

1st Annual Buck Reproductive Aging Summit

Sponsored by the Buck Institute Center for Healthy Aging in Women

Buck Institute for Research on Aging

Friday, August 21, 2026

8:30am–6:00pm

8:30 am **Breakfast and registration**

9:00 am **Welcome** – Eric Verdin, MD (Buck Institute)

Session I: Ovarian inflammaging
(Moderator: Francesca Duncan, PhD, Buck Institute)

9:10 am Berenice Benayoun, PhD (USC)
Single cell exploration of mammalian ovarian aging

9:30 am Michael Stout, PhD (Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation) mTORC1 hyperactivation in theca cells accelerates ovarian functional declines

9:50 am Sarai Badiillo (Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation) Dynamic Remodeling of Ovarian Macrophages Across the Estrous Cycle (*Short talk*)

10:00am Group Q&A

10:20 am **Break and poster set up**

Session II: Endocrine actions
(Moderator: Bikem Soygur, PhD, Buck Institute)

10:45 am Pankaj Kapahi, PhD (Buck Institute)
The Reproductive Resilience Hypothesis and Evolution of Sex-Specific Differences

11:05 am David Pepin, PhD (Harvard Medical School/MGH)
AMH and persistence of ovarian endocrine function during aging

11:25 am Sharif Iqbal, PhD (Harvard Medical School/Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard) Systemic control and inter-organ communication of ovarian aging (*Short talk*)

11:35 am Group Q&A

11:55 am **Lunch and poster preview**

Session III: Intracellular and extracellular mechanisms
(Moderator: Mark Watson, PhD, Buck Institute)

1:00 pm Birgit Schilling, PhD (Buck Institute)
Proteomic Signatures Specific for the Human Aging Ovaries

1:20 pm Neil Hunter, PhD (UC Davis)
A Cohesion Optimum Underlies Chromosome Segregation Fidelity in Oocytes: A Goldilocks Scenario

1:40 pm Jules Balough, PhD (University of Pittsburgh, MWRI)
Functional Vaginal Epithelial Stem Cells and Ovary-Dependent Regenerative Remodeling (*Short talk*)

1:50 pm Group Q&A

Session IV: Ovarian cellular dynamics
(Moderator: Malene Hansen, PhD, Buck Institute)

2:10 pm Diana Laird, PhD (UCSF)
Wiring and plumbing the ovary: neurovascular interactions and folliculogenesis

2:30 pm Bikem Soygur, PhD (Buck Institute)
3D Mapping of Ovarian Lymphatics as a Window into Ovarian Aging

2:50 pm Marcus Begley, PhD (Rutgers University)
Comparing MI and MII spindle forces in mouse oocytes during maternal aging (*Short talk*)

3:00 pm Group Q&A

3:20 pm **Coffee break**

3:50 pm **Women's Healthy Aging in Practice – Community Perspective Panel**

(Moderators: Francesca Duncan, PhD, Buck Institute and Jules Balough, PhD, University of Pittsburgh, MWRI)

Lizellen LaFollette, MD (La Follette Ob-Gyn & Aesthetics)

Jill Kinney (Active Wellness)

Marcelle Cedars, MD (UCSF, Center for Reproductive Health)

Afaf Meleis, PhD, FAAN, LL (University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing)

4:30 – 6:00pm **Reception with Poster Session**

Registration Required

Deadline to register: Aug 7, 2026

<https://www.buckinstitute.org/events/1st-annual-buck-institute-reproductive-aging-summit/>



Center for
Healthy Aging in Women