

13th UAB-UCSD O'BRIEN CENTER RODENT KIDNEY PHYSIOLOGY/ INJURY WORKSHOP

June 8 – 12, 2026

**A Four and ½ Day Training Course for
Physiologists, Pharmacologists, and
Nephrologists**

Sponsored by the
Division of Nephrology at the
University of California, San Diego, the
Veterans Affairs San Diego Healthcare System,
and the
Division of Nephrology at the
University of Alabama at Birmingham

Registration Fee: \$1000.00 USD
(\$2000.00 USD for industry)



Supported by the UAB-UCSD O'Brien Core Center
for Acute Kidney Injury Research
(1U54DK137307)



This workshop is a hands-on course designed to familiarize the participant to the practices of animal handling and phenotyping techniques that are commonly used when working with the rat and mouse. Our experts will teach the basics of animal handling, injections, urine and blood sampling, assessment of blood pressure (Day 1), renal hemodynamics and transport on the whole kidney level (Day 2) and on the single nephron level (Day 3) as well as models of kidney injury (Days 4). The format includes lectures, demonstrations and hands-on practical training, lunch and coffee breaks and social events for discussions and networking, and is open to research assistants, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, residents, scientists and faculty from academia/industry.

The workshop aim is to familiarize participants with practical procedures used to characterize kidney function in rodents (rats and mice).

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

Each day begins with an introduction to the concepts and procedures through lectures from our experts. Subsequently, the participants are separated into groups of three to promote a more individualized learning experience during the practical sessions.

Day 1 Introduction and Basic Procedures

Introductory Lectures

8:00 AM - 9:45 AM: Handling of rats and mice, laws and regulations

Practical Sessions

10:00 AM - 5:30 PM: a) Basic handling of rats and mice, isoflurane anesthesia, injections (IP, SC, tail vein and retro-orbital), drawing blood, oral

gavage, and tail and ear biopsies; b) Metabolic cage studies in mice; c) Blood pressure by tail cuff in mice.

Day 2 Whole Kidney Function

Introductory Lectures

8:00 AM - 8:25 AM: Assessment of glomerular filtration rate (GFR)(incl. inulin clearance studies)

8:25 AM - 8:50 AM: Assessment of GFR by FITC sinistrin plasma kinetics

9:00 AM - 9:25 AM: Assessment of renal plasma flow (RPF)(incl. renal clearance and flow probe)

9:25 AM - 9:50 AM: Assessment of renal transport

Practical Sessions

10:00 AM - 5:30 PM: a) GFR by FITC sinistrin plasma kinetics in mice (transdermal and blood collection); b) Arterial blood pressure, renal inulin clearance experiment and flow probe in rats; c) Urine and plasma analysis.

Day 3 Single Nephron Function

Data analysis session

8:00 AM - 8:55 AM: Analysis of data from a) FITC-sinistrin study and b) Metabolic cage

9:00 AM - 9:55 AM: Analysis of renal inulin clearance studies and blood flow measurements

Introductory Lectures

10:00 AM - 10:40 AM: Determinants of single nephron GFR and their measurement

10:45 AM - 11:20 AM: Tubuloglomerular feedback

11:25 AM - 12:00 PM: Assessment of renal transport by micropuncture

Practical Sessions

1:15 PM - 5:30 PM: a) Rat preparation for micropuncture and pipette making; b) Rat renal micropuncture and sample microanalysis.

Day 4 Models of Kidney Injury

Introductory Lectures

8:00 AM - 8:40 AM: Models of acute kidney injury (AKI)

8:45 AM - 9:05 AM: Cecal ligation and puncture model of AKI

9:10 AM - 9:50 AM: Models of chronic kidney disease (CKD)

Practical Sessions

10:00 AM - 5:30 PM: a) Ischemia-reperfusion injury in rat; b) Unilateral nephrectomy and subtotal nephrectomy in mouse; c) Cecal ligation and puncture in mouse and rat.

Day 5 Review and Discussion

Instructors: All faculty

8:00 AM -10:30 AM: Questions and answers.

WORKSHOP INSTRUCTORS

University of California San Diego and VA Medical Center Lecturers and Instructors

Mari Bray D.V.M., DACLAM, Veterinary Medical Officer: Dr. Bray is a laboratory animal veterinarian with interests in all aspects of laboratory animal care and use, including design of research models using humane methods.

Prabhleen Singh M.D., Professor of Medicine: Dr Singh is interested in the pathophysiology of early chronic kidney disease and the early hemodynamic and metabolic alterations in models of kidney disease on the single nephron and whole kidney level.

Scott Thomson M.D., Professor of Medicine: Dr. Thomson conducts research into the autoregulation of renal function with particular emphasis on tubuloglomerular feedback.

Volker Vallon M.D., Professor of Medicine and Pharmacology: Dr. Vallon's research interests include molecular determinants of renal transport mechanisms, blood pressure regulation, and the pathophysiology of acute kidney injury and chronic kidney disease.

University of Alabama at Birmingham Lecturers and Instructors

Paul Sanders, M.D., Professor of Medicine, Core Director, Resource for Pre-clinical Studies of the O'Brien Center: Research interests include acute renal tubular injury from light chains, multiple myeloma, salt sensitive hypertension and cell signaling.

WORKSHOP LOCATION

The location for this workshop will be the VA San Diego Healthcare Hospital.

O'Brien Center Workshop Director:
Dr. Volker Vallon (vvallon@ucsd.edu)

O'Brien Center Workshop Coordinator:
Teresa White (t6white@health.ucsd.edu)

REGISTRATION

Your registration fee (\$1000.00 USD for academic, \$2000.00 USD for industry) includes all course material in a binder, continental breakfasts, lunches, and one evening meal commemorating the workshop. All participants will leave with a memory stick containing the entire workshop lectures, worksheets, contact information of instructors. Lab coats will be provided.

Please submit

Last Name:

Institution:

Department:

Mailing Address:

Phone Number:

Fax Number:

E-mail Address:

Submit completed registration information, your biosketch (if available), and a brief paragraph on your career goals by e-mail to:

Teresa White
O'Brien Center Workshop Coordinator
Nephrology-Hypertension
UC San Diego Health
T: (619) 743-0283
Email: t6white@health.ucsd.edu
vvallon@ucsd.edu

Once your application and accompanying materials are received, you will be furnished details for submitting your registration fee. Please Note: Your participation in this workshop is not guaranteed until registration fees are received by us.

Accommodations and Travel

Participants are responsible for their own travel and housing arrangements. A special rate is available at a local hotel. Teresa White, O'Brien Center Workshop Coordinator, will provide details. (See above for contact information).

PREVIOUS PARTICIPANTS

Previous participants include research assistants, graduate students, postdocs, research associates, scientists, and faculty from 67 institutions from 13 countries.

Some comments from recent workshop participants: "course was well organized with very knowledgeable instructors and highly skilled technicians"; "instructors were extremely helpful and patient in explaining each technique"; "extremely hands-on experience allowing for full understanding of the subject matter"; "there was ample time in each lab session to both get the hands-on experience and discuss theory pertaining to the experiment"; "the small groups were very amenable to close contact and feedback with the instructors as well as making new relationships"; "you get to see it's not so difficult as it sounds"; "for the FITC sinistrin it was nice to see how simple and efficient assessing GFR is"; "I did not have any surgery skills prior to this workshop and by the end I not only see the need for having this skill but also I am now very interested in including whole body

physiological experiments in my future studies"; "the micropuncture experiments were so exciting"; "assistance/education in both practical aspects of experiments as well as analysis"; "this course reignited my passion for research and at the same time provided me new techniques & perspectives to ask new and different questions relating to my work"; "the professionalism, collegiality, and hospitality were extraordinary"; "it was a fantastic experience that gave me a unique opportunity to network, learn new techniques, and improve some of the skills I was already familiar with. But equally important, the lectures and intellectual conversations were quite stimulating and thought provoking"; "I strongly recommend this course. It caused a huge jump in my understanding as well as my interest in this field"; "the dynamic discussions, inclusions and diversity of the participants were wonderful"; "it was an extra ordinary experience, way beyond my expectations and it was great to be connected to such a wonderful team"; "it was a great networking opportunity".

There are *only* nine slots available for this workshop, please register early!



We are looking forward to seeing you in San Diego!