

Great Lakes Glia 2026

Park Place Hotel & Conference Center - Traverse City, MI

<http://www.greatlakesglia.org>

Program

Sunday, October 11

1:00 pm – Premeeting Open Public Forum: Alzheimer’s Disease

Grandview I

Chair: Marcia Gordon, Michigan State University

- Linda J. Van Eldik (University of Kentucky) – Blood-based biomarkers for Alzheimer’s disease
- David Morgan (Michigan State University) – The history of immunotherapy as the first disease modifying treatment for Alzheimer’s disease
- Kristen Erby Weber (Northern Michigan Alzheimer’s Association) – Communication Strategies for Caregivers
- Q & A with speaker panel

4:30 pm – Opening Reception

Top of the Park

6:00 pm – Dinner (Top of the Park)

7:30 pm – Session 1: Activation of Inflammatory Pathways in ALS

Grandview I

Chair: Douglas Feinstein, University of Illinois – Chicago

- Daryl Bosco (University of Massachusetts) – *Investigating the effects of ALS-linked mutations on intrinsic properties of microglia*
- Fei Song (University of Illinois, Chicago) – *Therapeutic targeting of neuregulin signaling in ALS and Alzheimer’s disease: Implications for neuroinflammation and neurodegeneration*
- Allison Ebert (Medical College of Wisconsin) – *Activation of inflammatory pathways in ALS*
- 10-minute talk (Student/Postdoc selected from abstracts)

Monday, October 12

8:00 am – Breakfast

Top of the Park

8:45 am – KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

Grandview I

Speaker: Linda J. Van Eldik, University of Kentucky

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

9:45 am – Break

10:00 am – Poster Blitz: 2-minute Student/Postdoc presentations

Grandview I

10:30 am – Session 2: Microglia and Resilience in Alzheimer's Disease

Grandview I

Chair: Marcia Gordon, Michigan State University

- David G Morgan (Michigan State University) – *Innate immune activation in Alzheimer's disease pathology*
- Shannon Moore (University of Michigan) – *Signatures of resilience to cognitive decline in an Alzheimer's disease mouse model*
- Colleen Zaccard (Northwestern University) – *Inflammation-driven tunneling nanotubes in microglia-synapse crosstalk and neurodegenerative disease*
- Sarah Elzinga (Michigan State University) – *Neuroinflammation and senescence contribute to cognitive impairment in mouse and man*

Noon – Free Time

3:00 pm – Poster Session

Grandview II

4:30 pm – Session 3: Glial Function and Dysfunction in Neurological Disease

Grandview I

Chair: Matthew Benskey, Michigan State University

- Matthew Benskey (Michigan State University) – *Investigating the role of the complement system in the glial response in synucleinopathy*
- Douglas Feinstein (University of Illinois at Chicago) – *Astrocyte metabolic dysfunction increases ferroptosis and contributes to oligodendrocyte death*
- Hayley McLoughlin (University of Michigan) – *Glial cells in poly-glutamine movement disorders*
- 10-min talk (Student/Postdoc selected from abstracts)

7:00 pm – Dinner

Top of the Park

8:30 pm – Poster Session & Refreshments

Grandview II

Tuesday, October 13

7:30 am – Breakfast

Top of the Park

8:15 am – KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

Grandview I

Speaker: *Dwight Bergles, Johns Hopkins University*

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

9:15 am – Poster award announcements

9:20 am – Break

**9:30 am – Session 4: Non-Invasive Assessment of Myelin Integrity
in CNS Diseases**

Grandview I

Chair: *Alexander Gow, Wayne State University*

- Evan Malin (Wayne State University) – *Exploiting MR relaxation phenomena to advance the understanding of white matter microvasculature: its application to development/aging and psychiatric disorders*
- Mariana Lazar (New York University) – *MRI methods for myelin and g-ratio mapping and their application to neuropsychiatric disorders and aging*
- Nikola Stikov (Montreal Heart Institute – NeuroPoly) – *In vivo imaging of the myelin g-ratio*
- Alexander Gow (Wayne State University) – *Accurate myelin g ratios from electron microscopy to calibrate MR studies*

11:30 am – Lunch Break-out

Grandview I

**12:00 pm – Session 5: Astrocyte Biology Across Multiple Scales
of Physiology and Pathology**

Grandview I

Chair: *Maurizio De Pitta, Krembil Brain Institute*

- Alex Dranovsky (Columbia University) – *Astrocytes as orchestrators of hippocampal function*
- Maryam Faiz (University of Calgary) – *The gut microbiota as a modulator of astrocyte state in health and disease*
- Annalisa Scimemi (SUNY – Albany) – *Glutamate spillover sharpens spatial representations in hippocampal area CA1*
- 10-min talk (Student/Postdoc selected from abstracts)

2:00 pm – End of Meeting