Chromosomes in Crisis: From Chromosomal Instability to Catastrophes in Cancer Genomes Programme

Berlin, Germany

3 - 5 November 2026

Scientific Programme

Tuesday 3rd November 2026

Listed times are in Central European Time (CET)

11:30 REGISTRATION & WELCOME LUNCH

Light refreshments will be served at 12:00

13:00 CONFERENCE WELCOME

SESSION 1: GENETICS & GENOMICS

Chair: Aurélie Ernst

13:10 OPENING KEYNOTE

David Pellman

Harvard University & DFCI, USA

'Mechanisms driving the rapid evolution of genomes'

Q&A: 13:40 - 13:55

13:55 EMBO YOUNG INVESTIGATOR LECTURE

Aurélie Ernst

DKFZ, Germany

'Digital pathology machine learning tool predicts chromothripsis from diagnostic hematoxylin and eosin tissue stain'

Q&A: 14:15 - 14:25

14:25 **Husayn Pallikonda**

Francis Crick Institute, UK

Proffered Paper 1: 'Mechanistic diversity of chromosome 3p loss defines distinct chromosomal instability phenotypes in clear cell renal cell carcinoma'

Q&A: 14:35 - 14:40

14:40 EXHIBITOR INTRODUCTIONS

14:45 COFFEE BREAK, EXHIBITION & SOLO TRAVELLER MEET-UP

15:15 **Nicholas McGranahan**

UCL, UK

'Order or chaos: deciphering lung cancer genome evolution'

Q&A: 15:35 - 15:45

15:45 **Serena Nik-Zainal (Pre-recorded presentation)**

University of Cambridge, UK

'Recent advances in indel and structural variation signatures'

16:15 MOLECULAR ONCOLOGY: CALL FOR CONTENT

16:25 POSTER SPOTLIGHTS

Poster 01: Thomas van Ravesteyn (Netherlands) 'Deterministic karyotype evolution in precancerous colonic organoids'

Poster 20: Katyayni Ganesan (Germany) 'Paired whole-genome and single-nucleus multiome profiling of pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma across primary and metastatic sites'

Poster 40: Federica Camin (Italy) 'Cytoplasmic flooding of micronuclei disrupts nucleotide homeostasis and promotes genome instability'

16:35 SPEED NETWORKING RECEPTION

Invited speakers and the conference organizers will each host a table of participants, covering different topics for discussion.

17:35 WELCOME RECEPTION

18:00 POSTER DISCUSSION SESSION 1

Led by members of the Scientific Programme Committee

Wednesday 4th November 2026

Listed times are in Central European Time (CET)

08:15 EARLY POSTER VIEWING

08:45 INDUSTRY SPOTLIGHT - DE GRUYTER BRILL

Izabela □arczy□ska
De Gruyter Brill
'Academic publishing in the era of AI - navigating the ethical boundaries'

SESSION 2: CELL BIOLOGY

Chair: Renata Basto

09:00 **Renata Basto**
Institut Curie, France
'Mechanical constraints regulate embryonic stem cell mitosis in the developing brain'

Q&A: 09:20 - 09:30

09:30 **Varvara-Rigina Louma**
Charité – University Medicine Berlin, Germany
Proffered Paper 2: 'ecDNA Reintegration Reshapes Local Chromatin and Gene Expression'

Q&A: 09:40 - 09:45

09:45 **Ofer Shoshani**
Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel
'Double-strand DNA break location dictates chromosomal fate and mechanisms of gene amplification'

Q&A: 10:05 - 10:15

10:15 COFFEE BREAK & EXHIBITION

10:45 **Daniele Fachinetti**
Institut Curie, France
'Causes and Consequences of Centromeric Instability'

Q&A: 11:05 - 11:15

11:15 John Maciejowski
MSKCC, USA
'Innate immune defenses in cancer'

Q&A: 11:35 - 11:45

11:45 **Pierre Foidart**
University of Liege and CHU of Liège, Belgium
Proffered Paper 3: 'Whole-genome doubling drives immune evasion by silencing antigen presentation'

Q&A: 11:55 - 12:00

12:00 POSTER SPOTLIGHTS

Poster 60: Tobias Thomas Schmidt (USA) 'Escape from replicative crisis and immortalization precedes complex genome evolution'

Poster 75: Nikoleta Pateraki (Germany) 'A novel framework to dissect chromosome-specific dependencies upon errors in mitosis'

Poster 90: Tal Ben-Yishay (Israel) 'The evolutionary landscape and functional consequences of chromothripsis in human cancer cell lines'

12:10 LUNCH

13:00 POSTER DISCUSSION SESSION 2
Led by members of the Scientific Programme Committee

SESSION 3: TECHNOLOGIES & MODELS

Chair: Florian Markowetz

14:30 **Florian Markowetz**
CRUK Cambridge Institute, UK
'Measuring ongoing CIN from single-cell genomes'

Q&A: 14:50 - 15:00

15:00 **Lukas Frank**
Princess Maxima Center, Netherlands
Proffered Paper 4: 'Multimodal imaging reveals how gene context shapes transcription and spatial organization of extrachromosomal DNA in cancer cells'

Q&A: 15:10 - 15:15

15:15 **Sjors Middelkamp**
Princess Máxima Center, Netherlands
Proffered Paper 5: 'Pervasive but non-compounding aneuploidy in normal human colon tissue'

Q&A: 15:25 - 15:30

15:30 **Jan Korbel**
EMBL, Germany
'Learning about chromosomal instability processes from integrating imaging and genomics'

Q&A: 15:50 - 16:00

16:00 COFFEE BREAK & EXHIBITION

16:30 **Sarah McClelland**
Barts Cancer Institute, Queen Mary University of London, UK

'Trials and tribulations on the journey to identify drivers of cancer genome evolution'

Q&A: 16:50 - 17:00

17:00 **Susanne Lens**
UMC Utrecht, Netherlands
'Trisomy 7 establishes just-right WNT signalling in APC-mutant colorectal cancer'

Q&A: 17:20 - 17:30

17:30 PANEL DISCUSSION - CAREER JOURNEYS DECODED: FROM ACADEMIA, INDUSTRY, PUBLISHING AND BEYOND
Moderated by Renata Basto
Scheduled to end at 18:30

19:30 CONFERENCE DINNER (OPTIONAL TICKETED EVENT)

Thursday 5th November 2026

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08:15 EARLY POSTER VIEWING

SESSION 4: ONCOLOGY & CLINICAL OPPORTUNITIES

Chair: Uri Ben-David

09:00 EMBO YOUNG INVESTIGATOR LECTURE
Uri Ben-David
Tel Aviv University, Israel
'Targeting aneuploidy: From tumor evolution to therapeutic opportunities'

Q&A: 09:20 - 09:30

09:30 **Beth Weaver**
McArdle Laboratory for Cancer Research, USA
'Leveraging chromosomal crisis to optimize anti-cancer therapy'

Q&A: 09:50 - 10:00

10:00 **Selene Mallia**
AUSL Reggio Emilia, Italy
Proffered Paper 6: 'Chromatin-guided spatial separation of replication and transcription prevents genomic crisis in ALCL'

Q&A: 10:10 - 10:15

10:15 COFFEE BREAK & EXHIBITION

10:45 **Gerben Vader**
Princess Máxima Center for Pediatric Oncology, Netherlands
'Targeting cell division in chromosomally unstable cancer cells: finding 'KIF18A-like' mitotic regulators'

Q&A: 11:05 - 11:15

11:15 **Jeanette Kittel**
UCL Cancer Institute, UK
Proffered Paper 7: 'Tracking Extrachromosomal DNA Spatially and Temporally in Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer'

Q&A: 11:25-11:30

11:30 **Samuel Bakhoum**
Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth / Volastra Therapeutics, USA
'Chromosomal instability as a therapeutic target'

Q&A: 11:50 - 12:00

12:00 SUMMARY, AWARDS & CLOSE

12:15 DEPART