

# CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

## 9<sup>th</sup> Annual UNC Chromatin and Epigenetics Symposium

### Keynote Speaker



**Dr. Shiv Grewal**

Chief, Laboratory of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology  
NIH Distinguished Investigator  
Head, Chromosome Biology Section Center for Cancer Research, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD.

As a Distinguished Investigator at the National Cancer Institute (NCI), he has dedicated his career to pioneering research in epigenetics. His groundbreaking work has provided fundamental insights into heterochromatin formation, a crucial process that inhibits inappropriate gene expression and ensures genome stability. After earning his Ph.D. from the University of Cambridge in 1992 as a Cambridge-Nehru scholar, he made significant advances in the field during his post-doctoral fellowship at NCI. There, Dr. Grewal discovered that heterochromatin gene silencing can be stably propagated as epigenetic states through meiosis and inherited in cis.

Specifically, Dr. Grewal was first to show that heterochromatin self-propagates in cis, illustrating that the unit of inheritance can constitute more than DNA. In 1998, he joined the faculty at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, where he uncovered a highly conserved connection between RNAi and heterochromatin assembly that revolutionized the thinking on how complex genomes are assembled into specialized chromatin domains. This discovery was named "Breakthrough of the Year 2002" by Science magazine. Returning to the NCI as a Senior Investigator in 2003, he continued to push the boundaries of epigenetic research.

Dr. Grewal's work has elucidated how heterochromatin is assembled in different parts of the genome and uncovered fundamental principles that govern its epigenetic inheritance. The significance of his research is evidenced by the fact that three of his papers are considered historic discoveries in the past 50 years by Nature. His contributions to the field have been widely recognized. Dr. Grewal has been honored with prestigious awards including the Newcomb-Cleveland Prize, NIH Merit Award, and the NIH Directors' Award. In 2011, he was appointed Chief of the Laboratory of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at NCI. The highlight of his career came in 2014 when he was elected to both the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, acknowledging his significant and lasting impact on the scientific community.

Multiple abstracts will be selected for talks; all others will participate in a poster session.

**Abstract Deadline:  
February 12, 2026**

To register and/or submit an abstract, please visit:



**Thursday,  
March 12, 2026**

**11:30 am -  
6:30 pm**

**Location:**

**TBD**



**LINEBERGER COMPREHENSIVE  
CANCER CENTER**