



SLB 2026

Leukocytes, it's all about location

September 14-17, 2026

Blackwell Hotel and Conference Center, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio

Chairs: Andrew Taylor, *Boston University* & Michelle Visser, *University at Buffalo*

Following in the long tradition of SLB, this meeting will showcase the latest scientific advances in understanding fundamental immune mechanisms of leukocyte biology in health and disease with a focus on various leukocyte locations. This meeting will bring together leukocyte biologists who work in a transdisciplinary fashion to conduct basic, clinical, and/or translational research. Proposed invited speakers and featured topics are listed below.

The 2026 Legacy Lecture Awardee, Anna Huttenlocher, *University of Wisconsin-Madison*, will present the opening keynote lecture titled “**Imaging Inflammation and its Resolution**”.

Plenary Sessions

- Nervous System
 - **TBD**
 - **Neuro-immune Niche that Underpins Touch**, Daniel Saban, *Duke University School of Medicine*
 - **Mast Cells: The Versatile Conductors of Allergy, Inflammation and Tissue Remodeling**, Theoharis Theoharides, *Nova Southeastern University*
- Mucosal Tissues
 - **A Better Overall Understanding of IL-17 Receptor Signaling in the Oral Mucosa**, Heather Conti, *University of Toledo*
 - **Extracellular Vesicles: Regulators of Mucosal Immune Modulation**, Shannon Wallet, *University of Florida*
 - **Type 3 Immunity in Mucosal Tissues**, Ivaylo Ivanov, *Columbia University*
- Skin
 - **Early Life Immune-Microbe Crosstalk in Skin**, Tiffany Scharschmidt, *UCSF*
 - **Eosinophil Adaptations and Functions in the Epithelium**, Julia Dunn, *University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus*
 - **Itchy Immunity via Myeloid IL-33**, De'Broski Herbert, *Tulane University*
- Cyberspace – AI in Research
 - **Decoding Immune Architecture with Spatial AI**, Kevin Byrd, *Virginia Commonwealth University*
 - **Single-cell and Spatial Signatures of Type 1 Diabetes**, Todd Brusko, *University of Florida*
 - **Systems Vaccinology**, Bali Pulendran, *Stanford University*

Concurrent sessions

- Host Pathogen
 - **Cardiac Complications of Respiratory Virus Infections**, Jacob Yount, *Ohio State University*
- Autoimmunity
 - **TLRs and MyD88 Activation in Sjogren's Disease**, Jill Kramer, *University at Buffalo*
- Cancer
 - **Targeting the Tumor Microenvironment to Enhance CAR-based Immunotherapies in Solid Tumors**, Hind Rafei, *MD Anderson Cancer Center*
- Omics
 - **Unique Spatial Organization Promotes Local Immunity at the Oral Barrier**, Drake Williams, *University of Minnesota*
- Inflammation
 - **Neutrophils, Inflammation and Resolution**, Carole Parent, *University of Michigan*
- Drug Therapies
 - **Understanding the Edges of Homeostasis**, Andrew Wang, *Yale University*
- Aging
 - **Succinate: An Emerging Gerometabolite?**, Xin Li, *University of Virginia*
- Trauma Response
 - **Trauma Immunology: From Mechanisms to Modulation**, James Lederer, *BWH Harvard*

SLB 2026 will begin accepting abstract submissions in the above topics AND ALL Recent Advances in Leukocyte Biology beginning in early 2026. Many award opportunities are available for merit recognition as well as need-based grant travel support.

Additional Program Elements in 2026

- Member led Special Interest Group Satellites
 - Career Pathways Panel Workshop Dinner
- Engagement and Enrichment breakfast and networking
 - Poster Sessions
 - Trainee Flash Talks
 - Undergraduate Posters
- Merit Awards for all career and education levels