Symposium Honoring Palmer Taylor

SSPPS Auditorium
UC San Diego, La Jolla

November 14-15, 2025
9:00 am – 5:00 pm

UC San Diego
SKAGGS SCHOOL OF PHARMACY AND PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES

UC San Diego
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACOLOGY

AMGEN

Program

Friday, November 14
PSB Auditorium, SSPPS, UCSD, La Jolla

8:30 Breakfast (Coffee & bagels)

Session 1
Chaired by Susan Taylor

9:00 **Welcome by Pascale Marchot**, CNRS/Aix-Marseille Univ, France

9:10 **Introduction by Susan Taylor & Palmer Taylor**, UC San Diego

9:30 **Greetings by Larry Brunton**, UC San Diego
Joan Heller Brown, UC San Diego
Shelley Camp, PT Lab Manager Emeritus

9:55 **Steven Sine, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MI**
Interfaces in Pharmacology and Beyond

10:25 ***Coffee break***

Session 2
Chaired by Pascale Marchot & Yves Bourne

10:55 **Joel Sussman, The Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel**
Acetylcholinesterase: Structure to Function and Beyond

11:25 **Gisela Camacho, University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, TX**
Targeting the Monoamine Transporters: Chemical Tools and Potential Therapeutics

11:45 **Hans-Jurgen Kreienkamp, Hamburg University, Germany**
From Acetylcholine to Argonaute

12:00 ***Lunch on site (for confirmed participants)***

Session 3
Chaired by Zrinka Kovarik

1:00 **K. Barry Sharpless, Scripps Research, La Jolla, CA**
Aiming to Capture the High Points of Our 20+ Year Project Together

1:25 **Zrinka Kovarik, Institute for Medical Research and Occupational Health, Croatia**
Reactivation of Acetylcholinesterase: A Shared Research Focus for Nearly 30 Years

1:45 **Scott Hansen, Chinese Institutes for Medical Research, China**
A Look Back on Allosteric Activation

2:05 **Akos Nemecz, University of Nicolas Copernicus, Poland**
Breathing Life into the Acetylcholine Binding Protein

2:15 **Zoran Radić, UC San Diego**
Structure-based Design of Uncharged Bis-oxime Antidotes Against OP Poisoning

2:25 **Yvonne Rosenberg, PlantVax Inc., Rockville, MD**
The Rewards of Scientific Commitment: Post Exposure RS194B Oxime is the Most Efficacious Single-Administration Treatment Today Against Lethal OP Nerve Agents and Insecticides in Primates

2:35 **John Yamauchi, Schrödinger, Inc., USA**
Computational Approaches to Nicotinic Ligand Selectivity

2:50 ***Coffee break***

Session 4
Chaired by Palmer Taylor

3:20 **Davide Comoletti, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand**
Pacific, Atlantic, and trans-Pacific explorations

3:50 **Andy McCammon, UC San Diego**
Structure and Dynamics in Pharmacology

4:10 **Ryan Hibbs, UC San Diego**
Acetylcholine Receptors in Sickness and in Health: From Structure to Therapy

Evening Events (*by invitation only*)
6:00 Cocktails and Dinner at the Birch Aquarium

Saturday, November 15
PSB Auditorium, SSPPS, UCSD, La Jolla

8:30 Breakfast (Coffee & bagels)
8:50 Welcome by Susan Taylor, UC San Diego

Session 5
Chaired by William Gerwick

9:00 **Jean-Pierre Changeux, Institut Pasteur, France**
The Nicotine Receptor: An Allosteric Protein From the Molecular to the Cognitive Level

9:20 **Baldomero Olivera, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT**
Cell-specific Expression of Different Nicotinic Receptor Subtypes

9:50 **William Fenical, UC San Diego SIO**
Lophotoxin and the Incredible Insight of Palmer Taylor

10:00 **William Gerwick, UC San Diego**
Exploring Marine Biodiversity for Drug Discovery through SSPPS Collaborations

10:20 ***Coffee break***

Session 6
Chaired by Larry Brunton

10:50 **Bradley Moore, UC San Diego**
Fulfilling Palmer's Vision to Build a Premier Pharmacy-oceanography Partnership at UCSD

11:10 **Tadeusz Molinski, UC San Diego**
Calcium Ion-Channel Modulators. Bounty from the Seat and Four Decades of Research

11:20 **Pascale Marchot / Yves Bourne, CNRS/Aix-Marseille Univ, France**
Macrocyclic Imine Phycotoxins and AChBP: What's on my Seafood Platter?

11:40 **Susumu Kawamoto, Chiba University, Japan**
A Wonderful Encounter in Southern California, and Then

11:50 **Hideki Onishi, Saitama Medical University International Medical Center, Japan**
Does Thiamine Deficiency Still Occur Despite our Modern Eating Habits?

12:00 ***Lunch on site (for confirmed participants)***

Session 7
Chaired by Vince Dionne

1:00 **Mark Schumacher, UC San Francisco**
"Two Roads Diverged": A Clinician-scientist's Journey in Pain Research

1:30 **Jerold Chun, Sanford Burnham Prebys**
Lipid Receptors and Wonderful Wines with Palmer

1:50 **Craig Venter, Craig Venter Institute, La Jolla**
(TBD)

2:10 *Coffee break*

Session 8

Chaired by Brookie Best

2:40 **Brookie Best, UC San Diego**
A Legacy of Excellence: Celebrating Dr. Palmer Taylor's Contributions to Pharmacy Education

2:50 **Pieter Dorrestein, UC San Diego**
The journey from microbial conversations to the global data science of small molecules

3:20 **Vivian Hook, UC San Diego**
Innovative Therapeutics Research by SSPPS Educational Programs and Collaborators

3:30 **David Gonzalez, UC San Diego**
The Center of Advanced Proteomics at UCSD's Department of Pharmacology and the SSPPS

3:40 **Katarzyna Kaczanowska, Poland**
Advances in Targeted Protein Degradation

3:50 **Dong Wang, UC San Diego**
Unravel the "Dark Matter" of Transcription

4:00 **Geoffrey Chang, UC San Diego**
Ligand-gated Fluorescent Sensors

4:10 **Ruben Abagyan, UC San Diego**
Bridging in silico Protein Structures and Chemical Spaces to Lab and Clinic

4:20 **Closing Remarks (Paul Insel and Zrinka Kovarik)**

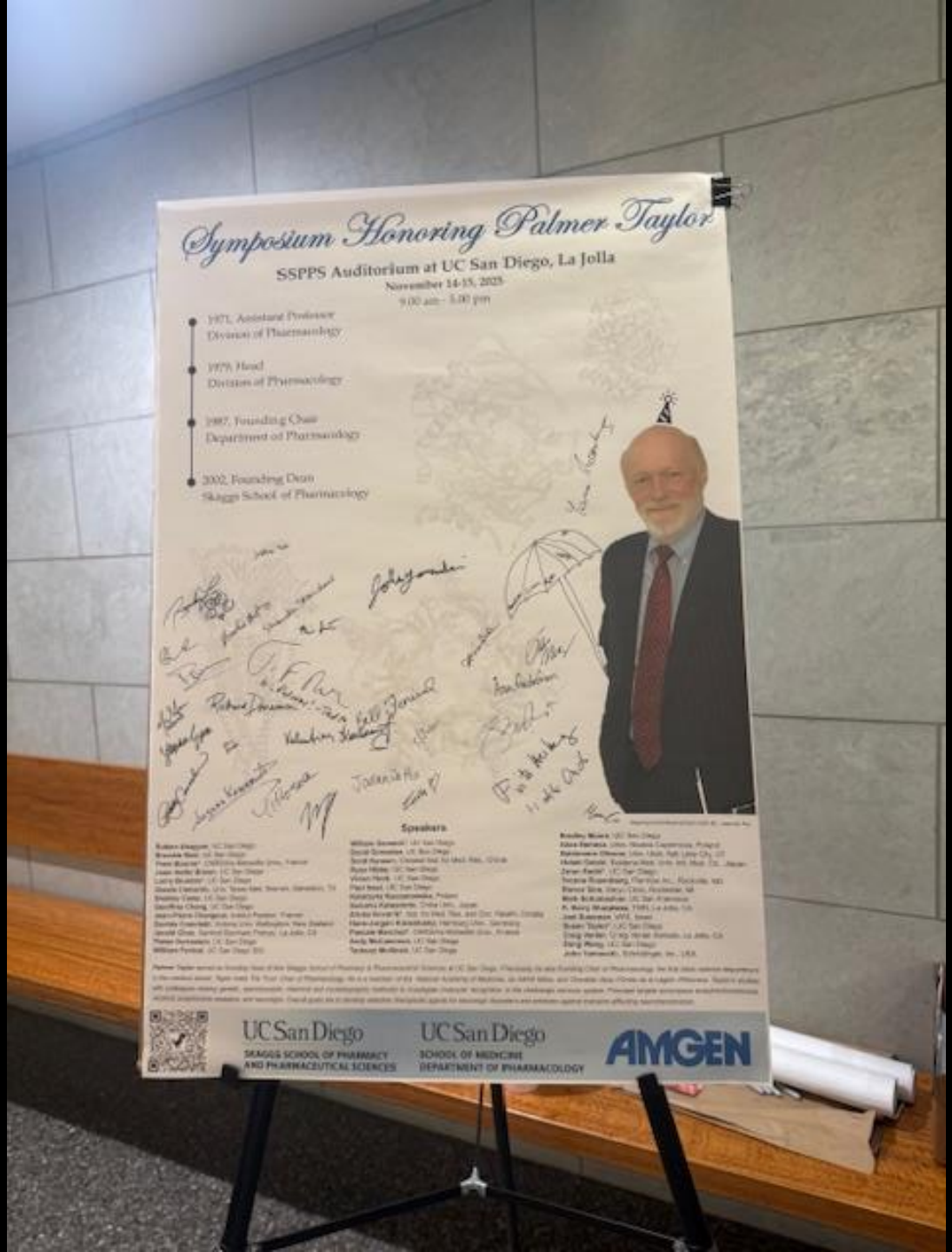
Evening Events (*by invitation only*)

6:00 Dinner at the Taylors' Residence

Steering Committee
Yves Bourne, Larry Brunton, William Gerwick, Joannie Ho,
Zrinka Kovarik, Pascale Marchot, Zoran Radić, Gina Taylor, Susan S. Taylor

Art and Design
Zoran Radić, Coco Li

Sponsors
Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, UC San Diego
Department of Pharmacology, School of Medicine, UC San Diego
Amgen Pharmaceuticals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1987, Founding Chair
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2002, Founding Dean
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Speakers
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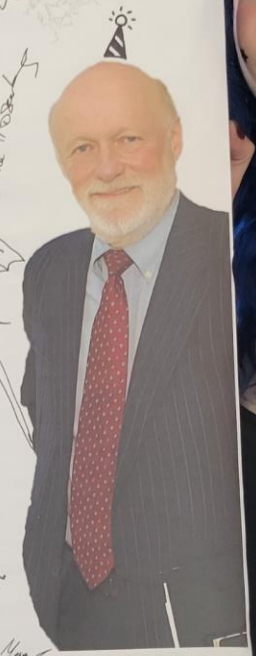

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Vivian Hook, UC San Diego
Paul Insel, UC San Diego
Katarzyna Kaczanowska, Poland
Susumu Kawamoto, Chiba Univ., Japan
Zrinka Kovarik*, Inst. for Med. Res. and Occ. Health, Croatia
Hans-Jurgen Kreienkamp, Hamburg Univ., Germany
Pascale Marchot*, CNRS/Aix-Marseille Univ., France
Andy McCammon, UC San Diego
Tadeusz Molinski, UC San Diego
Bradley Moore, UC San Diego
Akos Nemecz, Univ. Nicolas Copernicus, Poland
Baldomero Olivera, Univ. Utah, Salt Lake City, UT
Hideki Onishi, Saitama Med. Univ. Intl. Med. Ctr., Japan
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Steven Sine, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MI
Mark Schumacher, UC San Francisco
K. Barry Sharpless, TSRI, La Jolla, CA
Joel Sussman, WIS, Israel
Susan Taylor*, UC San Diego
Craig Venter, Craig Venter Institute, La Jolla, CA
Dong Wang, UC San Diego
John Yamauchi, Schrödinger, Inc., USA

***Palmer Taylor** served as founding Dean of the Skaggs School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences at UC San Diego. Previously, he was founding Chair of Pharmacology, the first basic science department in the medical school. Taylor holds The Trout Chair of Pharmacology. He is a member of the National Academy of Medicine, an AAAS fellow, and Chevalier dans l'Ordre de la Légion d'Honneur. Taylor's studies with colleagues employ genetic, spectroscopic, chemical and crystallographic methods to investigate molecular recognition in the cholinergic nervous system. Principal targets encompass acetylcholinesterase, nicotinic acetylcholine receptors, and neuroligin. Overall goals are to develop selective therapeutic agents for neurologic disorders and antidotes against toxicants affecting neurotransmission.*

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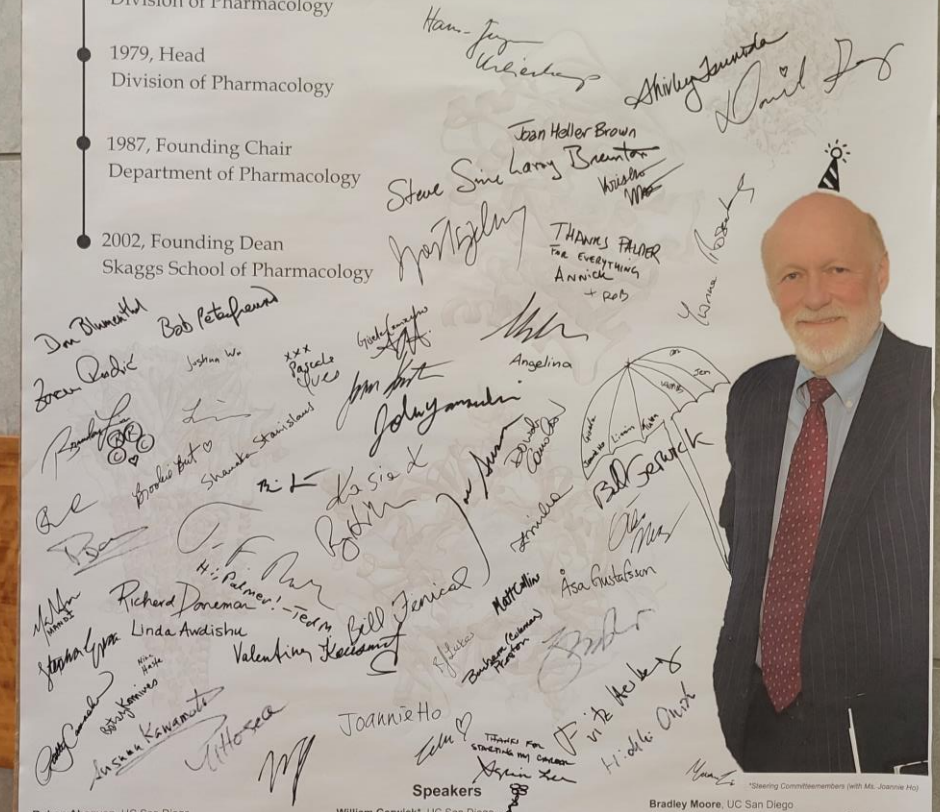

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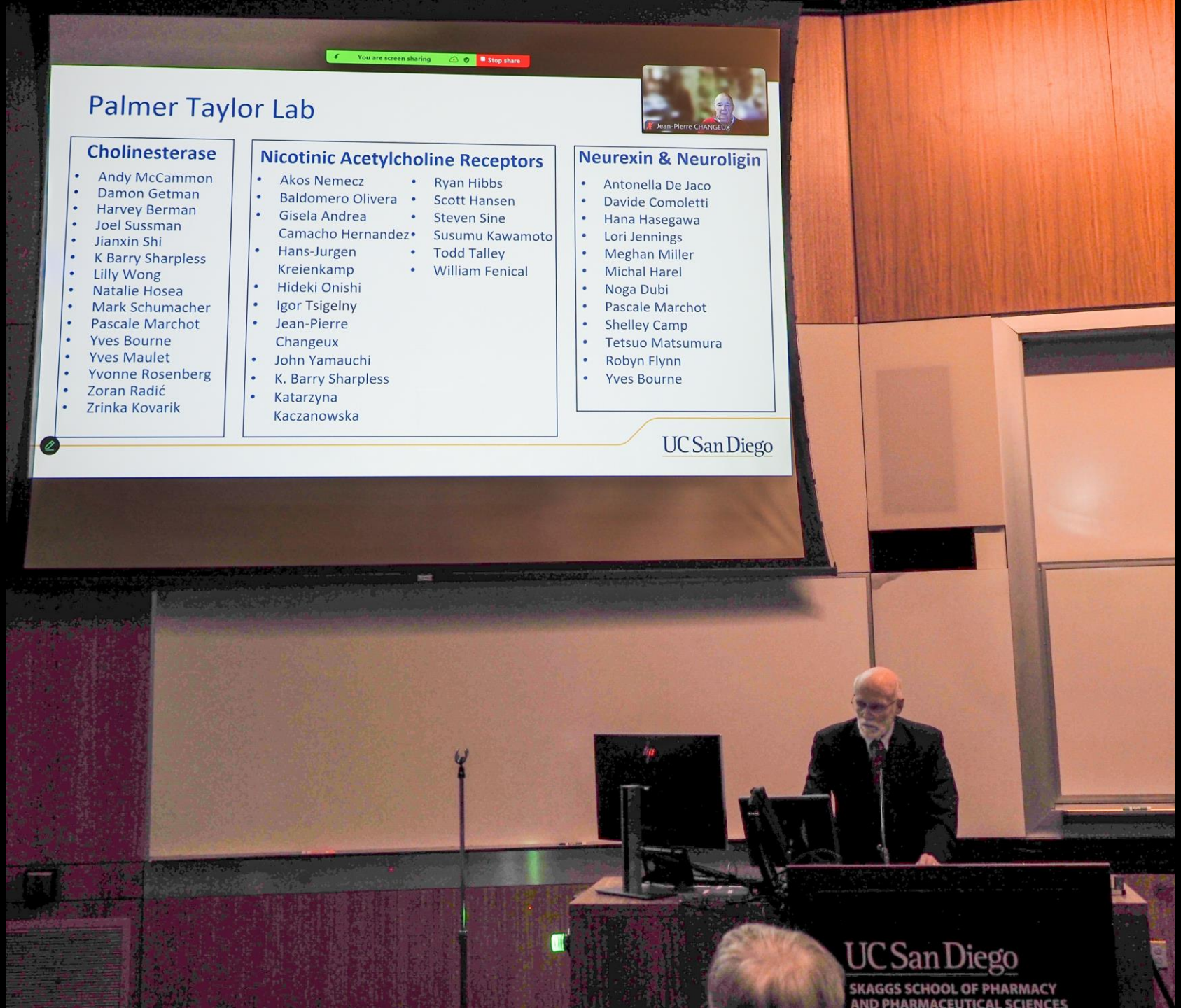
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Neurexin & Neuroligin
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Jean-Pierre CHANGEUX
Thanks to **Palmer** for:
His **Positivity**
Seeing the **Possibilities**
Years of **Partnership**
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Israel Silman
1935-2025
Jean-Pierre CHANGEUX
Joel Sussman
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EXIT
EXIT

Vincent van Gogh
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Self-Portrait (1887)
Leonardo da Vinci
Mona Lisa (1503)
Pablo Picasso
‡
Les Demoiselles d'Avignon (1907)
'click'
Henri Matisse
La Dance (1909)

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ADAM R. SCRIPPS
LIVING
Edzna
Garcia
Palmer
Taylor

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50 years of organising international meetings
cholinesterases, receptors and cholinergic mechanisms
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Natalie
Hosea

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Taylor

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Ryan
Hibbs
Akos
Nemecz

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The cluster hire in 2005 bringing marine drug discovery to SSPPS

Bill Gerwick
SSPPS – SIO

Ted Molinski
SSPPS – Chemistry

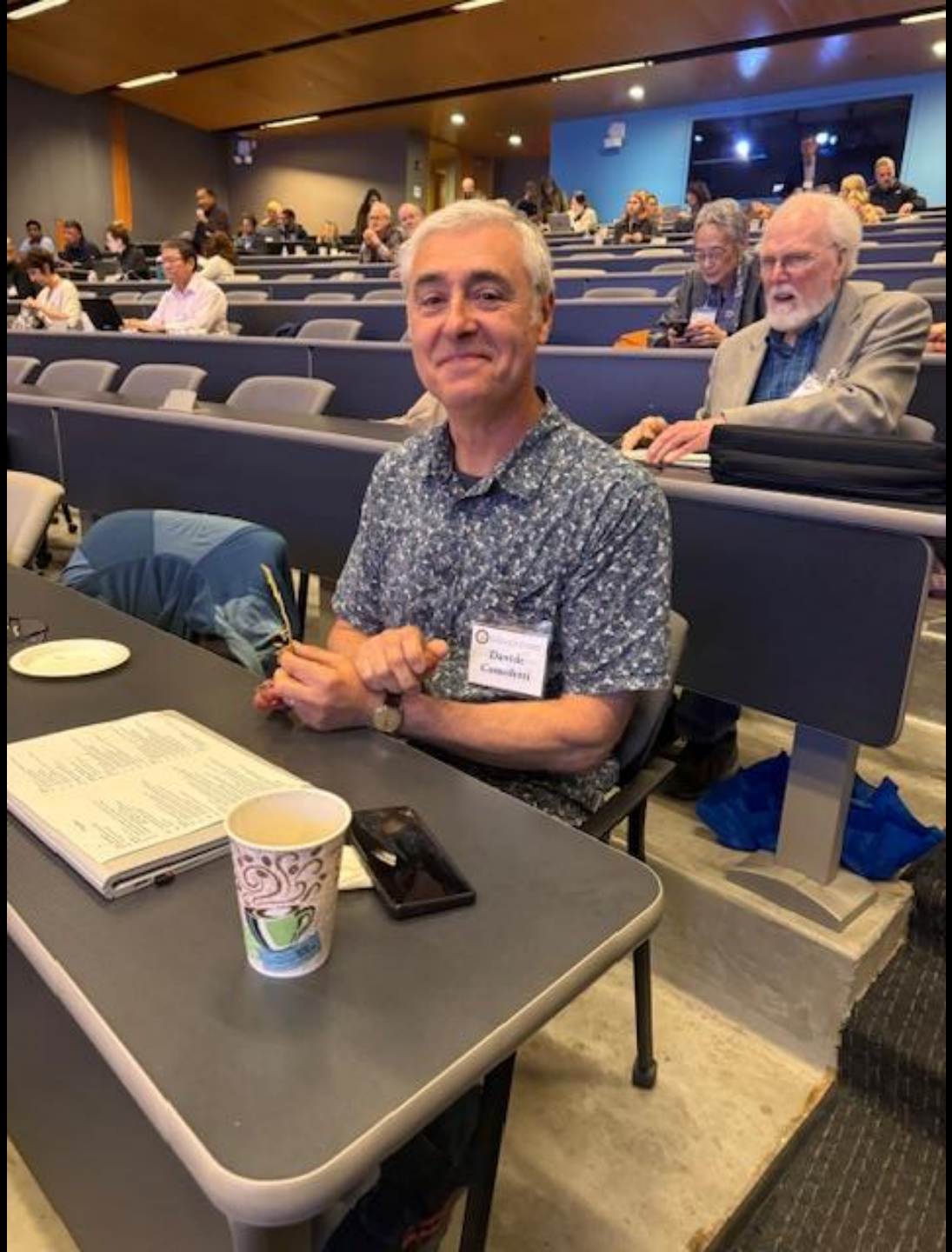
Brad Moore
SSPPS – SIO

Arrived in 2007

Pieter Dorrestein
SSPPS – Pediatrics

Arrived in 2023

April Lukowski
SSPPS – SIO


Davide
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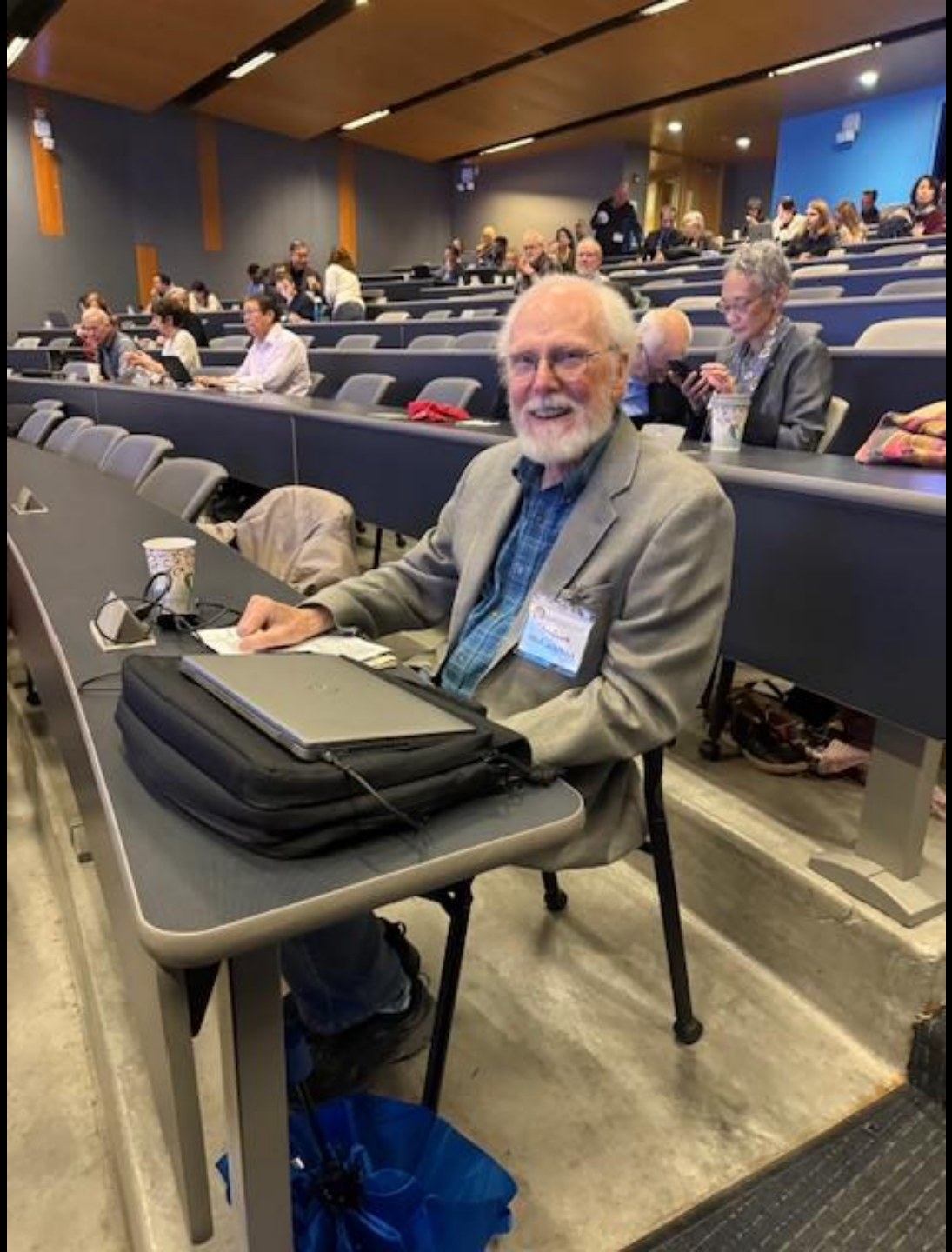

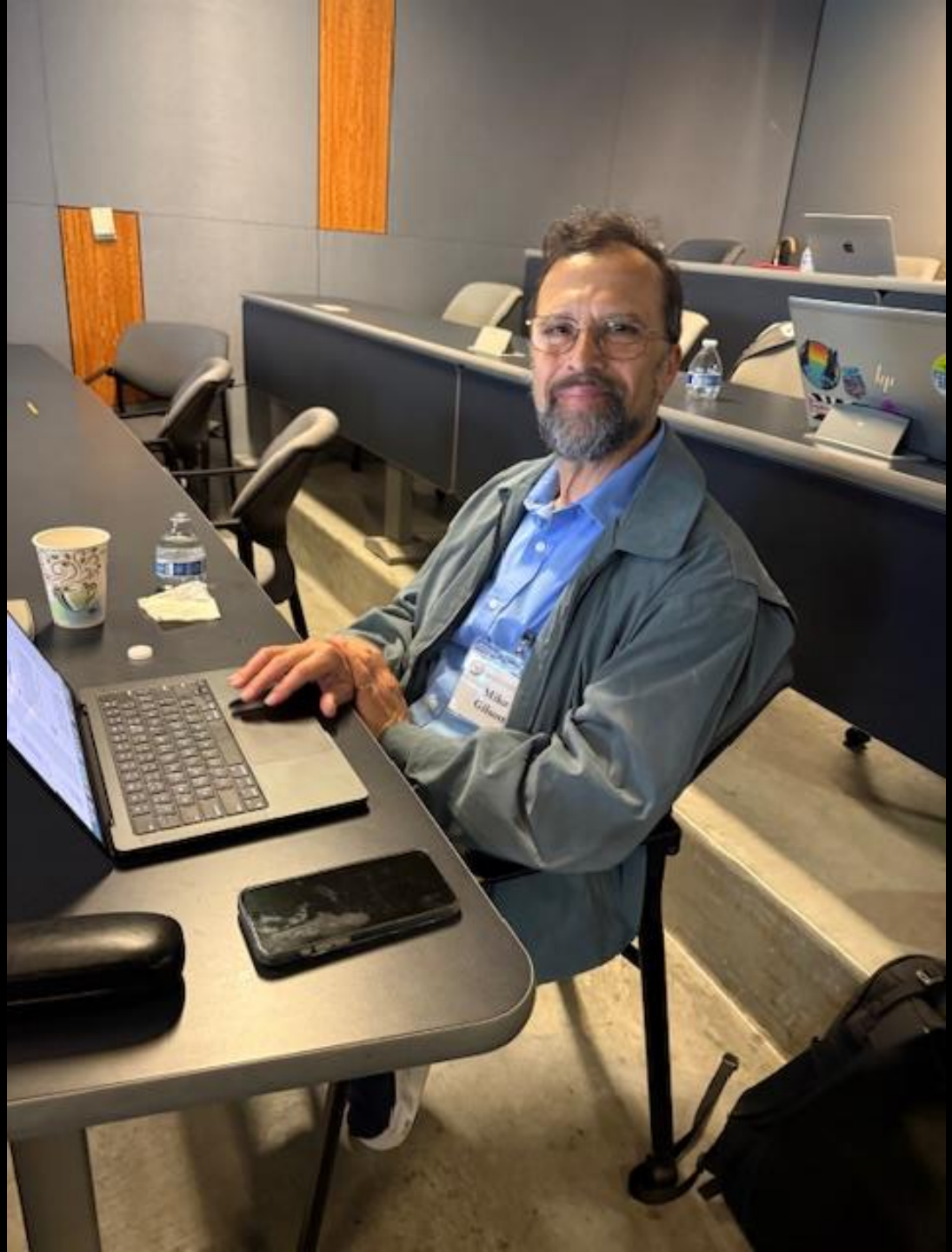

EXIT

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cholinesterases, receptors and cholinergic mechanisms
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AND PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES

Palmer
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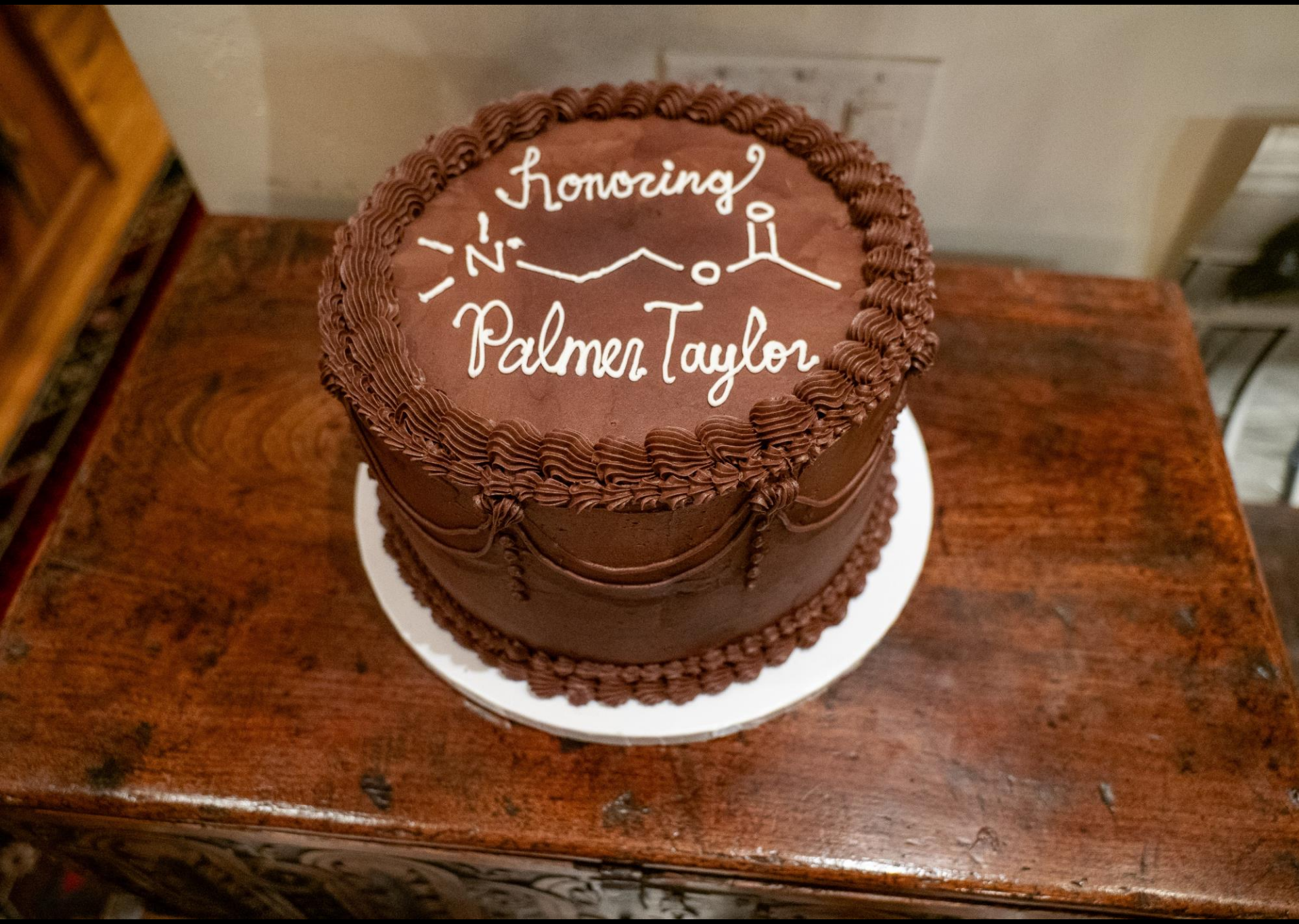
Honoring
Palmer Taylor

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Marmot
Igor
Tolgolny

Susumu Kawamoto
Steven Sinz
Igor Filgeiny

Shelley
Camp
David
Luo
Steven
Sine