

**Center for Vision Science Annual Symposium**  
**January 9, 2026**  
**UC Davis Health, Education Building, Matsui Lecture Hall**  
**4610 X Street, Sacramento**

8:00 – 8:30	<b>Registration, Breakfast</b>
8:30 - 8:45	Center for Vision Sciences Welcome and Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome: Paul Sieving, M.D., Ph.D., CVS Director</li> <li>• T32 Training Grant: Marie Burns, Ph.D.</li> <li>• NEI Core Facilities Grant: Marty Usrey, Ph.D.</li> </ul>
8:45 – 8:50	<b>Center for Vision Science Lecture</b> Speaker Introduction: Sara Thomasy, D.V.M., Ph.D., DACVO
8:50 – 9:40	<b>Gustavo Aguirre, VDM, Ph.D., Ph.D.(hc)</b> Professor of Medical Genetics and Ophthalmology Section of Ophthalmology School of Veterinary Medicine University of Pennsylvania <b>“The Dog - An Ophthalmologist's Best Friend: Developing Gene Therapies for Inherited Retinal Diseases”</b>
9:40 – 9:50	Q & A
9:50 – 10:15	<b>Coffee Break and Poster Session (1<sup>st</sup> Floor Lobby)</b>
10:15 – 10:30	<b>Mark S. Goldman, Ph.D.</b> <b>“What a zebrafish connectome can tell us about the control of eye movements”</b>
10:30 – 10:35	Q & A
10:35 – 10:50	<b>Mirella Rivera-Velazquez, B.S.</b> <b>“A Non-Human Primate Model of Intravitreal AAV Gene Therapy-Associated Uveitis”</b>
10:50 – 10:55	Q & A
10:55 – 11:10	<b>Suma Shankar, M.D., Ph.D.</b> <b>“Genome Sequencing in the eye clinic: are we there?”</b>
11:10 – 11:15	Q & A
11:15 – 11:30	<b>Gary Novack, Ph.D.</b> <b>“Horses for Courses”</b>
11:30 – 11:35	Q & A
11:35 – 1:00	<b>Lunch (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor) and Poster Session (1<sup>st</sup> Floor Lobby)</b>
1:00 – 1:05	<b>Center for Vision Science Special Lecture</b> Speaker Introduction: Paul Sieving, M.D., Ph.D.
1:05 – 1:40	<b>K. Thiran Jayasundera, M.D., M.S., F.A.C.S.</b> Natalie Fosse Endowed Chair in Vision Science Research Chairman and Professor, Department of Ophthalmology & Vision Science University of California, Davis Eye Center & Ernest E. Tschannen Eye Institute <b>“Improving Functional Outcomes for Individuals with Inherited Retinal Diseases”</b>
1:40 – 1:50	Q & A
1:50 – 2:05	<b>Katherine Jordan, B.S.</b> <b>“Multisensory Updating of Affordance Judgements After a Change in Body Size”</b>
2:05 – 2:10	Q & A
2:10 – 2:25	<b>Miranda Krueger, B.S.</b> <b>“Novel Roles of Sonic Hedgehog Signaling in Retinal Patterning and Neurogenesis During Mammalian Eye Development”</b>
2:25 – 2:30	Q & A
2:30 - 2:35	<b>Raneesh Ramarapu, D.V.M., Ph.D. Candidate</b> <b>“A cross-species single-cell multiomic atlas of the periocular mesenchyme reveals conserved developmental programs underlying corneal specification and anterior segment anomalies”</b>
2:35 – 2:40	Q & A
2:40 - 3:10	<b>Coffee Break (1<sup>st</sup> Floor Lobby)</b>

3:10 - 3:25	<b>Sara Thomasy, D.V.M., Ph.D., DACVO</b> "The monkeys have it: A nonhuman primate model of autosomal dominant optic atrophy"
3:25 – 3:30	Q & A
3:30 - 3:45	<b>Nadean Brown, Ph.D.</b> "Multiple roles for Pax2 in ocular astrocyte development and function"
3:45 – 3:50	Q & A
3:50 – 3:55	<b>John L. Keltner, M.D., Lectureship</b> Introduction of Lectureship: K. Thiran Jayasundera, M.D., M.S., F.A.C.S.
3:55 – 4:00	Speaker Introduction: Anna La Torre, Ph.D.
4:00 – 4:50	<b>Monica Vetter, Ph.D.</b> George and Lorna Winder Professor of Neuroscience Chair, Department of Neurobiology Adjunct Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences Spencer Fox Eccles School of Medicine University of Utah
4:50 – 5:00	<b>"The Role of Foxp1 in Coordinating Progression of Retinal Progenitors"</b> Q & A
5:00 - 6:00	<b>Reception (1<sup>st</sup> Floor Lobby)</b>



## **Center for Vision Science Symposium**

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UC Davis Health

Education Building, Matsui Lecture Hall

### **CVS Symposium Co-Chairs**

**Paul Sieving, M.D., Ph.D.**

Neil and MJ Kelly Presidential Chair in Vitreoretinal Science  
Director, Center for Vision Science  
Director, Center for Ocular Regenerative Therapy  
University of California, Davis

**Sara M. Thomasy, D.V.M., Ph.D., DACVO**

Professor of Comparative Ophthalmology  
Co-Chair of the Graduate Group in Integrative Pathobiology  
Co-Director of the Comparative Medical Scientist Training Program  
Department of Surgical & Radiological Sciences  
School of Veterinary Medicine  
University of California, Davis

**Anna La Torre, Ph.D.**

Professor  
Department of Cell Biology and Human Anatomy  
School of Medicine  
University of California, Davis

### **Keynote Speakers**

**Gustavo Aguirre, VDM, Ph.D., Ph.D.(hc)**

Professor of Medical Genetics and Ophthalmology  
Section of Ophthalmology  
School of Veterinary Medicine  
University of Pennsylvania

**K. Thiran Jayasundera, M.D., M.S., F.A.C.S.**

Natalie Fosse Endowed Chair in Vision Science Research  
Chairman and Professor, Department of Ophthalmology & Vision Science  
University of California, Davis Eye Center & Ernest E. Tschannen Eye Institute

### **John L. Keltner, M.D., Lectureship in Ophthalmology**

**Monica Vetter, Ph.D.**

George and Lorna Winder Professor of Neuroscience  
Chair, Department of Neurobiology  
Adjunct Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences  
Spencer Fox Eccles School of Medicine  
University of Utah

## **SPEAKERS**

### **Nadean Brown, Ph.D.**

Professor

Department of Cell Biology and Human Anatomy  
University of California, Davis

### **Mark S. Goldman, Ph.D.**

HHMI Professor

Joel Keizer Endowed Chair in Theoretical and  
Computational Biology

Faculty, Center for Neuroscience

Department of Neurobiology, Physiology, and  
Behavior

Department of Ophthalmology and Vision Science  
University of California, Davis

### **Katherine Jordan, B.S.**

Ph.D. Candidate

Department of Neurobiology, Physiology, and  
Behavior

University of California, Davis

### **Miranda Krueger, B.S.**

Graduate Student Researcher

BMCDB Graduate Group, La Torre Lab

Department of Cell Biology and Human Anatomy  
University of California, Davis School of Medicine

### **Gary Novack, Ph.D.**

Professor

Vice Chair of Collaborative Research

Department of Ophthalmology and Vision Science  
University of California, Davis Health

### **Raneesh Ramarapu, D.V.M., Ph.D. Candidate**

Department of Surgical & Radiological Sciences  
at Comparative Ophthalmology and Vision  
Sciences Lab

Department of Anatomy, Physiology & Cell  
Biology at Rogers Lab

School of Veterinary Medicine

University of California, Davis Health

### **Mirella Rivera-Velazquez, B.S.**

BMCDB Graduate Student, Yiu Lab

Department of Ophthalmology and Vision Science  
University of California, Davis Health

### **Suma Shankar, M.D., Ph.D.**

UC Davis Genomic Medicine

University of California, Davis

## **POSTERS**

**Monica Ardon, B.S.**

University of California, Davis

***Onset and Progression of Disease***

**Yao Cai, Ph.D.**

University of California, Davis Health

***Adaptive optics OCT used to measure outer segment length dynamic equilibria in response to constant backgrounds***

**Niusha Kasiri, M.D.**

University of California, Davis

***Searching for New Genes that Cause Usher Syndrome***

**Sabrina Khan, M.S.**

University of California, Davis

***Assessing Changes to Structural and Functional Corneal Endothelial Markers in Col8a2-Mutant Mice Over Time***

**Jaegook Lim, D.V.M., Ph.D.**

University of California, Davis

***Age-related retinal ganglion cell changes in a nonhuman primate model of autosomal dominant optic atrophy***

**Reddikumar Maddipatla, Ph.D.**

University of California, Davis

***Clinical optoretinography for evaluating photoreceptor disease***

**Raneesh Ramarapu, D.V.M., Ph.D. Candidate**

School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California, Davis Health

***Tubulin subtype expression patterns developmental origins and cellular morphology of the developing chick cornea and periocular mesenchyme***

**Joseph Rosas, Ph.D. Student**

University of California, Davis Health

***Human X chromosome fragile site presenting congenital eye malformations***

**Ana Sandoval-Castellanos**

University of California, Davis

**TBD**

**Charles Shang, M.D.**

University of California, Davis

***The organizer network - a post-embryonic growth control system***

**Christine Xu, M.D.**

University of California, Davis Health

***Analysis of Late-Diagnosed Cases of Pediatric Glaucoma***