



ASHG 2024 Presidential Symposium Biographies

Moderator



Bruce D. Gelb, MD

Dean for Child Health Research, Gogel Family Chair and Director of The Mindich Child Health and Development Institute, Director of the Center for Molecular Cardiology, and Professor of Pediatrics and Genetics and Genomic Sciences at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Speakers

Stanislav Y. Shvartsman, PhD
Professor, Princeton University

Stas Shvartsman was born in Odessa, Ukraine, and studied chemistry and engineering in Russia, Israel, and the US. His lab investigates how genomically encoded and self-organizing processes control development. The main themes of current research are 1) dynamics of signaling networks, 2) small cell clusters, and 3) quantitative biology of developmental abnormalities.





Athena Starlard-Davenport, PhD
Associate Professor, University of Tennessee Health
Science Center

Dr. Athena Starlard-Davenport has been a tenured Associate Professor in the Department of Genetics, Genomics, and Informatics at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis, since January 2016. She is a member of the Center for Sickle Cell Disease and serves as the Co-Track Director of the Department of Genetics, Genomics, and Informatics Graduate Program. On a professional level, she serves as the Chair of the American Society of Human Genetics Diversity, Equity, and

Inclusion Task Force. Dr. Starlard-Davenport's research expertise spans the field of genetics, epigenetics, and health disparities. A major area of research she focuses on is understanding the role of non-coding RNAs in fetal hemoglobin (HbF) regulation in sickle cell disease (SCD). She established the role of a small microRNA, miR-29Bb, as a tumor suppressor gene in breast cancer cells and as a target of de novo DNA methylation enzymes, DNMT3A and DNMT3B. Dr. Starlard-Davenport has expanded her research focus that demonstrated the ability of miR-29b to induce HbF as a potential therapeutic for SCD using *in vitro* primary erythropoiesis cell culture systems and *in vivo* treatment of SCD transgenic mice combined with computational approaches to identify novel gene networks and potential therapeutic targets. Her long-term goal is to make an impact in the SCD field by developing novel therapies to induce HbF to expand treatment options for patients suffering from SCD or other β -hemoglobinopathies. Her research is supported by the NIH-National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. *The Battle over Mendel and the Future of Biology* (2023).

Gregory Radick, PhD
Professor, University of Leeds

Gregory Radick is an award-winning historian of science who has published widely in the history of the life and human sciences. Educated at Rutgers and Cambridge Universities, he is currently Professor of History and Philosophy of Science at the University of Leeds. He has held fellowships from the British Academy and the Leverhulme Trust, and served as President of the British Society for the History of Science and the International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology. He writes and lectures frequently for general audiences, appearing on BBC Radio 4's *In Our Time* and in the PBS/National Geographic television series *Genius* with Stephen Hawking. In 2022 he was appointed to the Board of Trustees of the Science Museum Group. His books include *The Simian Tongue: The Long Debate about Animal Language* (2007) and, most recently, *Disputed Inheritance: The Battle over Mendel and the Future of Biology* (2023).

