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Project Timeline

PhD Research Calendar

Timeline Period: August 29, 2025 – August 15, 2027

Total Duration: 716 days
Total Tasks: 63 tasks
Months Covered: 25 months

August 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 • timeline	30 • timeline

31

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timeline

• Initial

0.1 Task Details for August 2025

• timeline v1 (08/29 - 08/31)
Create initial project timeline for Tuesday review with Andy. Bring both

printed and digital copies to meeting.

- Initial proposal skeleton (08/29 08/31)

 Develop 1-page Specific Aims and detailed outline following BME format requirements for PhD proposal.
- ◇ Submit proposal outline (08/31 08/31) MILESTONE: Send initial proposal draft to advisor for review before Monday deadline.
- Align seed laser (08/30 09/03)
 Achieve 30 mW output in fiber core (pre-pump configuration) for stable laser operation.

September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 • Expand	2 • Define	3 • Define	4 • Define	5 • Define	6 • Expand
7 • Expand	100	Proposal. Proposal. Proposal. Expand	• Expand	 proposal. Expand proposal. Expand 	Expand proposal. Expand Expand	Align Align and fier
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• Pro-	• Pro-	• Pro-				

exam p... exam p... exam p...

0.2 Task Details for September 2025

- **Define proposal committee** (09/02 09/05) Identify committee members; confirm availability; and schedule oral exam date. Reserve room for exam.
- Expand proposal draft (09/01 09/12)

Develop 12-page Research Strategy section from outline following BME proposal guidelines.

♦ Confirm exam date (09/12 - 09/12)

MILESTONE: Oral exam date scheduled. Must send final proposal to committee 2 weeks prior to exam.

• Align seed laser (08/30 - 09/03)

Achieve 30 mW output in fiber core (pre-pump configuration) for stable laser operation.

• Align amplifier (09/03 - 09/10)

Restore amplified output to 130 mW (previous benchmark performance level).

• Check pulse compression (09/10 - 09/12)

Verify 200 fs pulse duration and record specifications in equipment log.

◇ Calibrate microscope (09/12 - 09/12)

Align imaging system using USAF target for optimal resolution before in vivo experiments.

♦ Laser system ready (09/12 - 09/12)

MILESTONE: Laser output and imaging optics meet all requirements for live animal imaging.

• Plan imaging cohort (09/01 - 09/05)

Plan ~3 pilot mice cohort with IACUC protocol confirmation and surgery slot booking.

• Annual progress review (09/01 - 09/07)

Complete yearly graduate student progress report (department form) due early September.

• **Proposal exam paperwork** (09/12 - 10/15) File committee forms; Program of Work; and confirm exam room logistics for proposal defense.

October 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
			Pro- posal	Pro- posal	Pro- posal	Pro- posal
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exam p • 19 sign AAV vec- tors	20 p AAV vectors	201 sign AAV vectors	22 sign AAV vectors	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

0.3 Task Details for October 2025

- Proposal exam paperwork (09/12 10/15)
 File committee forms; Program of Work; and confirm exam room logistics for proposal defense.
- Design AAV vectors (10/01 10/15)
 Design and order AAV-mScarlet (vascular) and jRGECO1b (neuronal) vectors. Finalize constructs and submit production orders to core facility.

November 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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16 • pro-	17 • pro-	18 • pro-	19 • pro-	20 • pro-	21 • pro-	draft 22 • pro-
draft 23 • pro- posal draft	draft 24 • pro-	draft 25 • pro-	draft 26 • pro-	draft 27 • pro-	28 • pro-	draft 29 • pro-

30 • pro-

0.4 Task Details for November 2025

 proposal draft (11/15 - 12/15)
 Write full proposal document (~13 pages) including all aims and research strategy for committee review.

December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 • pro-	2 • pro-	3 • pro-	4 • pro-	5 • pro-	6 • pro-
7 • pro-	draft 8 • pro-	draft 9 • pro-	draft 10 • pro-	draft • pro-	draft 12 • pro-	draft 13 • pro-
draft 14	draft 15 • pro-	draft 16 ⋄ Send	17	18	draft 19	20
21 21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

0.5 Task Details for December 2025

- proposal draft (11/15 12/15)
 Write full proposal document (~13 pages) including all aims and research strategy for committee review.
- Send proposal to committee (12/16 12/16)
 MILESTONE: Email proposal to committee 2 weeks before exam date (satisfies pre-exam requirement).

January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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18 • Prepare	19	20 ⋄ PhD	21 • Address		Address	24 • Address
25 • Address	26 • Address	27 • Address	28 • Address	29	30	31

0.6 Task Details for January 2026

- ◇ AAV vectors ready (01/15 01/15) MILESTONE: AAV vectors received from core facility. Ready for in vivo animal injections to begin expression studies.
- Prepare presentation (01/04 01/18)

Create slide deck and practice oral exam presentation. Aim for two practice runs with lab members.

- ◇ PhD Proposal Exam (01/20 01/20) Qualifying Exam: Defend dissertation proposal in oral exam with committee members.
- Address committee feedback (01/21 01/28)
 Incorporate committee revisions into proposal and submit signed approval form for final approval.

February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 ♦ Cranial			4 • Post-op		6	7
8 Cranial					13	14
15	p			19 • Post-op	20	21
22 • Pilot	23 • Pilot	24	25	26	27	28
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0.7 Task Details for February 2026

- Cranial window surgery #1 (02/01 02/01)
 Install cranial window and inject AAV in first pilot mouse. Begin expression timeline for vascular labeling.
- Post-op recovery #1 (02/02 02/05)

Monitor and medicate Mouse #1 after surgery. No imaging during recovery period to allow healing.

- Cranial window surgery #2 (02/08 02/08)
 Install cranial window and inject AAV in second pilot mouse (staggered one week after #1).
- Post-op recovery #2 (02/09 02/12)
 Monitor and medicate Mouse #2 after surgery. Maintain analgesia schedule during recovery.
- Cranial window surgery #3 (02/15 02/15)
 Install cranial window and inject AAV in third pilot mouse (further staggered timing).
- Post-op recovery #3 (02/16 02/19)
 Monitor and medicate Mouse #3 after surgery. Complete recovery period before imaging.
- Pilot imaging session #1 (02/22 02/23)
 Acquire in vivo images for Mouse #1 comparing AAV fluorescence vs traditional dye injection methods.

March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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0.8 Task Details for March 2026

Pilot imaging session #2 (03/01 - 03/02)
 Acquire in vivo images for Mouse #2 under dual-label vs dye conditions for comparison.

• Pilot imaging session #3 (03/08 - 03/09)

Acquire in vivo images for Mouse #3. Complete final pilot dataset for Aim 1 validation.

◇ Pilot datasets complete (03/10 - 03/10)

MILESTONE: Three pilot two-photon imaging datasets acquired for Aim 1 validation and proposal figures.

Process pilot data (03/10 - 03/15)

Perform image registration and SNR analysis. Calculate contrast metrics and refine imaging protocols.

• **Develop U-Net pipeline** (03/15 - 04/01)

Begin developing automated image segmentation pipeline using U-Net architecture for vascular features.

• Optimize imaging systems (03/15 - 04/30)

Tune microscope optics for dual-channel two-photon imaging and configure LSCI for blood flow measurements.

• Order enhanced AAV (03/01 - 05/01)

Design and order enhanced-expression AAV with tissue-specific enhancer for improved dual-label imaging (Aim 2).

April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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0.9 Task Details for April 2026

Develop U-Net pipeline (03/15 - 04/01)
 Begin developing automated image segmentation pipeline using U-Net architecture for vascular features.

- Optimize imaging systems (03/15 04/30)
 Tune microscope optics for dual-channel two-photon imaging and configure LSCI for blood flow measurements.
- Order enhanced AAV (03/01 05/01)
 Design and order enhanced-expression AAV with tissue-specific enhancer for improved dual-label imaging (Aim 2).
- Compare labeling methods (04/30 05/31)
 Systematically compare imaging depth; SNR; and contrast across different labeling methods (AAV vs dye) in vivo.
- methodology paper (04/01 05/31)
 Write manuscript on AAV-based vascular imaging methodology and pilot results from Aim 1 studies.

May 2026

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 methodology paper

0.10 Task Details for May 2026

- Order enhanced AAV (03/01 05/01)
 Design and order enhanced-expression AAV with tissue-specific enhancer for improved dual-label imaging (Aim 2).
- Compare labeling methods (04/30 05/31)
 Systematically compare imaging depth; SNR; and contrast across different labeling methods (AAV vs dye) in vivo.
- methodology paper (04/01 05/31)
 Write manuscript on AAV-based vascular imaging methodology and pilot results from Aim 1 studies.
- Establish stroke protocol (05/31 06/05) Complete training and IACUC approval for stroke induction method (photothrombosis). Ensure all regulatory approvals are in place.

June 2026

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0.11 Task Details for June 2026

- **Submit methodology paper** (06/01 06/01) Submit Aim 1 imaging methodology paper to journal for peer review and publication consideration.
- Establish stroke protocol (05/31 06/05)

Complete training and IACUC approval for stroke induction method (photothrombosis). Ensure all regulatory approvals are in place.

- Induce stroke (06/06 06/10)
 Perform stroke induction surgeries on experimental animal cohort to initiate Aim 3 longitudinal imaging study.
- Acute-phase imaging (06/15 06/16)
 Conduct two-photon + LSCI imaging sessions in acute phase (0-1 week post-stroke) to capture immediate vascular changes.
- Refine ML pipeline (06/15 08/31)
 Adapt and improve machine learning segmentation pipeline for stroke dataset analysis and vascular feature detection.

July 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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0.12 Task Details for July 2026

Enhanced AAV delivered (07/01 - 07/01)
 MILESTONE: Enhanced AAV vector received and ready for in vivo testing to continue Aim 2 studies.

- Transition-phase imaging (07/01 07/02) Conduct imaging sessions during subacute transition phase (2-4 weeks post-stroke) to capture evolving vascular dynamics.
- Stabilization-phase imaging (07/30 07/31)
 Conduct imaging sessions in early chronic phase (5-8 weeks post-stroke) to observe vascular remodeling processes.
- Refine ML pipeline (06/15 08/31)

 Adapt and improve machine learning segmentation pipeline for stroke dataset analysis and vascular feature detection.

August 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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• Refine ML
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0.13 Task Details for August 2026

- Extended chronic imaging (08/25 08/26)
 Conduct imaging at ~12 weeks post-stroke (if needed) to capture long-term vascular remodeling and recovery patterns.
- Refine ML pipeline (06/15 08/31)
 Adapt and improve machine learning segmentation pipeline for stroke dataset analysis and vascular feature detection.
- Stroke data complete (08/31 08/31)
 MILESTONE: Completion of all planned longitudinal imaging sessions for stroke study (Aim 3).

September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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0.14 Task Details for September 2026

- Integrate flow data (09/01 09/30)
 Combine LSCI blood flow metrics with two-photon structural/functional data for comprehensive vascular analysis.
- Annual progress review (09/01 09/07)

Complete yearly graduate student progress review (department form) with advisor due early September.

October 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31
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0.15 Task Details for October 2026

Analyze neurovascular coupling (10/01 - 11/15)
 Quantify microvascular network changes and neurovascular coupling dynamics from post-stroke imaging data.

November 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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0.16 Task Details for November 2026

- Analyze neurovascular coupling (10/01 11/15)
 Quantify microvascular network changes and neurovascular coupling dynamics from post-stroke imaging data.
- Prepare conference presentation (11/15 12/01)

Create talk/poster for conference presentation (SPIE or neuroscience meeting) showcasing Year 5-6 research results.

second manuscript (11/15 - 11/30)
 Write second research paper covering dual-color imaging platform and initial stroke study findings (Aim 2/3).

December 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 • Prepare	2 • PhD	3 • PhD	4 • PhD	5 • PhD
6 • PhD	7 • PhD	PhD sser- tatio • PhD	PhD	10° • PhD	Bisser- tatio PhD	12 • PhD
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20 • PhD	21 PhD	220 Disser-	Disser- tation- duction PhD	Disser- tatio 24o- duction • PhD	Disser- tatio. 25 o- duction • PhD	260- duction PhD
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0.17 Task Details for December 2026

Prepare conference presentation (11/15 - 12/01)
 Create talk/poster for conference presentation (SPIE or neuroscience meeting) showcasing Year 5-6 research results.

Submit second manuscript (12/15 - 12/15) Submit second major manuscript (Aim 2/3 results) to journal for peer review and publication consideration.

- PhD Dissertation & Defense (12/01 08/15)
 Complete dissertation write-up; final defense; and all graduation requirements by Summer 2027.
- Introduction (12/15 01/31)
 Write dissertation Introduction chapter including literature review and study rationale for PhD thesis.

January 2027

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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3 • PhD	4 • PhD	5 • PhD	6 • PhD	7 • PhD	Bisser- tatio Intro- duction PhD	Disser- tatio 9ntro- duction • PhD
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0.18 Task Details for January 2027

PhD Dissertation & Defense (12/01 - 08/15)
 Complete dissertation write-up; final defense; and all graduation require-

ments by Summer 2027.

Introduction (12/15 - 01/31) Write dissertation Introduction chapter including literature review and study rationale for PhD thesis.

- Aim 1 chapter (01/01 02/28)
 Write chapter detailing Aim 1 (AAV imaging) methods; experiments; and results for dissertation.
- Aim 2 chapter (01/15 03/31)
 Write chapter detailing Aim 2 (dual-color imaging platform) methods and results for dissertation.

February 2027

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 • PhD	2	3 • PhD	4 • PhD	5 • PhD	6 • PhD
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0.19 Task Details for February 2027

PhD Dissertation & Defense (12/01 - 08/15)
 Complete dissertation write-up; final defense; and all graduation requirements by Summer 2027.

- Aim 1 chapter (01/01 02/28)
 Write chapter detailing Aim 1 (AAV imaging) methods; experiments; and results for dissertation.
- Aim 2 chapter (01/15 03/31)
 Write chapter detailing Aim 2 (dual-color imaging platform) methods and results for dissertation.
- Aim 3 chapter (02/01 04/15)
 Write chapter detailing Aim 3 (stroke model imaging study) methods; data; and findings for dissertation.

March 2027

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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0.20 Task Details for March 2027

Aim 2 chapter (01/15 - 03/31) Write chapter detailing Aim 2 (dual-color imaging p

Write chapter detailing Aim 2 (dual-color imaging platform) methods and results for dissertation.

• Aim 3 chapter (02/01 - 04/15)

Write chapter detailing Aim 3 (stroke model imaging study) methods; data; and findings for dissertation.

• Conclusions (03/01 - 04/30)

Write final dissertation chapter summarizing findings; implications; and future research directions.

April 2027

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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0.21 Task Details for April 2027

- Aim 3 chapter (02/01 04/15)
 Write chapter detailing Aim 3 (stroke model imaging study) methods; data; and findings for dissertation.
- Conclusions (03/01 04/30)
 Write final dissertation chapter summarizing findings; implications; and future research directions.

May 2027

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0.22 Task Details for May 2027

Dissertation draft complete (05/01 - 05/01)
 MILESTONE: Complete PhD dissertation draft compiled and ready for committee review.

June 2027

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0.23 Task Details for June 2027

July 2027

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0.24 Task Details for July 2027

- PhD Defense (07/15 07/15)
 Defend PhD dissertation in oral exam with committee (must occur 2 weeks before final submission deadline).
- Revise dissertation (07/16 07/31)
 Incorporate committee feedback and revisions after defense. Obtain final approval signatures.

August 2027

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0.25 Task Details for August 2027

- PhD Dissertation & Defense (12/01 08/15)
 Complete dissertation write-up; final defense; and all graduation requirements by Summer 2027.
- Submit dissertation (08/01 08/01)

Upload approved dissertation PDF and submit all required forms to Graduate School by deadline.

1 Legend

1.1 Task Categories

- PROPOSAL Research proposals and dissertation work
- LASER Laser alignment and experimental work
- EXPERIMENTAL Imaging, surgery, and data collection
- PUBLICATION Manuscripts and presentations
- ADMINISTRATIVE Forms, applications, and reviews
- ACCOUNTABILITY Meetings and responsibilities
- SERVICE SPIE chapter and other service activities

1.2 Task Information

Dependencies Tasks that must be completed before this task

Description Additional details and context for each task

Milestones Tasks with same start and due date (marked with diamond shapes)