

FACEBASE COMMUNITY FORUM 2026

May 4–5, 2026 · Arlington, Virginia
USC/ISI East Office · 3811 Fairfax Dr #200, Arlington, VA

Conference Room A/B 100

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: Year 2 Update <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	FaceBase: an AI-ready Platform for Biomedical Research <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 REMOTE
11:55 AM 60 min	Lunch Break
PANEL: How to Maximize the Value of Scientific Data in Research?	
12:55 PM 50 min	Panel Discussion <i>Moderator: Lu Wang, Ph.D. — NIH/NIDCR</i> Panelists: <i>Michael Feolo, B.S., M.S. — NIH/NIDCR OD</i> <i>Troy Hackett, Ph.D. — NIH/NIDCD</i> <i>Carl Kesselman, Ph.D. — University of Southern California</i> <i>Anup Mahurkar, B.E., M.B.A. — NIH/NIDCD</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 and Joint Genome Institute</i>
FACEBASE DATA REUSE	
1:45 PM 25 min	A Novel Correspondence Mask to Connect & Characterize Facial and Cranial Structures, Including Soft Tissue Thickness <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 — Set up for reception
DEMO SESSION & RECEPTION	
3:00 PM 120 min	Demo Session + Networking Reception In the main meeting room
5:00 PM	Adjourn for the Day

6:00 PM	Group Dinner (Optional) Bronson Bierhall · 4100 Fairfax Dr · 5-minute walk · Attendees cover their own meal
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Day 2 · Tuesday, May 5, 2026

All times Eastern Daylight Time (EDT)

8:00 AM	Continental Breakfast
9:00 AM 5 min	Welcome <i>Yang Chai, D.D.S., Ph.D. — University of Southern California</i> 5 min talk
9:05 AM 15 min	NIH Remarks <i>Susan Gregurick, Ph.D., Associate Director for Data Science & Director, NIH/ODSS</i> 15 min talk
9:20 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	
10:00 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 REMOTE
10:25 AM 25 min	Deciphering the Genetic Etiology of Syndromic Orofacial Clefts: Integrating Sub-Saharan African Datasets and FaceBase Resources <i>Lord J.J. Gowans, PhD, SCGG, CHMGG, CiSG — Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (Ghana)</i> 20 min talk / 5 min Q&A REMOTE
DATA FEDERATION & COLLABORATION	
10:50 AM 25 min	An Introduction to EarBase: a FaceBase Consortium <i>Troy Hackett, Ph.D. — NIH/NIDCD</i> 20 min talk / 5 min Q&A
11:15 AM 25 min	Harnessing FaceBase Spatial Transcriptomics into ClinGen Gene Curation Insights <i>Pedro Sanchez, MD — Cedars-Sinai & Jifan Feng, Ph.D. — University of Southern California</i> 20 min talk / 5 min Q&A
EMR INTEGRATION	
11:40 PM 25 min	EMR and Clinical Data and Research Integration with FaceBase <i>Parish P. Sedghizadeh, D.D.S., M.S. — University of Southern California</i> 20 min talk / 5 min Q&A
12:05 PM 5 min	Closing Remarks <i>Carl Kesselman, Ph.D. — University of Southern California</i>
12:10 PM	Meeting Adjourned