

2026

Wisconsin Diabetes Research Center presents

DIABETES RESEARCH DAY

Friday, September 11th, 2026

WISCONSIN
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

CONFERENCE AGENDA

TIME	ACTIVITY	
8:30 AM	Breakfast/Registration	
9:00 AM	Welcome	WDRC Director - Dr. Dawn Davis
9:05 - 10:25 AM	Session 1	<i>"Unraveling the Biology of Diabetes"</i> Session Chair - Yutong Bao
9:05 AM	Alan Attie, PhD Professor of Biochemistry, UW-Madison <i>"Genetics-driven discovery of genes associated with insulin production and turnover"</i>	
9:30 AM	Aaron Naatz, MS Staff Scientist with Dr. John Corbett, Medical College of Wisconsin <i>"Beta-Cell selection regulation of gene expression by nitric oxide"</i>	
9:45 AM	Isabella James, PhD Postdoctoral Fellow with Dr. Judith Simcox, UW-Madison <i>"Very long-chain ceramides promote energy expenditures in brown adipose tissue"</i>	
10:00 AM	Khyati Girdhar, PhD Assistant Professor of Pediatrics (Endocrinology), Medical College of Wisconsin <i>"Too Young to Brake: Age-Dependent Failure of Mitochondrial Quality Control in Type 1 Diabetes"</i>	
10:25 - 11:25 AM	Coffee Break and Poster Session	Odd numbers
11:25 - 12:45 PM	Session 2	<i>"Advances in Diabetes Treatment and Care"</i> Session Chair - Reji Babygirija
11:25 AM	Tammy Kindel, MD, PhD, FACS, FASMBBS Professor of Minimally Invasive & Gastrointestinal Surgery, MCW <i>"GLP-1R based interventions on cardiovascular outcomes in patients with type 2 diabetes"</i>	
11:50 AM	Mohammad Ovais Azizzanjani, PhD Research Assistant Professor of Comparative Biosciences, UW-Madison <i>"Metabolic STAMP for deciphering GPCR-regulated insulin secretion by pancreatic β cells"</i>	
12:05 PM	Brea Brennan, BS Graduate Student in Ocular Computer Vision Lab, Medical College of Wisconsin <i>"Assessing cone function in individuals with type-1 diabetes using intensity-based optoretinography"</i>	
12:20 PM	Brigid Gregg, MD Division Chief of Endocrinology & Diabetes, UW-Madison <i>"Clinical and molecular studies on early life programming of metabolic disease"</i>	
12:45 - 1:45 PM	Lunch/Additional Poster Viewing	
1:45 - 2:40 PM	Session 3	<i>"Diabetes Prevention and Population Health"</i> Session Chair - Aprill Dawson
1:45 PM	Joni Williams, MD, MPH Associate Professor of Medicine, Medical College of Wisconsin <i>"Competing Needs and Barriers to Healthcare Seeking among Black Females with Type 2 Diabetes, Obesity, and Multi-Caregiving Responsibilities"</i>	
2:10 PM	Laura Hawks, MD, MPH Associate Professor of Medicine, Medical College of Wisconsin <i>"The Association Between Recency of Criminal Legal Involvement and Acute Healthcare Utilization Among US Adults with Diabetes, 2021-2023"</i>	
2:25 PM	Rosio Acevedo, MD Resident of General Surgery, Medical College of Wisconsin <i>"Independent correlates of self-rated health amongst adults with Cardiovascular-Kidney-Metabolic Syndrome health conditions in the Dominican Republic"</i>	
2:40 - 3:40 PM	Snack Break and Poster Session	Even numbers
3:45 - 4:45 PM	Keynote Speaker	
	Donald A. McClain, MD, PhD Professor Emeritus of Internal Medicine, Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism - Wake Forest University School of Medicine Director, North Carolina Diabetes Research Center, Physician Investigator, Kernsville VA Medical Center <i>"Iron and Oxygen as Regulators of Metabolism and Mediators of Diabetes Risk"</i>	
4:45 - 5:00 PM	Closing Remarks /Awards	WDRC Director - Dr. Dawn Davis
5:00 - 6:00 PM	Reception	

LUNCH & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ENGAGE WITH THE SPEAKERS OVER LUNCH

During lunch, participants are encouraged to join the speakers at their assigned tables to continue exchanging ideas beyond the formal sessions. This is an excellent opportunity to learn more about their current research, gain insights into the future direction of their scientific work and foster collegial dialogue in an informal setting.

THANK YOU

Dear Diabetes Research Day Attendees,

Thank you for joining us for Diabetes Research Day 2026. This year's event is especially meaningful, as it marks the first time Diabetes Research Day has been held at the Medical College of Wisconsin. We are grateful to our colleagues from UW-Madison who traveled to Milwaukee to participate and help make the day a success. Your engagement strengthens the growing collaboration between our institutions as we work together to advance diabetes research across Wisconsin.

We would also like to recognize the many individuals whose efforts made this event possible. We are especially grateful to Dr. Stephanie Olivier-Van Stichelen and Dr. Joni Williams for their assistance with event planning, abstract review, and talk selection. Our sincere thanks also go to Jenelle Gierhart-Sutter and Katherine Howe at UW-Madison for their invaluable administrative and organizational support and for all their behind-the-scenes work. We are equally grateful to Michele Jones and Judy Weiss at MCW for their assistance with the organization of Diabetes Research Day and on-site support.

Thank you again to everyone who helped make this year's Diabetes Research Day a success. We are excited to continue building connections across our institutions and strengthening the diabetes research community throughout Wisconsin.

Dr. Andrea Galmozzi and Dr. Brian Smith
Directors of the Wisconsin Diabetes Research Center Enrichment Program

To learn more about the Wisconsin Diabetes Research Center visit our website -
diabetescenter.wisc.edu



Max McGee Diabetes
Center

