

“Philly Bound: Laura Osborn Takes on USASP 2026 ”

Laura Osborn made her mark at the 2026 United States Association for the Study of Pain (USASP) Annual Meeting. Held at the historic Loews Philadelphia Hotel from March 23–26, the conference serves as a premier gathering for the world’s leading scientists, clinicians, and advocates dedicated to transforming the landscape of pain management.

A fifth-year PTET student in the lab of Dr. Kim Stephens (Dept. of Neuroscience), Laura traveled to the meeting backed by a prestigious Travel Award from the PURPOSE Pain Network. This NIH HEAL-supported honor highlights her standing as a rising researcher in the field and supported her travel and participation. During her scientific session, Laura presented a poster with her latest research findings: *“Myelin degradation as a driver of persistent, exclusive cold hypersensitivity in a model of chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy.”*

The Department congratulates Laura on her successful travels and these well-deserved awards as she continues her vital work in the Stephens Lab!

“Dr. Rami Shahrer and the Fouda Lab Uncover Novel Pathway to Preserve Vision”

The Department is proud to congratulate Dr. Rami Shahrer, Senior Postdoctoral Fellow in the Fouda Lab, on his outstanding achievement as the lead author of a recent publication in *Cell Death Discovery* (impact factor 7.1) . The study, titled *“Myeloid HDAC3 deletion protects against traumatic optic injury”*, marks a significant milestone in neurotrauma research. Published in a Nature portfolio journal, the work also highlights the impactful leadership of Dr. Abdelrahman Fouda, who served as the senior and corresponding author.

The findings in Dr. Shahrer’s publication advance our understanding of immune-mediated repair mechanisms in the retina and optic nerve after neurotrauma and underscore the translational potential of modulating efferocytosis to preserve vision. Importantly, the study reveals that HDAC3 acts as a negative regulator of reparative macrophage function, and that targeting this pathway may represent a novel therapeutic strategy for alleviating optic nerve injury and neurotrauma. Dr. Shahrer’s work exemplifies scientific rigor, innovation, and a strong commitment to translational research aimed at preserving vision. His achievement reflects both his individual excellence and the collaborative strength of the Fouda Lab. We celebrate this success and look forward to his continued contributions to the field.

This achievement reflects both his individual excellence and the collaborative strength of the entire research team, including co-authors Dr. Carol Morris, Ashlynn Cunningham, and Piyanan Chuesiang. We celebrate this success and look forward to Dr. Shahrer’s continued discoveries. His dedication to uncovering the molecular drivers of neurotrauma provides a hopeful foundation for future clinical applications that could one day restore vision for those patients suffering from debilitating optic injuries.

