

# The Columbia University Digestive & Liver Diseases Research Center

## 2026 Annual Retreat and Poster Session

May 21st, 2026

Columbia University  
School of Nursing, Seventh Floor  
560 W. 168th Street,  
New York, NY 10032



CU-DLDR  
DIVISION OF DIGESTIVE  
AND LIVER DISEASES

## Our Keynote Speaker



**Bernd Schnabl, MD PhD** is Professor of Medicine in the Division of Gastroenterology at the University of California San Diego.

Dr. Schnabl completed his medical training at the University of Regensburg and his GI fellowship at Columbia University. He is a staff physician and attending at the VA and the UC San Diego Medical Centers. He is also the Director of the NIH-funded San Diego Digestive Diseases Research Center (SDDRC). Dr. Schnabl's main research interests include the intestinal microbiome, metagenome and transcriptome associated with steatotic liver disease. He also works on the contribution of microbial products and metabolites to liver disease

as well as the genetic and molecular mechanisms, steatosis and inflammation in chronic liver disease.

In recognition of this work, Dr. Schnabl was elected as full member to the American Society for Clinical Investigation (ASCI) in 2016; ASCI is one of North America's oldest and esteemed medical honor societies. He is a Fellow of the American Gastroenterological Association (AGAF) and the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD). He was elected as member of the Association of American Physicians (AAP) in 2023. He is the recipient of many awards including the Schering-Plough Unrestricted Educational Award from the European Foundation for the Study of Liver Diseases (EASL) and the Harrington Scholar-Innovator Award in 2022 for his research on bacteriophage treatment. Dr. Schnabl has published over 270 papers in journals such as Nature, Cell Host & Microbe, Gastroenterology, Hepatology, Journal of Hepatology and Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences; and he has authored multiple reviews and book chapters.

## ANNUAL CU-DLDRRC 2026 RETREAT, May 21st, 2026

Location: 7<sup>th</sup> floor, School of Nursing Building, 560 W. 168th St, NY 10032

1:00-1:10PM: Welcome (Robert Schwabe MD, Timothy Wang MD, Elizabeth Verna, MD)

### KEYNOTE LECTURE

1:10-2:00PM **Bernd Schnabl, MD, PhD**, Professor of Medicine, Division of Gastroenterology at the University of California, San Diego, CA. *"When the gut talks the liver listens"*

### SESSION 1: **CU-DLDRRC Faculty Presentations on Theme 1: Epithelial Homeostasis, Metabolism and Regeneration**

**Chairs:** Rebecca Haeusler, PhD and Elizabeth Verna, MD

2:00-2:20PM **Robert Schwabe, MD.** *"Regulation of Homeostasis and Innate Immunity in the Healthy Liver by Hepatic Stellate Cells"*

2:20-2:40PM **Matthew Yousefzadeh, PhD, P/F Awardee.** *"Investigation of Senescent Cells and Their Role in the Pathogenesis of Liver Disease"*

2:40-3:00PM **Jonathan Steinman, MD, PhD, P/F Awardee.** *"Spatial Transcriptomics Reveals Unique Physiologic Features of Pediatric/Periportal MASH"*

3:00-3:30PM **BREAK** (Refreshments will be provided)

### SESSION 2: **CU-DLDRRC Faculty Presentations on Theme 2: Epithelial Interactions in Inflammation and Preneoplasia**

**Chairs:** Timothy Wang, MD, and Jianwen Que, PhD

3:30-3:50PM **Julian Abrams, MD.** *"From Mouth to Malignancy: Oral Health, the Microbiome, and Upper Gastrointestinal Preneoplasia"*

3:50-4:10PM **Dominique Bailey, MD, P/F Awardee.** *"Harnessing Pathophysiological Insights to Develop Innovative Treatment Targets for Pediatric Eosinophilic Esophagitis"*

4:10-4:30PM **Sara Zaccara, PhD, P/F Awardee.** *"A Non-invasive Epitranscriptomic Readout of Gut Inflammation"*

### POSTERS / FLASH TALKS

4:30-4:45PM Posters/Flash Talks by DLDRRC labs

### POSTER SESSION/RECEPTION/NETWORKING

4:45-5:30PM Reception and Networking (Refreshments will be provided)