



Workshop: Recent Developments in Human-Based Models

Sponsored by the Office of Research Innovation, Validation, and Application (ORIVA) Division for Accelerating Innovation in Biomedical Research (DAIBR) within the Division of Program Coordinating, Planning, and Strategic initiatives (DPCPSI)

October 22-23, 2026

NIH Facility, 6001 Executive Blvd., Rockville, MD, 20852

Please note that this draft agenda is subject to change

Day 1: Thursday, October 22, 2026

Time	Session Title	Presenter
8:30 AM	Welcome and Meeting Logistics	Ananda Roy, DPCPSI
8:35 AM	Opening Remarks	Jay Bhattacharya, NIH Director
8:45 AM	Keynote	Nicole Kleinstreuer, DPCPSI Director

Attendees will be responsible for meals and/or light refreshments on their own, at their own cost. The Government and/or Government contractors are not involved in facilitating the provision of food and/or light refreshments.

Time	Session Title	Presenter
	Session I: <i>Cell-based systems for studying human-specific development and evolutionary specializations</i>	
9:10 AM	Using Non-animal Models to Study Human Brain Development and Consequences of Genetic and Environmental Perturbations	Tomasz Nowakowski (University of California San Francisco)
9:30 AM	Using Human Stem Cells to Transform Reproductive Care	Amander Clark (University of California Los Angeles)
9:50 AM	In Vitro Models of Human Age-related Neurodegenerative Disease	Fred Gage (Salk Institute)
10:10 AM	Break <i>Visit the interactive demonstration featuring phantoms from the National Medical Phantom Library (NMPL) during any of the breaks or after sessions</i>	
10:25 AM	Human Genomics, Organoids, and AI for Drug Discovery	Joseph Wu (Stanford University)
10:45 AM	Building Tissues to Understand how Tissues Build Themselves	Zev Gartner (University of California San Francisco)
11:05 AM	Discussion	
12:05 PM	Lunch break – 75 min	
	Session II: <i>Transformative human-based methodologies for biomedical use: existing technologies, perturbations, and future development</i>	
1:20 PM	Understanding Variability in Region-specific Organoids: Lessons from the Emory Brain Organoid Hub	Jimena Andersen (Emory University)
1:40 PM	Recapitulating Human Development to Generate Complex Tissue Architectures	Sharad Ramanathan (Harvard University)
2:00 PM	Multi-Region Brain Organoids as Decision-Grade Models for CNS Drug Development	Annie Kathuria (Johns Hopkins University)
2:20 PM	Building Vascularized, Multicellular, and Perfusable Human Tissue Models	Jennifer Lewis (Wyss Institute, Harvard University)
2:40 PM	Discussion	
3:40 PM	Break	

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Time	Session Title	Presenter
	Session III: <i>Combining in vitro, in vivo, in chemico, and in silico approaches to complement human-based models</i>	
4:00 PM	How Complex Should <i>In Vitro</i> Models Be? A Case Study on Brain Organoids	Lena Smirnova (Johns Hopkins University)
4:20 PM	Human-Based Models Across Scales: Multimodal Generative AI and Mechanistic Digital Twins	Olivier Gevaert (Stanford University)
4:40 PM	TBD	Ruchi Sharma (National Eye Institute/NIH)
5:00 PM	Language Modeling Materializes a World Model of Protein Biology	Alex Rives (Biohub)
5:20 PM	Discussion	
6:30-8:30 PM	Dinner (Optional)	

Day 2: Friday, October 23, 2026

Time	Session Title	Presenter
8:25 AM	Day 2 Introduction	Ananda Roy, DPCPSI
	Session IV: <i>Human-based methodologies and applications in human disease models</i>	
8:30 AM	Building NAM Disease Models for Industry: A Framework for Translational Utility	Kimberly Homan (Genentech)
8:50 AM	Advancing Drug Discovery with Biofabricated Human 3D Tissue Models: from Concepts to Applications	Marc Ferrer (NIH)
9:10 AM	From Multi-omics Associations to Causal Mechanisms in Human Disease	Huilin Li (New York University)
9:30 AM	TBD	Lorenz Studer (Memorial Sloan Kettering)
9:50 AM	Break	

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10:10 AM	From Fragile Constructs to Distributed Infrastructure: Toward Deployment of Cardiac NAMs	Brenda Ogle (University of Minnesota)
10:30 AM	Development of Human Cortical and Subcortical Neural Organoids to Model Neuropsychiatric Disorders	In-Hyun Park (Yale)
10:50 AM	TBD	Jason Meyer (Indiana University School of Medicine)
11:10 AM	Standardized Organoid-based New Approach Methodologies Supporting Basic, Translational and Clinical Application	James Cherry (NIH Standardized Organoid Modeling Center, NIAID)
11:30 AM	Final Discussion	
12:30 PM	Closing Remarks, Adjourn Day 2	Warren Casey (DPCPSI)

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