Debbie and Justin Wragg-Schmidt ZGSA-Zoology Spring Symposium April 30th 2026

Career talk

Eric B (Rick) Taylor
Professor Emeritus
UBC Zoology

Plenary talk

Sarah W Davies
Associate Professor
Boston University

Thursday, April 30th, 2026 - Symposium program

Morning session - LOCATION: BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES BLDG - BIOL1000 - 6270 University Boulevard

			SPEAKERS	AFFILIATION	TITLE
AM	09 :30	Coffee and pastries			
	10:00	Opening remarks	ZGSA	UBC	
	10:10	Plenary talk	Sarah Davies	Boston University	Cryptic species and where to find them: factors governing coral responses to global change
	11:10	Blitz	Michelle Jung	Soma	Sucrose consumption and neuroinflammation: characterizing microglia morphological states in rats
	11:15	Blitz	Jack Hall	Wood & Schulte	Sublethal impacts of developmental road salt exposure in chum salmon, *Oncorhynchus keta*
	11:20	Talk	Ankita Chauhan	Wei	Stress induced non-mendelian segregation enhances offspring diversity
	11:35	Break - BYOM			
	11:55	Talk	Linley Sherin	Mank	Long-reads reveal abundant sexual dimorphism in splicing
PM	12:10	Talk	Maggie Slein	O'Connor	How temperature alters the balance between photosynthesis and respiration in symbiotic marine systems
	12:25	Blitz	Ayeshma Adikari	Altshuler	Integration of optic flow in the cerebellum to coordinate complex locomotion
	12:30	Blitz	Thanat Rongbundit	Schluter	Life history variation among threespined stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus*) limnetic–benthic species pair
	12:35	Talk	Henry Luo	Auld	The transmembrane proteins Integrin and Kon-tiki affect the morphology and development of wrapping glia in *Drosophila* peripheral nerves
	12:50	Talk	Leisl Brewster	B Matthews	A molecular and cellular mechanism for bitter taste in mosquitoes

Lunch - LOCATION: BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES COURTYARD - 6270 University Boulevard

01:05 pm to 02:05 pm

Afternoon session - LOCATION: BIOL1000 - 6270 University Boulevard

		SPEAKERS	AFFILIATION	TITLE
02:05	Talk	Jérôme Plumier	Soma	Aggression and season shape circulating fatty acid profile of wild song sparrows
02:20	Talk	Chelsea Higgins	King	Insights into the evolution of parasite resistance and susceptibility in New Zealand snails
02:35	Blitz	Zack Marshall	Gordon	Molecular mechanisms for acid taste in *Drosophila suzukii* and *Drosophila melanogaster*
02:40	Blitz	Aaron KS	Brauner	Why do frog tadpoles have gills during early development?
02:45	Talk	Andrew Snow	Mizumoto	A neuron-specific isoform of zoo-1/TJP controls synapse patterning in *C. elegans*
03:00	Blitz	Karina Torres	Avilés & Jankowski	Structure of leaf-mining insect communities along an elevational gradient in the tropical Andes of Ecuador
03:05	Blitz	Changfu Jia	Mank	Fine-scale sex-specific recombination map in *Poecilia reticulata*
03:10	Talk	Michaela Honing	Milsom	Episodic breathing in neonates; the roles of GABA, age, and the pons
03:25	Break - BYOM			
03:45	Faculty Talks	Asher Leeks, Callista Yee, Darren Irwin, Sweta Agrawal		
04:10	Talk	Sophie Johnston	Harley	Sensitivity of intertidal sea anemones and their symbionts to thermal extremes
04:25	Career Talk	Rick Taylor	UBC	Time flies when you're having fun: fields of opportunity in UBC Zoology (1981-2025)

Poster session - LOCATION: BIODIVERSITY RESEARCH CENTER, MULTIPURPOSE ROOM - 2212 Main Mall

05:00 Poster Session

POSTERS BY	AFFILIATION	POSTERS BY	AFFILIATION
Tephnie Beau de Rochars	Altshuler	Phillip Lee	Altshuler
Skye Ku	Auld	Haocun Ye	Wei
Rana Zakerzade	Wei	Alexandra Weber	Bruce
Nathan Lewis	Benson-Amram	Tatiana Chamorro	Kremen
Bing Liu	Richards	Mizuki Kurashina	Mizumoto
Hsin-Chen Tsai	Altshuler	Freya Innes	Tseng
Emmy Gonzalez Gonzalez	King	Seungyeon Lee	Brauner

DINNER - LOCATION: Koerner's Pub - 6371 Crescent Road

07:00 pm to 10:30 pm • Graduate Student Appreciation and Awards Night •

Submit a Compliment