



24th LBRN Annual Meeting, Baton Rouge, January 23-25, 2026

Friday, January 23, 2026	
Location: 1212C, 1st Floor LSU VMED	
Closed Administrative / EAC / EC / SC Meeting	5.00 PM-7.00 PM
Joint session of the Administrative, External Advisory Committee, Executive Committee, and Steering Committee. Discussion on network progress, strategic planning, and upcoming initiatives.	Attendance by Invite only.
<i>Dinner will be served during the meeting.</i>	
Saturday, January 24, 2026	
Location: Room 1211, First Floor, School of Veterinary Medicine, LSU	
Registration/Breakfast and Networking	7.30 AM-9.00 AM
Opening Remarks – Dr. Gus Kousoulas, Principal Investigator, LBRN	9.15 AM-9.30 AM
Welcome Remarks – Dean Oliver Garden, LSU School of Veterinary Medicine	9.30 AM-9.45 AM
Keynote: Dr. Stefan Sarafianos, Emory University, Atlanta, GA	9.45 AM-10.45 AM
<i>Title: Antiviral Drug Discovery</i>	
Short Break	10.45 AM-11.00 AM
Pilot Project Presentations (10 mins presentation + 5 mins Q&A)	11.00 AM-12.00 PM
John Rakus (ULM) - Characterization of Hsc70 Interactions Regulating LPS-Stimulated RAW264.7 Cells	
Chris Bolden (XULA) - Modulation of SorLA in the Glioblastoma Tumor Microenvironment	
Joel Attalah (UNO) - Mobile Element Insertion in Drosophila Genes Conferring Insecticide Resistance	
Navneet Goyal (XULA) -Discovery and Preclinical Development of Human Factor XIIa Inhibitors as New Anticoagulants	
Lunch Break	12.00 PM-1.30 PM
Success of LBRN and LTP/Sandbox – Dr. Gus Kousoulas, Dr. S. Jois, and Ojasvi Dutta	1.30 PM-2.30 PM
Short Presentations: 1 Pilot Project and 2 Startup Projects	2.30 PM-3.00 PM
Prem Chanda (SELU) - Diastereo- and Enantioselective Synthesis of Aromatase Inhibitors: Triazole Derivatives of 2,3-Diaryl Aldols	
Andrew Bollinger (ULM) - Targeting GPR151: An Orphan Receptor Highly Expressed in the Habenula for Novel Substance Use Disorder Therapies	
Meng Su (ULM) - AI-Aided Design of Antibiotics Targeting the Ribosome Small Subunit	

Full Project Presentations (20 mins each)	3.00 PM-4.00 PM
Stassi Di Maggio (XULA) - Development of a Targeted Photorelease Drug Delivery System	
Pradip Panta (SELU) - The role of DedA superfamily members of <i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i> in maintaining capsule production and regulating intracellular survival within macrophages	
Marisa Connell (LSU-S) - Identifying the mechanisms by which Kin17 promotes EMT	
Poster and Reception Setup / Break	4.00 PM-4.45 PM
Poster Session, Reception & Dinner – Undergraduate and Graduate Student Poster Presentations, Networking Reception, and Dinner	5.00 PM-7.30 PM
Sunday, January 25, 2026	
Location (Room 1211, First Floor, School of Veterinary Medicine, LSU)	
Breakfast and Networking	7:30 AM-9:00 AM
Opening Remarks – Dr. Konstantin Kousoulas, LBRN	9:15 AM-9:30 AM
Keynote 2: TBD	9:30 AM-10:30 AM
Title: TBD	
Full Project Presentations	10:30 AM-12:00 PM
Kimberlee Mix (Loyola) - Regulation of orphan receptor NR4A2: adopting a novel target for osteoarthritis	
Michael Wells (LaTech) - The nanoparticulate elixir of microbial alchemists: Assessing the antibiotic efficacy and anticancer potency of microbially generated gold and selenium nanoparticles	
Allyn Schoeffler (Loyola) - Molecular specificity determinants in erythromycin resistance methyltransferases	
Nektarios Barabutis (ULM) - NEK2 in Endothelial Barrier Dysfunction	
Award Ceremony and Closing Lunch – Recognition of Outstanding Posters and Presentations, Closing Remarks	12:00 PM-1:30 PM