

Meeting Organizer:

Patricia L. Clark, *University of Notre Dame*

Program Committee:

Connie Jeffery, *University of Illinois at Chicago*

Lisa Lapidus, *Michigan State University*

Conference Venue:

Jordan Hall of Science
University of Notre Dame
574-631-6456

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Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry, University of Notre Dame

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19th Midwest Conference on Protein Folding, Assembly & Molecular Motions

April 25, 2026

Jordan Hall of Science – University of Notre Dame

8:15 – 8:55 *Coffee, fruit, and pastries*

8:55 – 9:00 *Opening Remarks* – Patricia L. Clark

Opening Plenary Speaker

9:00 – 9:30 Learning protein dynamics from what is missing
Hannah Wayment-Steele
Department of Biochemistry, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI

Protein Interactions & Multimerization

Chair: Jonathan Nguyen (Vermaas Lab, Michigan State University)

9:30 – 9:50 How does a protein-based Bacterial Organelle connect to its Positioning System?
Rachelle Baumann and Anthony Vecchiarelli
Department of Biological Chemistry, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

9:50 – 10:10 Protein Stability, Abundance, and Oligomerization Constrain the Architecture of Protein Interaction Networks
Muskan Goel, Daniel A. Nissley, Xavier Castellanos-Girouard, Charles P. Kuntz, Yiqing Wang, M. Shahid Mukhtar, Adrian Serohijos, and Jonathan P. Schleich
Department of Chemistry, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

10:10 – 10:25 *Coffee Break*

10:25 – 11:25 Community Hour

Protein Conformational Changes

Chair: Dorothy DRozario (Noinaj Lab, Purdue University)

11:25 – 11:45 Elucidating the conformational dynamics of the Grp94 chaperone
Ikponwmosa Obaseki, Aidan Hargett, and Andrea Kravats
Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Miami University, Oxford, OH

11:45 – 12:05 Biophysical and Cryo-EM Structural Characterization of Candida GTP Cyclohydrolase I as a New Target for Antifungal Therapy
Emmanuel Oluwarotimi, Yirui Guo, Dominika Borek, Andrew Mesecar
Department of Biochemistry, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

12:05 – 1:20 *Lunch*

1:20 – 1:55 *Poster Session 1: even numbered posters*

1:55 – 2:30 *Poster Session 2: odd numbered posters*

Proteins in Cells

Chair: Joseph Pettis (Kuret Lab, The Ohio State University)

2:30 – 2:50 Synonymous Substitutions Reduce Per-cell eGFP Fluorescence
Laura M. Chamness, Disha Patel, Rohan Bhardwaj, Jonathan P. Schleich & Patricia L. Clark
Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN

2:50 – 3:10 Interindividual variation in proteostasis shapes phenotype and stress resilience
Laura C. Bott, Jeonghyun Kim, Renee M. Brielmann, Ambre J. Sala, Richard I. Morimoto
Department of Molecular Biosciences, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

3:10 – 3:30 Large-scale mapping of context-dependent chaperone specificity
Tulika Sharan, Vatsan Raman
Department of Biochemistry, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI

3:30 – 3:45 *Coffee Break*

Proteins In & Near Membranes

Chair: Swagarika Giri (Kihara Lab, Purdue University)

3:45 – 4:05 Structural Plasticity Regulates ATP-Dependent Proteolysis at the Bacterial Membrane
Naseer Iqbal and Alireza Ghanbarpour
Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO

4:05 – 4:25 Mechanistic dissection of ATP-dependent degradation of a helical-bundle membrane protein.
Manoj Rana, Changwon Kim, Mihiravi Gunasekara, Saba Kanwal, Tae-Young Yoon, Heedeok Hong
Department of Chemistry, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

Closing Plenary Speaker

4:25 – 4:55 Protons as a second messenger: pH-dependent allostery and liquid-liquid phase separation
Katharine White
Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN

4:55 – 5:00 *Closing Remarks – Connie Jeffery*

5:00 – 6:15 *Closing Reception*