Tucson Myofilament Meeting

What's Hot in Myofilament Structure, Elasticity, and Regulatory Networks in Muscle Function and Disease

MAY 23–26, 2026

WELCOME TO THE TUCSON MYOFILAMENT MEETING!

It is our great pleasure to welcome you to Tucson for the 2026 Myofilament Meeting, “What’s Hot in Myofilament Structure, Elasticity, and Regulatory Networks in Muscle Function and Disease.” We are excited to host this new biennial meeting series dedicated to myofibrillar and cytoskeletal proteins and the many scientists advancing this vibrant field.

With approximately 250 participants, the meeting brings together an outstanding international community of investigators spanning molecular biophysics, muscle physiology, disease mechanisms, and therapeutic development. We look forward to several days of outstanding science, lively discussions, new collaborations, and the exchange of innovative ideas that will help shape the future of the field. Importantly, we hope this meeting further strengthens and broadens the highly interactive, collegial, and collaborative myofilament community.

WELCOME TO TUCSON!

The following institutions and companies have provided generous sponsorship for our meeting, and we wish to thank them for their support:

Sarver Heart Center
https://heart.arizona.edu/

Cytokinetics
https://cytokinetics.com/

Department of Cellular and Molecular Medicine
https://cmm.arizona.edu/

IonOptix
https://www.ionoptix.com/

Edgewise Therapeutics
https://edgewisetx.com/

Aurora Scientific
https://aurorascientific.com/

Team Titin
https://titinmyopathy.com/

Dr. Peipei Ping
https://phoenixmed.arizona.edu/bmi/peipei-ping

Journal of General Physiology
https://rupress.org/jgp

Molecular CardiovascularResearch Program
https://mcrp.med.arizona.edu/

WE HOPE YOU ENJOY THE MEETING!

Organizing committee: Elisabetta Brunello, Brandon Biesiadecki, Tony Cammarato, Brett Colson (local committee representative), Henk Granzier (Chair), Jonathan Kirk, Katia Kontrogianni-Kanstantopolous, Mike Regnier, Jolanda van der Velden, Dave Warshaw.

ECI Committee: Kathleen Woulfe and David Barefield. (2028 ECI organizers, Matt Childers and Alison Vander Roest). ECI committee will organize the ECI symposium on Saturday May 23.

Local Committee: Brett Colson (chair), Sam Harris, Jil Tardiff, Carter Ralphe (former chair of UW/Madison committee), Sakthi Sadayappan, Tae-Jeong Song, Carl Tong.

Conference Coordinator: Becca Van Sickler ... **Email: beccav@arizona.edu**

Scientific Program: Henk Granzier..... **Email: granzier@arizona.edu**

TRANSPORTATION

Tucson International Airport is ~20 minutes by car to the conference hotel. Uber/Lyft and taxis readily available

***** Please note the location and times of buses to transport our out-of-town guests to meeting locations *****

ECI Day (Saturday): HSIB is ~ 1 mile from the Marriott (walking direction, see QR code below). Additionally, Cat Tran shuttle will pick up guests at the Marriott beginning at 9:00am. Shuttle will make several trips.

Main meeting (Sunday - Tuesday): The distance between the Marriott and Harvill building is at ~0.3 mile easily walkable for most attendees (walking direction, see QR code below and end of booklet). However, transportation will be available. Please use the QR code on the next page to request a ride.

Conference dinner (Monday): Buses will be available outside of the Marriott (to the left of the entrance) to transport our out-of-town guests to Tanque Verde Ranch for the Cowboy Cookout. **Buses will leave the Marriott at 6:00pm sharp - don’t be late!**

Workshops (Tuesday): A bus will be available to transport workshop attendees from the Marriott to the Medical Research Building. **Bus will leave at 2:15** This is a~ 1 mile distance (walking direction, see QR code below).

GOOGLE MAP LOCATIONS OF VARIOUS MEETING VENUES:

Tucson Marriott University Park
880 E 2nd St, Tucson, 85721
Saturday welcome reception,
Sunday -Tuesday, lunch, poster sessions vendor shows.

Health Sciences Innovation Building
HSIB, 1670 E Drachman St, Tucson, AZ 85721.
ECI symposium, Saturday

Harvill
1103 E 2nd St, Tucson, 85721.
Oral sessions and Plenary lectures, Sunday- Tuesday

Medical Research Building
MRB 1656 E Mabel Street, Tucson, AZ 85721
(Workshops, Tuesday)

Gentle Ben’s
865 E University Blvd., Tucson, AZ 85719
Networking event, Sunday evening

Tanque Verde Ranch
14301 E Speedway Blvd, Tucson, 85748
Cowboy Cookout, Monday evening. Buses leave at 6:00 pm from Marriott

More location details and maps at back of program booklet

TUCSON 2026 MYOFILAMENT MEETING

When: May 23–26, 2026

Where: ECI Symposium: Health Sciences Innovation Building
Main Meeting: Harvill Auditorium (Room 150)
University of Arizona Campus, Tucson

Hotel: Tucson Marriott University Park

Registration Desk Times and Locations

The registration desk will be open at the following times and locations. T-shirts and other swag items will only be available at the Marriott. If you check in at another location, please stop by the Marriott afterward to pick up your items.

Date	Time	Location
Friday, May 22nd	5:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Marriott Ballroom
Saturday, May 23rd	9:00 am - 11:00 am	HSIB Forum
Saturday, May 23rd	5:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Marriott Ballroom
Sunday, May 24th	7:30 am - 9:30 am	Harvill Patio
Sunday, May 24th	11:00 am - 1:00 pm	Marriott Ballroom
Sunday, May 24th	3:30 pm - 6:00 pm	Marriott Ballroom
Monday, May 25th	12:00 pm - 2:00 pm	Marriott Ballroom
Monday, May 25th	4:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Marriott Ballroom

If you would like to request a ride from one meeting location to another, or if you have a general question about meeting logistics scan this QR code to submit your request /question

SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

Saturday, May 23
- ECI Symposium
  - 18 talks (10 min) selected from abstracts
  - Senior PI Plenary Presentation: Jil Tardiff, MD, PhD
- Welcome Reception

Sunday, May 24
- Oral session I
- Plenary lecture I
- Oral session II
- Plenary lecture II
- Poster session I
- Networking event at Gentle Ben's Brewpub

Monday, May 25
- Oral session III
- Oral session IV
- Plenary lecture III
- Oral session V
- Plenary lecture IV
- Poster session 2
- Conference dinner at Tanque Verde Ranch

Tuesday, May 26
- Oral session VI
- Plenary lecture V
- Closing session
  - Awards
  - Present and future of the field
  - Closing remarks
- Optional Workshops

MYOFILAMENT MEETING SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, MAY 23, 2026

9:30 am – 5:00 pm — Health Sciences Innovation Building (HSIB) Forum

Early Career Investigator Symposium

David Barefield
Loyola University Chicago

KC Woulfe
University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

Alison Vander Roest
University of Michigan

Matthew Childers
University of Washington

9:30 am – 10:30 am

9:30 am	Welcome
Group 1.	**Graduate students**. 8 min talks; 2 min question.
Moderator:	**Matthew Childers**
9:40 am	**Hannah Cizauskas**, Loyola University Chicago
9:50 am	**Torri Heiser,** University of Calgary
10:00 am	**Brook Hodgeman,** University of Vermont
10:10 am	**Austin Minton,** University of Kentucky
10:20 am	**Juhi V Sur,** Max Delbrück Center for Molec Medicine

Audience member can vote for best presentation. QR code available at end of last talk.

10:30 am – 10:50 am — **Coffee Break**

10:50 am – 11:20 am — **Career Development- Academia**

Moderated discussion, submit questions to the moderators

Upload Questions ahead of time

Moderator: **KC Woulfe**
Speaker: **Marjorie Lindhurst,** Program Director, Muscle Development and Physiology Program, National Institutes of Health

11:20 am – 12:10 pm — **Group 2: Postdoc Fellows**. 8 min talks; 2 min question.

Moderator:	**Alison Vander Roest**
11:20 am	**Ricardo Galli,** National Institutes of Health
11:30 am	**Johannes Janssens,** Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
11:40 am	**Laura Sherer,** University of Chicago
11:50 am	**Jonathon Smith,** National Institutes of Health
12:00 am	**Michele Zanetti,** Yale University

Audience member can vote for best presentation. QR code available at end of last talk.

12:10 pm – 1:10 pm **New Connections Lunch**

1:10 pm – 2:00 pm
HSIB

Senior PI Plenary Presentation: **Jil Tardiff,** University of Arizona
Walking a Thin Line: Traversing a Career in Myofilament Biology as a Physician-Scientist

2:00 pm – 2:50 pm
HSIB

Group 3: Junior Faculty . 8 min talks; 2 min question.

Moderator: **Dave Barefield**

22:00 pm **Ankit Garg,** Johns Hopkins Medicine
2:10 pm **Joe Powers,** University of Washington
2:20 pm **Melissa Lynn,** University of Arizona
2:30 pm **Matthew Childers,** University of Washington
2:40 pm **Christopher Pappas,** University of Arizona

2:50 pm – 3:10 pm **Break**

3:10 pm – 3:55 pm
HSIB

Career Development– Industry

(Moderated discussion, submit questions to the moderators ahead of time)

Moderators: **David Barefield & KC Woulfe**

Panelists: **Saffie Mohran,** Kardigan
Mark McConnell, Borealis Biosciences

Moderated discussion, submit questions to the moderators ahead of time

3:55 pm-5:00 pm
HSIB

Trainee Career Development Breakout Sessions

2 × 30-minute group conversations (Pick 2)

Group A: **Industry research**
Group B: **New faculty advice**
Group C: **Alternative funding sources**
Group D: **Choosing the right postdoc lab**
Group E: **Deep dive into NIH funding**
Group F: **How to talk to general audiences**

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm **Welcome Reception**
Tucson Marriott
University Park Terrace

SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2026

7:30 am – 8:00 am
Harvill Patio

Coffee Conversational (Optional)
(light refreshments)

8:00 am – 8:10 am
Harvill 150

Welcome

8:15 am – 10:00 am
Harvill 150

Oral Session I - High resolution filament structure

Moderator: Pradeep Luther/Rama Reddy Goluguri (ECI)

- **Roberto Dominguez** (University of Pennsylvania): *Thin filament length regulation: a structural-functional perspective* ***(20 min)***
- **Kristina Djinović-Carugo** (EMBL Grenoble): *Order from disorder: towards the molecular architecture of the Sarcomeric Z-disc* ***(20 min)***
- **Vitold Galkin** (East Virginia University): *Allosteric coupling within the thin filament: a mechanism for adaptive activation during cardiac contraction* ***(20 min)***
- **Marco Linari** (University of Florence): *Dual filament regulation of cardiac contraction* ***(20 min)***
- **Steven Schwarz** (University of Arizona): *How mutations transmit their effects across 100's of angstroms and across multiple proteins through allostery in the sarcomere* ***(15 min)***
- **Olga Karpicheva** (Boston University): *Quantifying the structural basis of thin filament cooperativity: the effect of single myosin-heads on the position of tropomyosin on actin* ***(10 min)***

Use the QR code or URL to submit "Structural" questions and comments related to Session I and Plenary Lecture I, as possible broader Structural topics for the "Present and Future of the Myofilament Field" session. Submitted questions will be curated by Roger Craig.

10:00 am – 10:30 am
Harvill Patio

Coffee Break
(light refreshments)

10:30 am – 11:00 am
Harvill 150

Plenary Lecture I

Stefan Raunser (Max Planck, Dortmund):
What can we learn from the structure of myofilaments?

11:10 am – 12:50 pm
Tucson Marriott
University Park Ballroom

Lunch

Poster Session I

1:00 pm – 2:40 pm
Harvill 150

Oral Session II – Regulation of contraction
Moderator: Tom Irving/Axel Fenwick (ECI)

- **Kenneth Campbell** (University of Kentucky): *Regulation of diastolic function in human hearts* ***(20 min)***
- **Theresia Kraft** (Hannover Medical School): *Myosin and troponin in thin filament activation and hypertrophic cardiomyopathy* ***(20 min)***
- **E Michael Ostap** (University of Pennsylvania): *Mutation-driven mechanochemical changes in β-cardiac myosin* ***(20 min)***
- **Chiara Tesi** (University of Florence): *Probing myosin states by myosin motor modulators and SHG microscopy* ***(20 min)***
- **Sakthivel Sadayappan** (University of Arizona): D*efining Novel Roles of Linker and Loop Regions of cMyBP-C in Cardiac Function In Vivo* ***(15 min)***
- **Shane Nelson** (University of Vermont): S*eeing is believing at the single molecule level: Are myosin's IHM and SRX states inextricably linked?* ***(10 min)***

Use QR code or URL to submit "Regulation" questions and comments related to Session II and Plenary Lecture II, as possible broader Regulation topics for the "Present and Future of the Myofilament Field" session. Submitted questions will be curated by Malcolm Irving.

2:45 pm – 3:15 pm
Harvill 150

Plenary Lecture II

James Spudich (Stanford University): *Myosin: An exquisite nanomachine and the power of basic research in drug discovery*

3:30 pm – 6:00 pm
Tucson Marriott
University Park Ballroom

Poster Session II
(Light refreshments)

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Gentle Ben's Brewery

Networking Event
(Heavy appetizers)

MONDAY, MAY 25TH, 2026

7:30 am – 8:00 am
Harvill Patio

Coffee Conversational (Optional)
(Light refreshments)

8:00 am – 9:30 am
Harvill 150

Oral Session III – Smooth muscles and non-muscle myosins!
Moderators: **Samantha Harris** and Frank Brozovich

- Introduction by **Samantha Harris** (University of Arizona) ***(5 min)***
- **Marion Siegman** (Thomas Jefferson University): *The economy of force maintenance in smooth muscle: lessons learned from a mussel muscle* ***(20 min)***
- **Jordan Beach** (Loyola University): *Optogenetic control of myosin 2 in cells* ***(20 min)***
- **Sarah Heissler** (Ohio State University): *Structure and regulation of nonmuscle myosins* ***(20 min)***
- **Jim Sellers** (NHLBI): *Nonmuscle myosin 2 filaments: short, slow and stubborn…kind of like me* ***(20 min)***

QR code and URL allows you to submit "Smooth muscle and non-muscle myosin" questions and comments related to Session III, as possible topics for the "Present and Future of the Myofilament Field" session. Questions will be curated by Sam Harris and Frank Brozovich.

9:30 am – 10:30 am

Coffee Break
(Light refreshments)

10:00 am – 11:20 am
Harvill 150

Oral Session IV – PTMs associated with myofilament structure and function

Moderator: Thomas Kampourakis/Angie Greenman (ECI)

- **Michael Previs** (University of Vermont): *Mechanisms of myosin incorporation in cardiac muscle* ***(20 mins)***
- **Joseph Metzger** (University of Minnesota): P*rimed state of sarcomere activation establishes mechanism of force summation in skeletal muscle* ***(20 mins)***
- **Mark Miller** (University of Massachusetts, Amherst): *Distinct skeletal muscle fiber-type contractile responses to regulatory light chain phosphorylation and fatigue at 37°C in older adults* ***(20 mins)***
- **Sıla Algül** (University of Amsterdam): *Phosphoproteomics of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy patient myocardium and novel hiPSC-CM model reveal protein kinase A as a modulator of microtubule repolymerization* ***(20 mins)***

QR code and URL allows you to submit "PTM" questions related to Session IV, and Plenary lecture III as possible questions for the "Present and Future of the Myofilament Field session". Questions will be curated by Jonathan Kirk.

11:30 am – 12:00 pm
Harvill 150

Plenary Lecture III

Jennifer Van Eyk (Cedars-Sinai Medical Center): *New tools to quantify the impact of Sarcomeric mutations on myofilament structure and the cellular proteome*

12:15 pm – 2:05 pm
Tucson Marriott
University Park Ballroom

Lunch
Poster Session II

2:15 pm – 3:55 pm
Harvill 150

Oral Session V – Mechanosensing
Moderator: Siegfried Labeit/Robbert van der Pijl (ECI)

- **Jie Yan** (National University of Singapore): *Force-Activated Binding in Titin: Hidden Structural Switches in the N2B-us and N2A Regions* ***(20 mins)***
- **Jose Pinto** (Florida State University): F*rom sarcomere to nucleus: how TNNT2 variants remodel nucleus mechanics in cardiomyocytes* ***(20 mins)***
- **Wolfgang Linke** (University of Münster): *Titin springs as orchestrators of cardiac structure and function: lessons from an in vivo cleavage model* ***(20 mins)***
- **Elisabetta Brunello** (King's College, London): *Molecular basis of length-dependent activation in cardiac muscle* ***(20 mins)***
- **Jorge Alegre-Cebollada** (CINIC/Spain): Studying mechanosensing by cleaving proteins: the example of titin ***(20 mins)***

QR code and URL allows you to submit "Mechanosensing" questions and comments related to Session V as questions for the "Present and Future of the Myofilament Field" session. Questions will be curated by Jeff Moore.

4:00 pm 4:30 pm
Harvill 150

Plenary Lecture IV
David Kass (Johns Hopkins University): *What happens to the sarcomere when severe obesity collides with heart failure?*

Submit "Myofilament-based disease" questions and comments related to Plenary talk IV (David Kass), Session VI (Myofilament-based disease), and Plenary talk V (Alan Russell) for the "Present and Future of the Myofilament Field" session. Questions will by curated by Michael Gotthardt.

4:40 pm – 5:50 pm
Tucson Marriott
University Park Ballroom

Poster Session II
(Light refreshments)

5:50 pm – 6:00 pm
Marriott Entrance

Board bus to conference dinner – bus leaves at 6:00 pm

6:45 pm – 8:45 pm
Tanque Verde Guest Ranch

Cowboy Cookout
(Conference dinner and Conference Photo)

8:45 pm – 9:15 pm
Tanque Verde
Guest Ranch Entrance

Board bus to return to Marriott – bus leaves at 9:15 pm

TUESDAY, MAY 26TH, 2026

7:30 am – 8:00 am
Harvill Patio

Coffee Conversational (Optional)
(Light refreshments)

8:00 am – 10:30 am
Harvill 150

Oral Session VI – Myofilament-based diseases
Moderator: Coen Ottenheijm/Ricardo Gali (ECI)

- **Vandana Gupta** (Harvard University): *Restoring muscle growth in nemaline myopathy: from sarcomere defects to therapeutic strategies* ***(20 mins)***
- **Mathias Gautel** (King's College, London): T*itin M-band linked cardio/myopathies* ***(20 mins)***
- **David Mack** (University of Washington): *Using 3D engineered cardiac & skeletal muscle tissues for DMD disease modeling & drug discovery* ***(20 mins)***

9:00 am – 9:30 am - Coffee Break on Harvill Patio

- **J Travis Hinson** (The Jackson Laboratory in Farmington): *Precision genome editing of the cardiac myofilament* ***(20 mins)***
- **Sharlene Day** (University of Pennsylvania): *The therapeutic landscape of inherited cardiomyopathies* ***(20 mins)***
- **Hesham Sadek** (University of Arizona) *Structure and Phenotypic Correction of K210del Dilated Cardiomyopathy* ***(20 mins)***

Submit "Myofilament-based disease" questions and comments related to Plenary talk IV (David Kass), Session VI, and Plenary talk V (Alan Russell) for the "Present and Future of the Myofilament Field" session. Questions will by curated by Michael Gotthardt.

10:30 am – 11:00 am
Harvill 150

Plenary Lecture V
Alan Russell (Edgewise Therapeutics): *Drug development strategies targeting myofilaments*

11:00 am – 11:20 am
Harvill Patio

Brief Coffee Break
(Light refreshments)

11:20 am – 12:40 pm

Harvill Auditorium

Closing Session

- **Poster awards and ECI awards** *(15 mins)*
  Moderators: Kathleen Wolfe and David Barefield
- **Present and future of the field** *(60 mins)*
  Moderators: Dave Warshaw, Anne Houdusse, Sharlene Day, Siegfried Labeit
- **Closing remarks** *(5 min)*
  Henk Granzier

12:50 pm – 2:00 pm

Tucson Marriott
University Park Ballroom

Lunch

2:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Medical Research Building (MRB) Room 102 (echo workshop)

3rd floor, room 340 Ionoptix and Aurora workshops

Mouse Echocardiography

Scan the QR code to view workshop details and reserve your spot.

Aurora Single Fiber Mechanics workshop.

Use QR code to register.

Workshops (Optional)

- **Mouse Echocardiography** (Carl Tong & Marloes van den Berg) An introductory overview and a hands-on demonstration, with a focus on technique, reproducible measurements, and assessment of cardiac function, including diastolic function. Scan the QR code to view workshop details and reserve your spot.
- **Ionoptix workshop** (cardiac slicer/ MyoClamp System). Contact Adam to sign up: **adam@ionoptix.com**
- **Aurora Single Fiber Mechanics workshop.**
  Chris Rand and Seong-won Han.

POSTER SESSIONS

All posters will be displayed on both Sunday and Monday. Poster presentation times are organized by research topic and will take place on the following days at the times listed in the meeting schedule:

Sunday Poster Presentations

Poster Session I

- Myofilament-based Biology, Diseases, and Therapeutics — Cardiac Muscle
- Regulation and Modulation of Contraction

Monday Poster Presentations

Poster Session II

- Myofilament-based Biology, Diseases, and Therapeutics — Skeletal Muscle
- Myofilament Structure and Function
- Myofilament-based Mechano-sensing
- Smooth Muscle and Non-Muscle Myosins
- Other Topics in Myofilament Biology

Presenters are expected to be available at or near their posters during the presentation times listed in the program.

PLENARY SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Stefan Raunser, PhD

Max Planck, Dortmund

Stefan Raunser is a structural biologist whose research focuses on understanding molecular mechanisms underlying cellular processes in the healthy and diseased organism. His pioneering structural studies have led to groundbreaking discoveries in the areas of muscle and cytoskeletal research as well as toxicology. Raunser is Managing Director of the Max Planck Institute of Molecular Physiology, Adjunct Professor at Technical University Dortmund and Honorary Professor at University of Duisburg-Essen. With his research group, he develops and uses a multi-disciplinary approach, including biochemical reconstitutions, high-resolution electron cryomicroscopy (cryo-EM) and electron cryotomography (cryo-ET) primarily to investigate the structure of macromolecular complexes that play a crucial role in muscle contraction, the dynamics of the eukaryotic cytoskeleton and bacterial infections. A detailed understanding of these processes is of great importance as they ultimately serve to develop pharmaceutical measures to combat disease.

He has authored over 140 papers in the fields of structural and molecular biology and has given over 200 lectures and seminars around the world. He is a scientific member of the Max Planck Society, an elected member of the North Rhine Westphalian Academy of Sciences and Arts, the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina and EMBO.

James Spudich, PhD

Stanford University

James Spudich, Douglass M. and Nola Leishman Professor of Cardiovascular Disease, is in the Department of Biochemistry at Stanford University. He received his B.S. in chemistry from the University of Illinois in 1963 and his Ph.D. in biochemistry from Stanford in 1968. He did postdoctoral work in genetics at Stanford and in structural biology at the MRC Laboratory in Cambridge, England. From 1971 to 1977 he was Assistant, Associate, and Full Professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics, University of California, San Francisco. In 1977, he was appointed Professor in the Department of Structural Biology at Stanford University. Spudich served as Chairman of the Department of Structural Biology from 1979-1984. Since 1992 he has been Professor in the Department of Biochemistry, where he served as Chairman from 1994-1998. From 1998 to 2002, he was Co-Founder and first Director of the Stanford Interdisciplinary Program in Bioengineering, Biomedicine and Biosciences called Bio-X. Spudich has given more than 50 named lectureships and keynote addresses, and has received many honors, including the Albert Lasker Basic Medical Research Award in 2012. The tools developed in his laboratory include in vitro motility assays and laser traps to measure force production and step size by a single myosin molecule. Understanding molecular and structural details of myosin function led them to their current focus on the molecular basis of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM). Spudich postulated in 2015 that most HCM mutations are likely to be shifting β-cardiac myosin heads from a sequestered off-state to an active on-state for interaction with actin, resulting in the hyper- contractility seen clinically in HCM patients. This unifying hypothesis has been substantiated over the last nine years by work from the Spudich lab and is now the prevailing view in the field of the molecular basis of hypercontractility caused by HCM mutations. Spudich basic research led to development of small molecule therapeutics based on targeting cytoskeletal proteins. He co-founded Cytokinetics in 1998, MyoKardia in 201, and Kainomyx in 2019.

David A Kass, MD
Johns Hopkins University

David Kass, MD is the Abraham and Virginia Weiss Professor of Cardiology, and Professor of Medicine, Biomedical Engineering, and Physiology, Pharmacology, and Therapeutics at Johns Hopkins University. His career has been dedicated to understanding mechanical, cellular, and molecular mechanisms for myocardial diseases and developing novel therapies to treat them. Starting off in systems and integrative physiology, he explored chamber-level mechanisms, many elucidated by pressure-volume analyses in humans and large animal models. He later pioneered use of pacemakers in hypertrophic and then dilated heart failure, the latter being cardiac resynchronization therapy first in humans, and then in animal models to reveal underlying molecular and cellular mechanisms. He turned to cyclic GMP and protein kinase G signaling in the early 2000's and identified many novel pathways and mechanisms by which this signaling cascade is activated, modified, and can be leveraged as therapeutics. His work on PDE9 inhibitors spawned clinical trials today. Over the past decade, he returned to studies of heart failure with preserved ejection fraction, using myocardial biopsies from humans to elucidate underlying mechanisms. Among his honors are the 2020 Louis and Artur Lucien Award, American Heart Association Basic Science, Distinguished Scientist, and Inaugural Melvin Marcus Awards, ISHR Peter Harris Distinguished Scholar and Innovator Awards, and two sequential R35 NIH Outstanding Investigator Awards. He has >545 original papers, garnering over 63,000 citations, and over his 40+ years at Hopkins has mentored over 110 post-doctoral fellows/graduate students in his lab.

Alan Russell, PhD
Edgewise Therapeutics

Alan Russell, Ph.D., is the Co-Founder and Chief Scientific Officer of Edgewise Therapeutics, based in Boulder CO, dedicated to the discovery and development of novel medicines to treated rare inherited muscle diseases. Previously, Dr. Russell served at GlaxoSmithKline as VP and Head of the Muscle Metabolism Discovery Performance Unit, leading a broad discovery and development effort focused on patients for whom muscle function is compromised. Prior to this, he worked at Cytokinetics Inc. and is the co-inventor of Tirasemtiv and Reldesemtiv, direct muscle sensitizers that reached phase 3 studies in Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS). Dr. Russell received a B.Pharm. in Pharmacy and Pharmacology and Ph.D. in Cell Biology and Gene Therapy from the University of Bath in the UK and Postdoctoral training at the Stanford University School of Medicine. He has been active in the discovery and development of medicines to improve muscle health for the last 25 years.

Jennifer Van Eyk, PhD
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center

Dr. Jennifer Van Eyk, Ph.D., an international leader in clinical proteomics, is focused on democratizing personalized biomarkers and individualized therapies. She obtained her PhD from University of Alberta, and carried out post-doctoral fellowships in Heidelberg and Chicago before started her lab at Queen's University, Kingston, Canada. She was recruited to Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore and then to Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles where she directs the inaugural Advanced Clinical BioSystems Research Institute. She is a Professor of Cardiology in the Smidt Heart Institute and holds the Erika Glazer Endowed Chair in Women's Heart Disease. Her achievements include <425 articles, <26 patents, and numerous National and International research and leadership awards.

BEAT THE HEAT

Tucson is known for its beautiful hiking trails, but late May marks the beginning of the hot season. If you decide to hike, start very early in the morning (ideally between 5–6 a.m.), hike with a companion, and bring plenty of water to stay safe.

Wear loose-fitting, light-colored clothing that covers as much skin as possible, and wear a hat for additional sun protection.

Drink more water than you think you need, and do not wait until you feel thirsty to hydrate. Turn around once you have used half of your water supply.

During the hottest part of the day (approximately 11 a.m.–6 p.m.), plan indoor activities.

Every year in Arizona, hundreds of hikers require rescue due to heat-related illness and severe dehydration—please make sure you are not one of them!

MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO BEAT THE HEAT

DISCOVER TUCSON

A UNESCO City of Gastronomy that offers a unique blend of stunning Sonoran Desert landscapes, rich cultural heritage, top research institutions, and diverse outdoor and culinary experiences.

- https://www.visittucson.org/
- https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/tusmp-tucson-marriott-university-park/experiences/discover-tucson/

Tucson Restaurant & Bar Guide for Myofilament Meeting Attendees

Curated for attendees staying at Tucson Marriott University Park (880 E 2nd St). Distances are approximate walking distances; short-distance Uber spots are included when worth the trip.

Best Walkable Restaurants

Time Market
Pizza, sandwiches, wine & beer (~0.4 mi)

ANELLO
Neapolitan pizza + wine (~0.6 mi)

Bacio Italiano
Italian near campus (~0.2 mi)

Cup Cafe
Classic Tucson patio dining (~0.8 mi)

Reilly Craft Pizza & Drink
Pizza, Italian, cocktails (~0.9 mi)

Penca
Upscale Mexican + cocktails (~1.0 mi)

BATA
Contemporary wood-fired cuisine (~0.9 mi)

Perche' No
Italian bistro (~1.0 mi)

JoJo's Restaurant
American dining + patio cocktails (~1.1 mi)

La Chingada Cocina Mexicana
Modern Mexican (~0.9 mi)

CRUDA Mariscos & Oyster Bar
Seafood, oysters, cocktails (~1.0 mi)

Chela's Latin Cuisine
Latin-inspired menu (~0.8 mi)

BOCA
Tacos, salsa, cocktails (~0.5 mi)

Best Walkable Bars, Breweries & Cocktails

Pueblo Vida Brewing Company
Modern craft brewery (~1.0 mi)

Juniper
Gin-focused cocktail bar (~0.8 mi)

The Century Room
Jazz cocktail lounge (~0.8 mi)

Tap & Bottle
Excellent craft beer selection (~0.7 mi)

Crooked Tooth Brewing Company
Local brewery + patio (~0.6 mi)

Tough Luck Club
speakeasy-style cocktails (~0.9 mi)

Sky Bar - outdoor astronomy-themed bar (~0.5 mi)

The Owls Club
historic cocktail bar (~1.1 mi)

Royal Room
eighborhood cocktail lounge (~0.7 mi)

Batch
cocktails + whiskey + donuts (~1.0 mi)

Casual / Easy Group Options

No Anchovies
casual pizza + beer (~0.2 mi)

Illegal Pete's
Burritos + margaritas (~0.2 mi)

The Boxyard
Open-air food hall + bar (~0.7 mi)

HUB Restaurant & Ice Creamery
casual American + ice cream (~0.8 mi)

Hotel Congress Tap Room
Historic Tucson bar (~0.8 mi)

Playground Rooftop
Rooftop drinks + downtown views (~0.9 mi)

Worth the Short Uber

MotoSonora Brewing Company
Excellent brewery + food + patio (~1.6 mi)

Slow Body Beer Company
Minimalist craft brewery (~1.5 mi)

Barrio Brewing Company
Classic Tucson brewery (~1.4 mi)

Borderlands Brewing Company
Classic brewery + outdoor space (~1.0 mi)

Coronet Cafe - European
Inspired menu + wine (~1.5 mi)

5 Points Market & Restaurant
New American + patio seating (~1.8 mi)

Tumerico
Vegetarian/vegan Tucson favorite (~1.9 mi)

KUKAI
Japanese ramen at MSA Annex (~2.4 mi)

Westbound
cocktail bar at Mercado district (~2.4 mi)

Feast
Global menu + wine program (~3.4 mi)

Culinary Dropout
Large patio + comfort food (~2.4 mi)

Postino Grant
Wine-focused casual dining (~2.3 mi)

Locale Neighborhood Italian
Contemporary Italian (~3.0 mi)

Royal Room
Neighborhood cocktail lounge (~0.7 mi)

Batch
Cocktails + whiskey + donuts (~1.0 mi)

On the University of Arizona Campus

Alfie Norville Gem & Mineral Museum:
A world-class collection of gems and minerals.
https://uamineralmuseum.com

Steward Observatory:
A global leader in astronomy and telescope instrumentation.
www.as.arizona.edu

Center for Creative Photography:
One of the world's first academic art museums and study centers for the history of photography.
https://ccp.arizona.edu/about/about-ccp/

Within Greater Tucson

Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum:
Outdoor museum/zoo showcasing Sonoran Desert life.
www.desertmuseum.org

Sabino Canyon:
Desert canyon with hiking and tram rides
https://sabinocanyonhikerun.com

Saguaro National Park:
Iconic saguaro cactus landscapes
www.nps.gov/sagu

Catalina State Park:
Excellent hiking and wildlife viewing at the base of the mountains
https://azstateparks.com/catalina

Pima Air & Space Museum:
Over 400 aircraft
including historic planes
www.pimaair.org

UNESCO City of Gastronomy:
Rich culinary heritage blending multiple traditions
www.visittucson.org/eat-drink/city-of-gastronomy

Outside Tucson (Easy Day Trips)

Kartchner Caverns:
Spectacular cave system
https://azstateparks.com/Kartchner

Titan Missile Museum:
Cold War missile silo tours
www.titanmissilemuseum.org

Mount Lemmon:
Scenic drive to alpine forest
https://www.visittucson.org/things-to-do/outdoors/mountains/mount-lemmon

San Xavier del Bac Mission:
Historic 18th-century mission
www.sanxaviermission.org.

Tubac:
Historic arts village with galleries.
https://www.tubacaz.com/

Kitt Peak National Observatory:
Premier observatory with tours and night programs.
https://kpno.noirlab.edu/

Biosphere 2:
The world's largest earth science experiment. Explore a 3.14-acre living laboratory where cutting-edge research unfolds across diverse ecosystems--including a rainforest, ocean, mangrove, desert, and the Landscape Evolution Laboratory.

http://biosphere2.org/

TRANSPORTATION

Tucson International Airport is ~20 minutes by car to the conference hotel.
Uber/Lyft and taxis readily available

Google Map locations of various venues:

Tucson Marriott University Park

880 E 2nd St, Tucson. Saturday welcome reception,
Sunday – Tuesday, lunch, poster sessions vendor shows.

Health Sciences Innovation Building (HSIB)

1670 E Drachman St, Tucson, AZ 85721. ECI symposium (Saturday).

Harvill

1103 E 2nd St, Tucson. Oral sessions and Plenary lectures, Sunday – Tuesday.

Medical Research Building

MRB 1656 E Mabel Street, Tucson. (Workshops, Tuesday)

Gentle Ben's

(Networking event, Sunday evening)

Tanque Verde Ranch

(Cowboy Cookout, Monday evening.) Monday evening.
Buses leave at 6:00 pm sharp from Marriott).

Directions from Marriott to Health Science Innovation Building (HSIB)

ECI symposium on Saturday)

- There will be small buses waiting in front of Marriott (2nd street exit)
- Those interested in walking, it is ~ 1 mile.

Walking Directions:

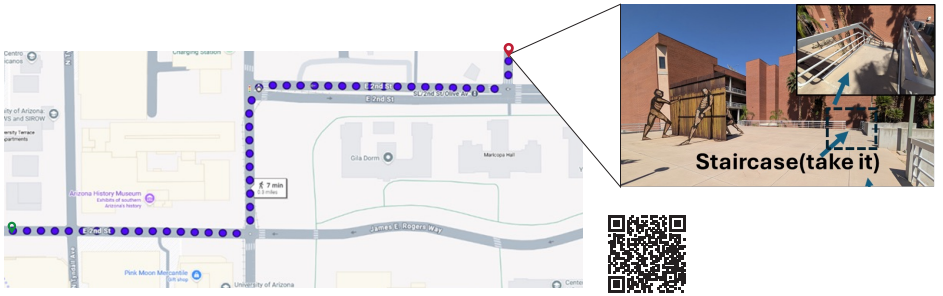
1. Exit the Marriott onto **2nd Street.**
2. Take a right (=east) on **2nd Street.**
3. Cross **N. Park Ave.**
4. Take a left onto **N. Park Ave.**
5. Take the first right onto E **2nd Street**. Keep going straight for ~ 0.6 mi.
6. Take a left on **N. Warren Ave**. and go straight for ~0.35 mi. HSIB is on the left.
7. Note there is an underpass walkway that goes under Speedway (which does not show on Google maps). Take it.

Directions from Marriott to Harvill Building

This is an easy ~0.3 mi walk:

Directions

1. Exit the Marriott onto **E. 2nd Street.**
2. Take a right (=east) on **E. 2nd Street.**
3. Cross **N. Park Ave.**
4. Take a left onto **N. Park Ave.**
5. Take the first right onto **E. 2nd Street**. **Harvill** is ~ 200 m. to the left, immediately after N. Olive Rd. **Walk for 25 m. up N. Olive Rd.** and locate the view shown below (piece of wall with humanlike figures pushing against it. Locate the **staircase** (see below) and go down to lecture hall.



Gentle Ben's Brewing Company

Sunday's networking event is located immediately south of the Marriott — comfortably within "stumble distance."

The Tanque Verde Ranch

Monday Cowboy Cookout dinner. Buses will transport our visiting guests. Local attendees should plan to drive themselves or carpool

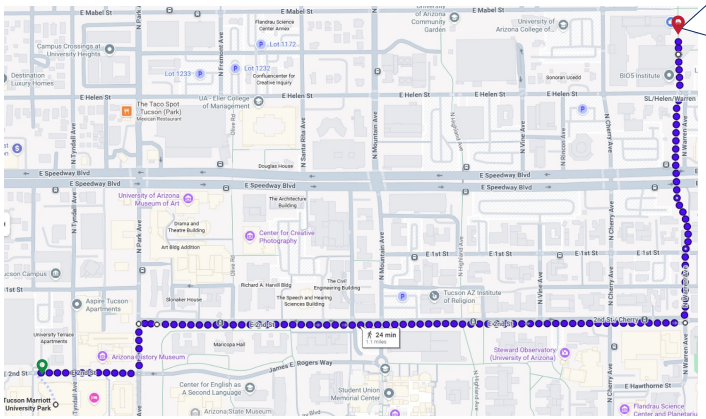
Directions from Marriott to Medical Research Building (MRB)

Workshops on Wednesday afternoon

- There will be small buses to take you, waiting in front of the Marriott 2nd st exit)
- Those interested in walking, it is ~ 1 mi (~ 20 min.)

Directions:

1. Exit the Marriott onto **2nd Street.**
2. Take a right (= East) on **2nd Street.**
3. Cross **N. Park Ave.**
4. Take a left onto **N. Park Ave.**
5. Take the first right onto **2nd Street.**
6. Keep going straight for ~ 0.6 mi.
7. Take a left on **N. Warren Ave.** and go straight for ~0.35 mi. MRB is on the left. The building is next door to the HSIB (site of the ECI symposium).
8. Note there is an underpass walkway that goes under Speedway (which does not show on Google maps). Take it.



JGP Journal of General Physiology

CALL FOR PAPERS

You are invited to submit papers on the topic of the 2026 Tucson Myofilament Meeting: “What’s Hot in Myofilament Structure, Elasticity, and Regulatory Networks in Muscle Function and Disease”, to be published throughout the year and highlighted in a special issue.

The review process will be overseen by JGP Associate Editor Henk Granzier, at the University of Arizona in Tucson. He will be assisted by Guest Editors and subject experts Brett Colson of the University of Arizona in Tucson, Jonathan Kirk, Loyola University Chicago, Julian Stelzer of Case Western Reserve University, and Jennifer van Eyck, Cedars-Sinai. JGP welcomes submissions that focus on the broad topic of Structure and Function of Myofilaments in Health and Disease.

Submissions of all article types are welcome (Research Articles, Communications, Hypotheses, Methods and Approaches, and Review articles). The deadline for submission for inclusion in the special issue is December 1st 2026. Authors can publish in JGP free of charge or pay a reduced fee to make their articles immediately Open Access—learn more about our No Fee-Low Fee policy.

Ready to prepare your paper for submission? **https://jgp.msubmit.net/**

Please note that the special issue will be published online as papers are accepted, minimizing the time from acceptance to publication. During the submission process, please indicate that this is for the 2026 Tucson Myofilament Meeting call for papers.

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