

Hosted by the Department of Molecular Biology,
Cell Biology and Biochemistry

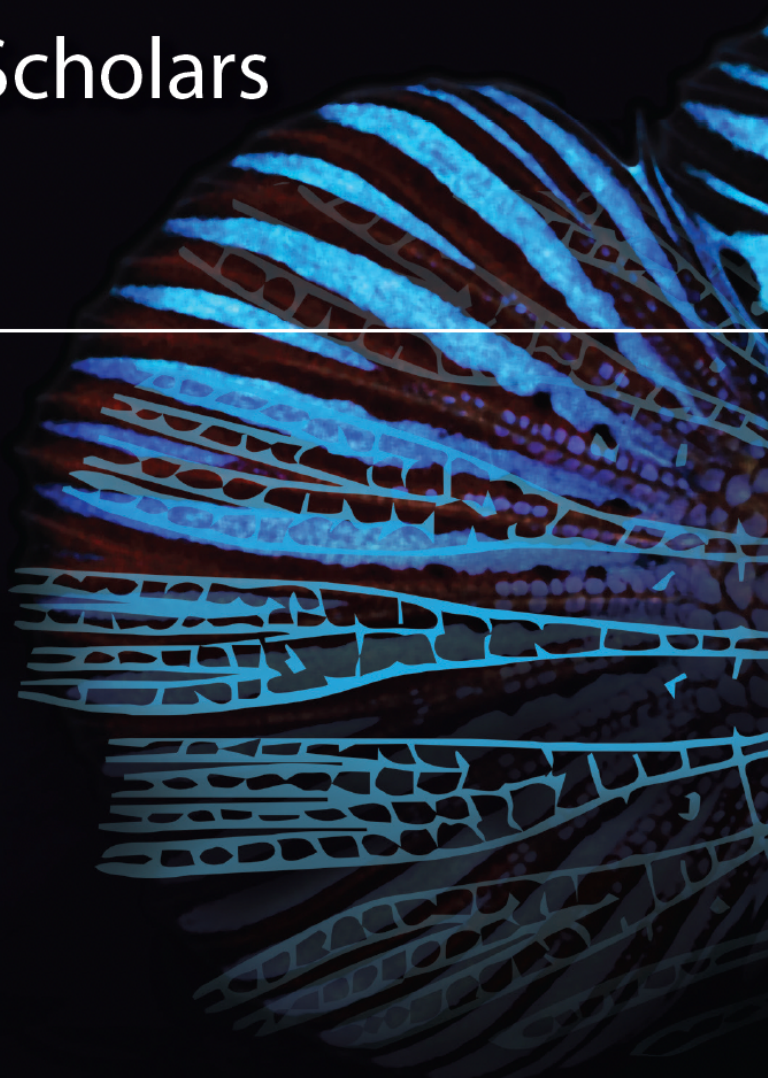
7TH ANNUAL

Dr. Samuel M. Nabrit Conference for Early Career Scholars at Brown University

June 5 – 6, 2025
Providence, Rhode Island



BROWN



All conference sessions will be held in Sidney Frank Hall, 185 Meeting St., Providence

Thursday, June 5

SFH 220

2:00 pm **MCB Department Chair's Welcome - Walter Atwood, PhD**
Biographical Sketch of Dr. S.M. Nabrit - Myles Bartholomew

2:10 pm **Keynote Address**
JoAnn Trejo, PhD (University of California San Diego)
A scientific journey: serendipity, success and cell signaling

3:10 pm **Short Research Talks**
Luis Cedeño-Rosario, PhD (University of Utah)
Regulation of the mitochondrial pyruvate carrier by the Wnt/ β -catenin pathway rewires mitochondrial metabolism

3:25 pm **Iris Montes (Tufts University)**
The p97-UBXD8 complex maintains peroxisome abundance by suppressing pexophagy

3:40 pm **Lightning Talk for Posters**
Y. Quiñones Avilés, Yale University

3:45 pm **Coffee Break** **SFH Atrium**

4:00 pm **Panel Discussion** **SFH 220**
Moderator: Audra Van Wart, PhD
Panelists: Nic Fisk, PhD, Erica Walker, PhD, Dioscaris Garcia, PhD
From campus to community: effective public engagement and career development strategies

5:15 pm **Local Showcase Reception** **SFH Atrium**

Friday, June 7

9:00 am **Short Research Talks** **SFH 220**
Ekramuddin Towsif (Emory University)
Effects of cyclase-associated protein (Srv2/CAP) on actin filament ends

9:15 am **Abigail Brown, PhD (Princeton University)**
Deciphering the molecular mechanisms underlying learned pathogenic avoidance

9:30 am	Claira Sohn (University of Texas San Antonio & Brown University) <i>Tau-induced disruption of nuclear mechanotransduction</i>	
9:45 am	Gregory Francis Jr. (New York University Langone Health) <i>OSBP inactivation synergizes with GPX4 inhibition to trigger ferroptosis</i>	
10:00 am	Coffee Break	SFH Atrium
10:10 am	Lightning Talks for Posters I. Soto Reyes (Providence College), D. Bonilla-Pinto (Wesleyan University), Q. Alcantara (University of Utah), N. Fisk (University of Rhode Island)	SFH 220
10:30 am	Keynote Address Derek Applewhite, PhD (Reed College) <i>Regulation of non-muscle myosin II contractility</i>	SFH 220
11:30 am	Poster Session	SFH Atrium
12:30 pm	Lunch & Informal Poster Viewing	SFH Atrium
2:00 pm	Short Research Talks Aarthi Venkat, PhD (Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard) <i>Dissecting cellular and molecular mechanisms of pancreatic cancer</i>	SFH 220
2:15 pm	Ingrid Rodriguez Aragon (University of Minnesota) <i>Role of p53 in doxorubicin-induced senescence in human breast epithelial cells</i>	
2:30 pm	Kristina Kelley (Boston College) <i>Uncovering a potential link between a microbiota-derived metabolite and pediatric celiac disease</i>	
2:45 pm	Myles Bartholomew (Brown University) <i>Who might that be? TAF4b-dependent transcriptional and epigenetic regulation in a novel germline subset</i>	
3:00 pm	Coffee Break	SFH Atrium
3:15 pm	Panel Discussion Moderators: Sebastian Millien & Samara Cummings Panelists: Luis Cedeño-Rosario, Gregory Francis, Kristina Kelley, Claira Sohn, and Ekram Towsif <i>Resilience and community in uncertain times</i>	SFH 220
4:45 pm	Closing Remarks	SFH 220



**Dr. Samuel Milton Nabrit
(1905 – 2003)**

An accomplished marine biologist with a distinguished international career, Samuel Milton Nabrit was Brown University's first African-American PhD recipient and first African-American trustee. Dr. Nabrit's scientific papers remained influential for many years and are still cited today in journals including *Regeneration*, *Mechanisms of Development*, and *Developmental Cell*; he also published a number of important papers on graduate and professional education for African Americans. A 1925 graduate of Morehouse College, he studied regeneration in fish tail fins in the doctoral program in biology at Brown and at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts. Dr. Nabrit served as a professor of zoology and then chair of the biology department at Morehouse from 1932 to 1947. He became dean of the graduate school of arts and sciences at Atlanta University in 1947, as well as a member of the Marine Biological Laboratory Corporation. In 1955 Dr. Nabrit was named the second president of Texas Southern University.

Organizing Committee: Myles Bartholomew, Amy Cohen, Samara Cummings, Michelle Dawson, PhD, Alison DeLong, PhD, Phyllis Dennery, MD, Carolina Gomez Casas, Mark Johnson, PhD, Eugene Lee, PhD, Sofia Lizarraga, PhD, Laura Medeiros, Kimberly Meza, Sebastian Millien, Melanie Ortiz Alvarez De La Campa, Jessica Otis, PhD, Christoph Schorl, PhD, Dominique Walker, PharmD.

Sponsors: The Dr. Samuel M. Nabrit Conference for Early Career Scholars has been generously supported by the Gilliam Community Engagement Allowance of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Brown's Graduate School, the MCB Department, and the Mac V. Edds Endowed Lectureship in Developmental Biology. Speakers V. Aarthi, A. Brown, L. Cedeño-Rosario, G. Francis Jr., K. Kelley, I. Montes, I. Rodriguez-Aragon, M. Bartholomew, C. Sohn and E. Towsif are Mac V. Edds Lecturers.

Cover artwork inspired by S.M. Nabrit (1929) *Biological Bulletin*

Abstracts for the 2025 Samuel
M. Nabrit Conference for Early
Career Scholars can be found
at:

