

**41<sup>st</sup> Annual Richard D. Katz Distinguished Majors Research Symposium**  
**April 30, 2025, Gilmer 390 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM**

Watch it live!  
<https://tinyurl.com/2x4ux9xw>  
passcode 022435



- 8:30 am      **Coffee, pastries, beverages** GIL 390 Lobby
- 9:00          **Welcome**      Prof. Keith Kozminski, Host, 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Richard D. Katz Symposium  
Prof. Douglas Taylor, Director, Biology Distinguished Majors Program
- 9:15          **Reece Anderson** - *Who Regulates the Regulators? Alternative Splicing of Transcription Factors*  
Research advisor: Prof John Platig, Dept. of Genome Sciences, SOM
- 9:30          **Griffin Jiron** - *Sexual Behaviors in an Aging Beetle*. Research advisor: Prof. Butch Brodie, UVA Biology
- 9:45          **Emaan Kapadia** - *BMP Involvement in Danio albolineatus Carotenoid-Dependent Coloration*.  
Research advisor: Prof. David Parichy, UVA Biology
- 10:00        **Adianna Lockwood** - *How do Avoidance and Resistance Covary?* Research advisor: Prof. Amanda Gibson, UVA Biology
- 10:15        **Vance Newsome** - *Expansion of the Restorer Pentatricopeptide Repeat Gene Family in Silene*.  
Research Advisor: Prof. Douglas Taylor, UVA Biology
- 10:30        **Michael Mao** - *Development and Application of a Chimeric RNA Quantitation Pipeline Across Cell Types*. Research Advisor: Prof Hui Li, Department of Pathology, SOM
- Break – Refreshments in the Gilmer 390 Lobby**
- 11:00        **Alexander Heise** - *Engineering Synthetic Pathways in S. cerevisiae for the Production of Cannabinoids*.  
Research Advisor: Prof Michael Timko, UVA Biology
- 11:15        **Kayli Morris** - *Socially Wired: Critical Period Plasticity in Chemosensory Neurons of Drosophila Larvae*. Research Advisor: Prof. Barry Condrón, UVA Biology
- 11:30        **Josh Pazin** - *Investigating Uncharacterized Genes in Drosophila Imaginal Wing Disc Regeneration*.  
Research advisor: Prof. Melanie Worley, UVA Biology
- 11:45        **Ella Reithinger** - *New Labeling System to Visualize Shigella flexneri Virulence Factor Expression in Real Time*. Research advisor: Prof Hervé Agaisse, Microbiology, Immunology and Cancer, SOM
- 12:00        **Anna Grace Carns** - *Investigation of the Mechanism of Seizure Generation in Mouse Models of Childhood Absence Epilepsy*. Research advisor: Prof. Mark Beenhakker, Pharmacology, SOM
- 12:15        **Cherry Chu** - *Ciliary and neuronal phenotype of Katnip deficiency in a mouse model for Joubert Syndrome*. Research advisor: Research advisor: Prof. John (Zheng) Fu, Pharmacology, SOM
- 12:30 pm    **Catered Lunch, Gilmer Commons (GIL 490)**
- 1:30          **Nicholas Essepian** - *Tau oligomerization drives neurodegeneration via nuclear invagination and Lamin B receptor binding in Alzheimer's disease*: Research Advisor: Prof Lulu Jiang, Neuroscience, SOM

1:45	<b>Kelly Kim</b> - <i>Investigation of the Mechanism Underlying a Novel Lysosome-to-Mitochondria Signaling Pathway and Its Disruption in Alzheimer's Disease</i> . Research advisor: Andrés Norambuena, UVA Biology
2:00	<b>Aroosha Solomon</b> - <i>Altered Hierarchical Rank in Intrinsic Neural Timescales in Autism Spectrum Disorder</i> . Research advisor: Prof. Aiying Zhang, School of Data Science
2:15	<b>Christopher Matney</b> - <i>A Double Agent in Our Gut: How Enterotoxigenic Bacteroides Fragilis Arms Cancer Through Lipid Signaling</i> . Research advisor: Prof. Todd Fox, Hematology and Oncology, SOM.
2:30	<b>Lindsey Bihuniak</b> - <i>The Impact of Undernutrition on Intestinal Innate Lymphoid Cell</i> . Research advisor: Prof. Carrie Cowardin, Pediatrics, SOM
2:45	<b>Angela Yu</b> - <i>Dissolution of protein aggregates involved in neurodegenerative disease using molecular chaperones</i> . Research advisor: Prof. Hao Jiang, Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics, SOM
<b>3:00 pm</b>	<b>Break – Refreshments in the Gilmer 390 Lobby</b>
3:15	<b>Charles Funk</b> - <i>Enhancing Tumor Antigen Immunogenicity Through Focused Ultrasound</i> : Research Advisor: Prof Timothy Bullock, Pathology, SOM.
3:30	<b>Georgia Rivero</b> - <i>The Influence of Differential MHC Class I and Class II Expression on Immunity to Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer in a Mouse Model</i> . Research advisor: Prof Timothy Bullock, Pathology, SOM.
3:45	<b>Ramsey Beladia</b> - <i>Interrogating HERV-K Rec expression in ovarian cancer</i> . Research advisor: Prof. Kristin Anderson, UVA Comprehensive Cancer Center.
4:00	<b>Christina Cucolo</b> - <i>Examining the Role of the Microenvironment and Vasculature in Osteosarcoma</i> . Research advisor: Prof Andrew Dudley, Microbiology, Immunology and Cancer, SOM
4:15	<b>Songy Choi</b> - <i>T-Cell Regulation by MicroRNAs in Glioblastoma: Insights from a Mouse Model</i> . Research advisor: Prof. Roger Abounader, Microbiology, Immunology and Cancer, SOM
4:30	<b>Sophia Stanisic</b> - <i>Evaluating Combination 5-FU and DNase in the Treatment of Colorectal Cancer Metastases in Murine Models</i> : Prof. Hongji Zhang, Surgery, SOM.
<b>4:45PM</b>	<b>Determination of Katz Award Recipients</b>
<b>5:00PM</b>	<b>Presentation of Katz Symposium Awards</b>