

FACEBASE COMMUNITY FORUM 2026

May 4–5, 2026 · Arlington, Virginia

USC/ISI East Office · 3811 Fairfax Dr #200, Arlington, VA

Zoom available upon registration.

FORUM THEME

"Advancing Scientific Data Reuse, Integration, and AI-Readiness to Bolster Translational Research Across Dental, Oral, Craniofacial, Inner Ear, and Related Biomedical Domains to Enhance Overall Health"

The FaceBase Community Forum brings together researchers, clinicians, trainees, data scientists, and data contributors to advance effective and appropriate reuse of high-quality scientific data spanning dental, oral, craniofacial, inner ear, and related biomedical domains.

FORUM OBJECTIVES

- 1. Maximize data reuse across the full data and research lifecycle.** Highlight approaches from study design and data generation through transformation, integration, analysis, and long-term stewardship — emphasizing best practices and infrastructure that make data FAIR and reusable.
- 2. Expand and connect DOC-IE data with cross-domain health and disease models.** Explore integration of dental, oral, craniofacial, inner ear, and anatomically and biologically relevant data to expand and connect the data dimensionality and modality and research questions — bridging traditionally separate research communities (e.g., hearing and balance, vision research, systemic disease).
- 3. Promote AI-ready and computationally accessible data resources.** Address data quality, harmonization, metadata richness, reproducibility, and infrastructure strategies that enable robust, transparent, and scalable analytics — including artificial intelligence and machine learning applications.

TARGET AUDIENCE

- DOC-IE Researchers and clinicians in DOC-IE and relevant biomedical domains across the translational spectrum
- Trainees and early-career investigators
- Researchers and clinicians in related health domains (ear, eye, craniofacial-adjacent systems)
- Data contributors, biocurators, and data science professionals

Day 1 · Monday, May 4, 2026

All times Eastern Daylight Time (EDT)

8:00 AM Registration	Registration & Continental Breakfast
9:00 AM 10 min	Welcome & Introduction <i>Yang Chai, D.D.S., Ph.D. — University of Southern California</i>
9:10 AM 30 min	Opening Remarks from NIH <i>Jennifer Webster-Cyriaque, D.D.S., Ph.D., Acting Director, NIH/NIDCR</i>
9:40 AM 30 min	FaceBase Highlights, Contributions & Future Directions <i>Carl Kesselman, Ph.D. & Rob Schuler, Ph.D. — University of Southern California</i>

	25 min talk / 5 min Q&A
10:10 AM 40 min	KEYNOTE: Genome Medicine: The Power of Multiomics in Disease Gene Discovery, Pathway Insights, and Patient Care <i>Brendan Lee, M.D., Ph.D. — Baylor College of Medicine</i> 30 min talk / 10 min Q&A
10:50 AM 15 min	Break
	AI-READINESS IN FACEBASE
11:05 AM 25 min	AI Capabilities in FaceBase Based on MusMorph Data <i>Rob Schuler, Ph.D. — University of Southern California</i> 20 min talk / 5 min Q&A
11:30 AM 25 min	AI Applications in Glaucoma Research (NEI Collaboration) <i>Benjamin Xu, M.D., Ph.D. — University of Southern California</i> 20 min talk / 5 min Q&A
11:55 AM 60 min	Lunch
	PANEL: Data Sharing, Reuse & Incentives Across Domains
12:55 PM 50 min	Panel Discussion <i>Moderator: Lu Wang, Ph.D. — NIH/NIDCR</i> Panelists: <i>Michael Feolo, Ph.D. — NIH/NIDCR OD</i> <i>Vidhya Venkateswaran, B.D.S., M.P.H., Ph.D. — NIH/NIDCR OD</i> <i>Axel Visel, Ph.D. — Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory</i> Topics to include: credit and attribution; challenges in cross-domain sharing; practical solutions
	FACEBASE DATA REUSE
1:45 PM 25 min	A Novel Correspondence Mask to Connect Facial and Cranial Structures <i>Susan Walsh, Ph.D. — Indiana University Indianapolis</i> 20 min talk / 5 min Q&A
2:10 PM 25 min	Regulatory Evolution of the Mammalian Midface <i>Laura E. Cook, Ph.D. — Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory</i> 20 min talk / 5 min Q&A
2:35 PM 25 min	Break — Poster presenters set up
	POSTER SESSION & RECEPTION
3:00 PM 90 min	Poster Session, FaceBase Demos & Networking Reception In the main meeting room
5:00 PM	Adjourn for the Day
6:00 PM	Group Dinner (Optional) Location TBD · Attendees cover their own meal

Day 2 · Tuesday, May 5, 2026

All times Eastern Daylight Time (EDT)

8:00 AM	Continental Breakfast
9:00 AM 15 min	Welcome & Day 1 Recap <i>Yang Chai, D.D.S., Ph.D. — University of Southern California</i> 15 min talk
9:15 AM 15 min	NIH Remarks <i>Susan Gregurick, Ph.D., Associate Director for Data Science & Director, NIH/ODSS</i> 15 min talk
9:30 AM 40 min	KEYNOTE: Automated Shape-Based Phenotyping Reveals Continuous Cranial Sub Phenotypes in Human and Mouse Craniosynostosis <i>Janina Kueper, M.D. - University of Pittsburgh</i> 30 min talk / 10 min Q&A
	FEATURED FACEBASE DATASETS
10:10 AM 25 min	Bone Regeneration in Rat Calvarial Defects with Tunable Mineralized Collagen Microgels <i>Sofia Vignolo, MD-PhD candidate — Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU)</i> 20 min talk / 5 min Q&A
10:35 AM 25 min	Whole Exome Sequencing Dataset for Syndromic Orofacial Clefts (DECIDE Project) <i>Lord J.J. Gowans, PhD, SCGG, CHMGG, CiSG — Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (Ghana)</i> IADR/SmileTrain collaboration
	DATA FEDERATION & COLLABORATION
11:00 AM 25 min	EarBase — Collaboration with NIDCD <i>Troy Hackett, Ph.D. — NIH/NIDCD</i> 20 min talk / 5 min Q&A
11:25 AM 25 min	Spatial Transcriptomics Atlas — Collaboration with ClinGen <i>Pedro Sanchez, MD — Cedars-Sinai & Jifan Feng, Ph.D. — University of Southern California</i> 20 min talk / 5 min Q&A
	EMR INTEGRATION
11:50 PM 25 min	EMR Integration with FaceBase — Progress Update <i>Parish P. Sedghizadeh, D.D.S., M.S. — University of Southern California</i> 20 min talk / 5 min Q&A
12:15 PM 5 min	Closing Remarks <i>Carl Kesselman, Ph.D. — University of Southern California</i>
12:20 PM	Meeting Adjourned