2025

1:00 pm	Registration and Poster Set Up
1:30 pm	<i>Welcome –</i> Francesca Duncan, PhD , and J. Julie Kim, PhD , CRS Co-Directors, Northwestern
01:45 pm	<i>CRS Alumni Speaker – "The Role of Retinoic Acid Signaling in Ovary Development"</i> JingJing Kipp, PhD , Associate Professor, Reproductive Biology, DePaul University
02:15 pm	<i>Opening Keynote – "In Utero Inflammation: Acute vs. Chronic Paths to Preterm Birth and Outcomes"</i> Nardhy Gómez-López, PhD , Professor, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Washington University
03:15 pm	<i>Afternoon Break</i>
03:30 pm	<i>Shaw Innovation Awards – (4 talks, 15 minutes each, including Q&A)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Sex-specific effects of placental aging on adverse pregnancy outcomes</i> Alexa Freeman, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Preventative Medicine, Northwestern <i>Age-dependent molecular determinants of skeletal health in male and female mice</i> Jane Joy Thomas, PhD, Postdoctoral Fellow, Division of Nephrology and Hypertension, Department of Medicine, Northwestern <i>Neural mechanisms of cost-benefit decision making in males and females</i> Julia Cox, PhD, Research Assistant Professor of Neuroscience, Northwestern <i>Role of FGF23 on cardiac outcomes in male and female mice with autosomal recessive hypophosphatemia</i> Dominik Kentrup, PhD, Postdoctoral Fellow, Division of Nephrology and Hypertension, Department of Medicine, Northwestern
04:30 pm	Poster Presentations and Networking
06:30 pm	Trainee Mixer (location TBD)

Tuesday, October 14th, 2025

08:00 am	Breakfast and Registration
08:15 am	<i>Welcome –</i> Trainee Co-Chairs, Northwestern

Session 1: Pre-clinical & Clinical Discoveries Transforming Patient Care	
08:30 am	<i>Session 1 Speaker – Uterine transplants</i> Kathleen O’Neill, MD, MTR , Assistant Professor, Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Pennsylvania
09:00 am	Select Trainee Oral Presentations (3 talks, 15 minutes each, including Q&A) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trainee Talk 1 • Trainee Talk 2 • Trainee Talk 3
09:45 am	Poster Session 1 of 2 (Group A presents)
Session 2: Turning Translational Science into Solutions	
10:45 am	<i>Session 2 Speaker – “Modalities to block sperm-egg fusion”</i> Jeff Lee, PhD , Associate Professor, Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology, University of Toronto
11:15 am	Select Trainee Oral Presentations (3 talks, 15 minutes each) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trainee Talk 1 • Trainee Talk 2 • Trainee Talk 3
12:00 pm	<i>Lunch Workshop: Career Affinity Groups</i> (desired topics will be selected at registration) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic Research • Science Communication and Writing • Administration and Education • Industry • Policy • Tech Transfer/Entrepreneurship/Venture Capital • IP/Patent Law • Clinical Research • Consulting
Session 3 – Breakthroughs and Innovation in Reproductive Technology	
01:00 pm	<i>Session 3 Speaker – “Application of Artificial Intelligence in the IVF Laboratory”</i> Charles Bormann, PhD , Associate Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Biology, Harvard University
01:30 pm	Select Trainee Oral Presentations (3 talks, 15 minutes each) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trainee Talk 1 • Trainee Talk 2 • Trainee Talk 3
02:15 pm	<i>Afternoon Break (15 minutes)</i>

02:30 pm	Poster Session 2 of 2 (Group B Presents)
03:30 pm	<i>Closing Keynote – “Advancing Reproductive Medicine in Challenging Times”</i> Rebecca O’Connor, JD , Director of the Center for Policy and Leadership, ASRM
04:30 pm	<i>Reproductive Policy Panel</i> (Moderated by trainee co-chair Prianka Hashim) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rebecca O’Connor, JD, Director of the Center for Policy and Leadership, ASRM • Joyce Reinecke, JD, Executive Director, Alliance for Fertility Preservation • Juliet Sorenson, JD, Clinical Professor of Law, Loyola University • Sarah Rodriguez, PhD, Lecturer, Medical Education, Northwestern
05:15 pm	<i>Awards and Final Thoughts –</i> Francesca Duncan, PhD , and J. Julie Kim, PhD , CRS Co-Directors, Northwestern
05:30 pm	<i>Adjourn</i>