

2026 ACRE Vascular Symposium

Newsletter



At a glance

Date & Time	May 13, 2026, 10:00 AM-5:00 PM
Location	Crossroads Community Center, 16000 NE 10th St., Bellevue, WA
Hosted by	Academy of Cardiovascular Research Excellence (ACRE)
Program focus	Career development forum, keynote presentations, featured & distinguished talks, Young Investigator Award competitions, leadership remarks and awards, and networking

Part I. Symposium highlights

The 2026 ACRE Vascular Symposium brought together investigators, trainees, and leaders in vascular biology and cardiovascular research for a full-day program in Bellevue, Washington. Held in conjunction with the Vascular Discovery Scientific Sessions, the symposium provided a focused forum for scientific exchange, professional development, early-career recognition, and community building among ACRE members and friends.

The program opened with a Career Development Forum moderated by Jingyan Han, featuring Drs. Larry Pinkus, Kathleen Martin, Xiaofeng Yang, and Naomi Hamburg. The discussion emphasized mentorship, career planning, leadership development, and practical guidance for trainees and early-career investigators. Sponsor presentations and a networking lunch followed, creating opportunities for attendees to connect with colleagues, invited speakers, and industry partners.



Scientific program

Following opening remarks by ACRE President Zhao Wang and ACRE reports on finance and membership by Xiaochun Long, the scientific program featured two keynote presentations. Cecilia Giachelli, PhD, University of Washington, delivered “Current Concepts in Cardiovascular Calcification,” highlighting mechanisms and disease relevance of cardiovascular calcification. Mark W. Majesky, PhD, Seattle Children’s Research Institute, closed the invited science program with “Looking at a Bigger Picture in Vascular Biology,” offering a broad perspective on developmental and regenerative themes in vascular research.

Featured presentations by Nicholas Chavkin, PhD; Chengcheng Zhu, PhD; Li Amily Guo, MD, PhD; and Yanbo Fan, MD, PhD, showcased work spanning cardiac endothelial cell fate dynamics, intracranial vessel wall imaging, platelet-CD8+ T cell interactions in thromboinflammation, and endothelial TFEB regulation of the cardiac stress response to doxorubicin. Distinguished presentations by Naomi Hamburg, MD, MS, and Guohao Dai, PhD, addressed cardiometabolic risk through the human endothelium and arterial-venous differentiation in vascular health and disease.

The Young Investigator Award session highlighted six selected presentations from Nestor Ishimwe, Ming He, Hanqiu Zhao, Yong Sun, Wenbin Tan, and Esteban Delgado, reflecting the breadth of emerging vascular research across smooth muscle biology, endothelial mechanobiology, pulmonary arterial hypertension, vascular calcification, single-vessel transcriptomics, and cardiac lymphangiogenesis.

Leadership remarks, awards, and closing

The afternoon concluded with leadership remarks from AHA and vascular community leaders, including Drs. Peter K. Henke, Kathleen Martin, and Joseph C. Wu. Award and certificate presentations recognized keynote, distinguished, and featured speakers, as well as Young Investigator and Travel Award recipients. Hong Lu, Chair of the ACRE Education/Award Committee, presented the YIA and Travel Awards, and Changcheng Zhou, Vascular Council Chair of ACRE, delivered closing remarks before the group photo.

Travel Awardees recognized at the symposium included Qian Ma, Sabrina Robichaud, Sijie Tang, Erandi Velazquez-Miranda, Ting-Yun Wang, Dien Ye, Jiahui Zhao, Liyuan Zhu, Zhehao Zhu, and Xuejian Yang.



Acknowledgements

ACRE thanks Li Amily Guo and the University of Washington for local hosting support, and acknowledges individual donors Tzung K. Hsiai and Yang Kevin Xiang.

ACRE also gratefully acknowledges symposium sponsors and vendors, including Chengdu Shibeikang Biomedical Technology Co., Ltd., Novoprotein Scientific Inc., FUJIFILM VisualSonics, and Cardiology Discovery. Their participation helped support the meeting and provided attendees with opportunities to learn about new technologies, products, and publication platforms relevant to cardiovascular and vascular research.



The 2026 ACRE Vascular Symposium was organized by the Co-Chairs, Organizing Taskforce, and Organizing Committee, with additional support from the Abstract Reviewers and Young Investigator Award Judges listed below.

Co-Chairs: Hong Chen, Zhao Wang, Changcheng Zhou;

Organizing taskforce: Amily Guo, Jingyan Han, Guang Li, Yanming Li, Ying Shen, Kevin Xiang;

Organizing committee: Amily Guo, Wei Guo, Jingyan Han, Na Li, Xiaochun Long, Hong Lu, Li Qian, Xu Xiao, Ying Shen, Yajing Wang, Kevin Xiang, Liya Yin, Jun Yu, Hanrui Zhang, Jiliang Zhou;

Abstract reviewers: Xiao Li, Bowen Wang, and Weijia Luo;

Young Investigator Award judges: Yun Fang, Jifeng Zhang, Jiliang Zhou, Jingyan Han, Ying Shen, Xinghui Sun, Changcheng Zhou, and Amr Salem

Part II. ACRE members recognized at Vascular Discovery 2026

In addition to the ACRE Vascular Symposium, several ACRE members were recognized during the 2026 Vascular Discovery Scientific Sessions in Bellevue, underscoring the visibility and impact of ACRE investigators across vascular biology, atherosclerosis, thrombosis, and translational cardiovascular research.

Member	Institution	Recognition
Hong Chen, PhD, FAHA	Boston Children’s Hospital	Jeffrey M. Hoeg Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis, and Vascular Biology Award for Basic Science and Clinical Research
Xiaolei Liu, PhD	Temple University	Irvine H. Page Junior Faculty Research Award - Finalist
Hong Lu, MD, PhD, FAHA	University of Kentucky	ATVB Council Leadership Recognition Award
Qian Ma, PhD	Baylor College of Medicine	Emerging Scientist Award for Women, 2026 - Finalist
Xiaofeng Yang, MD, PhD, FAHA	Temple University	ATVB Women’s Leadership Committee Award for Outstanding Mentorship of Women

— This report was prepared by Hanrui Zhang and Na Li, Co-Chairs of the Multimedia and Publication Committee.