

Great Lakes Glia 2026

Park Place Hotel, Traverse City, MI, USA
October 11th - 13th

Keynote Presentations

Linda J. Van Eldik, PhD

Professor and Dr. E. Vernon Smith & Eloise C. Smith Alzheimer's Research Endowed
Chair, Dept. of Neuroscience
University of Kentucky

Director - Sanders-Brown Center on Aging and
Alzheimer's Disease Research Center

*Discovery of Small Molecule Therapeutic Candidates That Target Dysregulated
Neuroinflammation in Alzheimer's Disease*

Dwight Bergles, PhD

Professor of Neuroscience, Biomedical Engineering and
Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery
Johns Hopkins University

Wrapping the Brain: How Myelin is Generated Across Space and Time

Sessions and Session Chairs

Gerardo Morfini, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, Illinois
Activation of Inflammatory Pathways in ALS

Marcia Gordon, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan
Microglia in Neurodegenerative Disease

Matthew Benskey, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan
Glial Function and Dysfunction in Neurological Disease

Alexander Gow, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan
Non-Invasive Assessment of Myelin Integrity in CNS Diseases

Maurizio De Pitta, Krembil Brain Institute, Toronto, Canada
Astrocyte Biology Across Multiple Scales of Physiology and Pathology

Website: <https://greatlakesglia.org/>

For meeting registration contact Lisa Pope: email ai4406@wayne.edu; Phone 313-577-3338

For hotel reservations contact the Park Place Hotel at 231-946-5000 and use code GLIA26

Hello Gliaphiles!

The biennial **Great Lakes Glia Conference** is quickly approaching. The 15th meeting will be held at the Park Place Hotel and Conference Center in scenic, downtown Traverse City, Oct. 11-13, 2026.

The meeting will follow our usual schedule: Sunday afternoon through early Tuesday afternoon.

The fabulous view of Grand Traverse Bay from the Top of the Park is still the same. *Your registration fee will cover breakfast, dinner, and snacks.* The swimming pool and exercise area have also been updated. Room rates have risen slightly but remain reasonable at \$179 (single or double) on Sun/Mon nights. *A few rooms* have been set aside for Fri and Sat – but this is the start of fall color season so those are a bit pricier (\$259).

We have 2 superb keynote speakers – Drs. Linda J. Van Eldik and Dwight Bergles, who will center their respective talks on new treatments for Alzheimer's disease, and characterizing myelin development across space (brain regions) and time (development). Plenary talks will be followed by sessions addressing the same topics; and 3 other sessions focusing on ALS, Glial Dysfunction in Neurological Disease, and Astrocytes.

This year we will also select students (graduate and postdoctoral) from the submitted abstracts to present short (10-12 minute) talks during the 5 sessions.

We are pleased to announce that in addition to our regular meeting, Marcia Gordon from the Alzheimer's Association will be chairing a public forum prior to the opening reception. This forum begins at 1PM in the Grandview I conference room at the Park Place Hotel. All meeting registrants are welcome to attend.

WHAT IS IT GOING TO COST YOU?

Registration:

Faculty - \$350; Speakers/Chairs - \$175; Postdoc/Grad - \$75.

Rooms: \$179/night (single or double) Sun/Mon nights

Meals: *Breakfast and dinner are included;* as well as wine at dinners. There are many nearby restaurants for lunch, snacks, and evening drinks and entertainment, at all price ranges and walkable distance from the Park Place Hotel.

Transportation: Traverse City is about 300 miles from Chicago, 200 from Detroit, 400 from Toronto or Cleveland. There are several direct flights into the TC airport from major locations; although some make stop-overs in Chicago or Detroit.

Please find attached a Meeting Registration Form

-Pam, Doug, and Alex

(pamela.knapp@vcuhealth.org, dlfeins@uic.edu, ai7965@wayne.edu)

Hotel

Great Lakes Glia 2026 returns to downtown Traverse City at the **Park Place Hotel & Conference Center**. Please make your reservations as soon as possible, as the hotel gets booked quickly by “leaf peepers” at this time of the year in the Fall.



Book BEFORE September 10th! After that date, as Bob would have said, “You will have to pay big bucks to register for the hotel.” We have a limited number of rooms reserved for our meeting at \$179/night. A few rooms are available for Fri/Sat before the meeting at \$259/night.

All rooms in our group that are not reserved by Sept 10 will be returned to the general booking (\$250-400/night. **So BOOK EARLY!**

Reservations for lodging should be made directly to the **Park Place Hotel & Conference Center - phone (231) 946-5000.**

Use Conference Code: **GLIA2026**

Rate: \$179/night + 6% sales tax + 5% local assessment fee (single/double occupancy)

“LOCATED IN THE HEART OF DOWNTOWN TRAVERSE CITY

Park Place Hotel & Conference Center offers more than just first-class accommodation. Its views of Traverse City and Grand Traverse Bay cannot be beaten. And you don’t have to travel far to experience nationally-renowned restaurants and entertainment”

Poster Submissions

Poster sessions are an important and fun part of the *Great Lakes Glia* meeting. These sessions provide the opportunity for students and postdoctoral fellows to meet and discuss their research at length with senior scientists, many of whom serve on study sections. Please feel free to present a poster showing new results, or one from a previous recent scientific meeting.

Abstracts will be published and distributed along with the final schedule at the time of the meeting; and will be incorporated into the website. All attendees (faculty, postdoctoral fellows, graduate students, and staff) are invited to submit one abstract.

The deadline for abstract submission is Sept 15 – to give us time to collate for the Program booklet and to send it for printing.

Drs. Doug Feinstein and Pam Knapp are overseeing the posters. Please submit your poster abstracts directly to them: dlfeins@uic.edu or pamela.knapp@vcuhealth.org

Abstract format (not to exceed 1 page):

- Margins – 1 inch
- Font (12pt) – Times New Roman; Arial/Helvetica
- Single-spaced
- Line 1 – title
- Line 2 – author(s)
- Line 3 – affiliation(s)
- Line 4 – start abstract text

Poster boards: 6ft (wide) x 4ft (high)

Posters will be displayed for the entire meeting. You are encouraged to hang your poster on Sunday afternoon and to leave it on display through Tuesday morning.

Authors should plan to be present at their poster for TWO presentation times. These opportunities will ensure adequate time for presenters to meet and discuss their research with meeting attendees and poster judges.

- Monday afternoon 3:30 – 4:30 pm
- Monday evening 8:30 pm (refreshments will be provided)

This year, we will again have a competition for best posters – one for graduate students and one for postgraduate fellow. Prizes will be announced at the meeting.