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From molecular clouds to stellar associations

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Understanding how molecular clouds collapse and disperse to form stars and planets is a key question in astronomy. In this talk, I will review several complementary lines of research aimed at uncovering the origin of young star clusters and OB associations in the solar neighborhood. I will discuss how the large number of substellar objects—brown dwarfs and free-floating planets—recently detected in nearby star-forming regions can constrain the formation of these objects. I will also present how the spatial distribution, kinematics, and ages of OB associations trace the propagation of star formation and the dispersal of their parent molecular clouds.

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