

Cancer Neuroscience Programme

Bilbao, Spain

14 - 16 October 2025



Scientific Programme

Tuesday 14th October 2025

Listed times are in Central European Summer Time (CEST)

- 11:30 **REGISTRATION**
Light refreshments will be served at 12:00
- 13:00 **WELCOME TO DAY ONE**
SESSION 1: NEURAL INFLUENCES ON CANCER CELLS
Chair: Frank Winkler
- 13:10 **OPENING KEYNOTE LECTURE**
Michelle Monje
Stanford University, US
'The Neuroscience of Brain Cancers'
Q&A: 13:40-13:55
- 13:55 **Varun Venkataramani**
University of Heidelberg, Germany
'Characterizing and targeting glioblastoma neuron-tumor networks with retrograde tracing'
Q&A: 14:15-14:25
- 14:25 **Matteo Bergami**
University Hospital Cologne, Germany
Proffered Paper 1: 'Functional synapses between small cell lung cancer and glutamatergic neurons'
Q&A: 14:35-14:40
- 14:40 **EXHIBITOR INTRODUCTIONS**
- 14:50 **COFFEE BREAK, EXHIBITION AND SOLO TRAVELLER MEET-UP**
- 15:20 **Humsa Venkatesh (Virtual Presentation)**
Harvard Medical School, US
'Neural Communication Axes in Small Cell Lung Cancer'
Q&A: 15:40-15:50
- 15:50 **Vera Thiel**
German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ), Germany
'Trace-Me(tastasis)-if-you-CAN (Cancer-Associated-Neurons): Unravelling how cancer-associated neurons shape the tumor microenvironment'
Q&A: 16:10-16:20
- 16:20 **Karen Sleiman**
IBDM, France
Proffered Paper 2: 'Matrix stiffness and its impact on cancer innervation'
Q&A: 16:30-16:35

- 16:35 **MOLECULAR ONCOLOGY: CALL FOR CONTENT**
- 16:45 **POSTER SPOTLIGHTS 1**
- Poster 01 - Sena Oten (USA) 'Regional functional connectivity shapes neuron-glioma interactions in oligodendroglioma'
- Poster 30 - Mirela Perla (Netherlands) 'Characterizing innervation in patients with high-grade serous ovarian cancer'
- Poster 60 - Carmen Mota Reyes (Germany) 'Tumor Cell Neural Mimicry Orchestrates Neural Invasion in Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma: Insights of a Multiomic Approach'
- 16:55 **MEET THE SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME COMMITTEE**
- An informal session where the organisers for the conference will join together to share their own personal and professional experiences of their path to scientific leadership.
- 17:45 **WELCOME RECEPTION**
- 18:15 **POSTER DISCUSSION SESSION 1**
- Led by members of the Scientific Programme Committee

Wednesday 15th October 2025

Listed times are in Central European Summer Time (CEST)

- 08:15 **EARLY POSTER VIEWING (WITH COFFEE & BISCUITS)**
- 08:45 **INDUSTRY SPOTLIGHT - BIOMODAL**
- Leonardo Motta**
biomodal
'The 6-base genome as a tool to reveal novel biomarkers and mechanistic insight in cancer neuroscience'
- SESSION 2: NEURAL INFLUENCES ON THE TUMOR ENVIRONMENT**
Chair: Michelle Monje
- 09:00 **Erica Sloan**
Monash University, Australia
'Neural-tumour crosstalk drives breast cancer metastasis and impairs treatment response'
- Q&A: 09.20-09.30
- 09:30 **Anastasia Maria Zavitsanou (Virtual Presentation)**
Columbia University, USA
Proffered Paper 3: 'Investigating how lung cancer alters behavior via regulating the internal sensory system'
- Q&A: 09.40-09.45
- 09:45 **Sebastien Talbot**
Queen's University, Canada
'Nociceptor neurons impact anti-tumor immunity'
- Q&A: 10:05-10:15
- 10:15 **Linda Douw**
Amsterdam UMC, Netherlands
'Multiscale network neuroscience in neuro-oncological patients: from cell to

circuit to cognition'

Q&A: 10:35-10:45

10:45 **COFFEE BREAK & EXHIBITION**

11:15 **BARBARA MARTE: MEET THE EDITORS**

Join us in this session led by Barbara Marte, Senior Editor at Nature (UK), to hear advice and insight about being an editor.

11:45 **Meike Thijssen**

Maastricht University Medical Center, Netherlands

Proffered Paper 4: 'Adrenergic Signaling affects Tumor-associated B cell Maturation in Colorectal Cancer'

Q&A: 11:55-12:00

12:00 **POSTER SPOTLIGHTS 2**

Poster 70 - Jai Sidpra (UK) 'A prognostic human brain network for diffuse midline glioma'

Poster 100 - Tara Moghiseh (Germany) 'Activity-Dependent Glutamatergic Synaptic Signaling Drives Brain Metastasis Proliferation'

Poster 120 - Andreia Gonçalves (Portugal) 'Neuro-immune regulation of metastatic breast cancer dormancy in the liver'

12:10 **INDUSTRY SYMPOSIUM - LUNAPHORE**

Müge Akpınar-Puchalla and Daniel Azorín

Lunaphore and ETH Zurich

'Spatial Multiomics for Cancer Neuroscience: Mapping Neuron-Tumor Interactions in Glioblastoma and Other Tumors'

Q&A: 12:30-12:40

12:40 **LUNCH**

Light refreshments will be served.

13:30 **POSTER DISCUSSION SESSION 2**

Led by members of the Scientific Programme Committee

SESSION 3: INFLUENCES OF CANCER ON THE NERVOUS SYSTEM

Chair: Barbara Marte

15:00 **Timothy Wang**

Columbia University, US

'Nociceptive neurons interact directly with gastric cancer cells via a CGRP/Ramp1 axis to promote tumour progression'

Q&A: 15:20-15:30

15:30 **Valentina Lind**

University College London, UK

Proffered Paper 5: 'Glioblastoma neural activity maps to a prognostic human brain network'

Q&A: 15:40-15:45

15:45 **EANO SPEAKER**

Manuel Valiente

CNIO, Spain

'Molecular and cellular rationale underlying the heterogeneous impact of metastases on brain activity'

- Q&A: 16:05-16:15
- 16:15 **COFFEE BREAK & EXHIBITION**
- 16:45 **Benjamin Deneen**
Baylor College, US
'Decoding the Language of Brain Tumor and Neuron Communication'
- Q&A: 17:05-17:15
- 17:15 **Shawn Hervey-Jumper**
UCSF, USA
'A Multiscale Framework for Neuromodulation in Glioma-Infiltrated Cortex'
- Q&A: 17:35-17:45
- 17:45 **PANEL DISCUSSION**
Which technologies do we need for the further advance of Cancer Neuroscience? How can we best educate future Cancer Neuroscientists? What do we need for successful development of Neuroscience-instructed Cancer Therapies?
Scheduled to end at 18:45
- 20:00 **CONFERENCE DINNER**
The conference dinner will take place at Kafe Antzokia Restaurant. After dinner, we will enjoy music and dancing with a live DJ. Optional ticketed event.

Thursday 16th October 2025

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- 08:15 **EARLY POSTER VIEWING (WITH COFFEE & BISCUITS)**
- 08:45 **INDUSTRY SPOTLIGHT - CELL SIGNALING TECHNOLOGY**
Maxime Jacquet
Cell Signaling Technology
'From Chimeric Antibodies to SignalStar™: CST's Innovative Solutions for Cancer Neuroscience Research'
- SESSION 4: CANCER-INTRINSIC NEURAL MECHANISMS**
Chair: Erica Sloan
- 09:00 **Frank Winkler**
University Hospital Heidelberg & DKFZ, Germany
'Neural influences on brain tumor progression and therapy resistance: from fundamental insights to clinical trials'
- Q&A: 09:20 - 09:30
- 09:30 **Itay Tirosh**
Weizmann Institute, Israel
'Cancer cell states and their neuronal associations'
- Q&A: 09:50 - 10:00
- 10:00 **Melina Müller**
University Hospital Heidelberg, Germany
Proffered Paper 6: 'KCa3.1 inhibition increases antitumor effects of radiotherapy in glioblastoma models'
- Q&A: 10:10 - 10:15

- 10:15 COFFEE BREAK & EXHIBITION
- 10:45 **Sofia Micheli**
Institute of Anatomy, Switzerland
Proffered Paper 7: 'Peripheral glia drive the initiation of cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma'
Q&A: 10:55-11:00
- 11:00 **Leanne Li**
Crick Institute, UK
'Genetically engineered mouse models in cancer neuroscience research'
Q&A: 11:20 - 11:30
- 11:30 THE EMBO CLOSING KEYNOTE LECTURE
Doug Hanahan
EPFL, Switzerland
'The neuronal RNA-binding protein FMRP is a master regulator of the immuno-evasive tumor microenvironment'
Q&A: 12:00 - 12:15
- 12:15 SUMMARY & CLOSE