EACR-Mark Foundation Joint Conference: The Rise of Early-Onset Cancers - Biology, Causes, and Detection Programme

Bergamo, Italy

11 - 13 November 2025

Scientific Programme

Tuesday 11th November 2025

Listed times are in Central European Time (CET)

11:30 REGISTRATION (LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED AT 12:00)

13:00 CONFERENCE WELCOME

SESSION 1: GLOBAL LANDSCAPE OF EARLY-ONSET CANCERS (1)
Chair: Alberto Bardelli

13:10 **Keynote Speaker: Yin Cao**
Washington University in St. Louis, US
'Accelerating cancer risk factor discovery for younger and future generations'

Q&A 13:35-13:50

13:50 **Ahmedin Jemal**
American Cancer Society, US
'The changing landscape of early-onset cancers'

Q&A 14:10-14:20

14:20 **José Montes de Oca Carlos**
Instituto de Investigaciones Biomédicas, Mexico
Proffered Paper 1: 'Accelerated Tumor Aging in Mexican Breast Cancer Patients: Integrating Transcriptional Clocks with Functional Models'

Q&A 14:30-14:35

14:35 EXHIBITOR INTRODUCTIONS

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

15:15 **Giulia Martina Cavestro**
UniSR, Italy
'Diet and lifestyle as associated factors in early-onset colorectal cancer: Preliminary data from the DEMETRA study'

Q&A 15:35-15:45

15:45 **Andrew Biankin**
University of Glasgow, UK
'Moving away from a one size fits all for young people with cancer'

Q&A 16:05-16:15

16:15 POSTER SPOTLIGHTS

16:25 NETWORKING QUIZ
Our fun, informal quiz offers conference participants the chance to make new connections on the first evening of the meeting

17:00 WELCOME RECEPTION

18:00 POSTER DISCUSSION SESSION 1
Led by members of the Scientific Programme Committee

Wednesday 12th November 2025

Listed times are in Central European Time (CET)

08:30 EARLY POSTER VIEWING WITH COFFEE AND BISCUITS

09:00 INDUSTRY SPOTLIGHT - CEGAT
Marco Silvano
CeGaT
'21st Century genetic oncodiagnostics'

SESSION 2: GLOBAL LANDSCAPE OF EARLY-ONSET CANCERS (2)
Chair: Shuji Ogino

09:15 **Ulrike Peters**
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center, US
'Early onset colorectal cancer: Integrating epidemiological trends with molecular mechanisms'

Q&A 09:35-09:45

09:45 **Seongmi Russell**
Washington University in St Louis, USA
Proffered Paper 2: 'Early-Life Colonization by Enterotoxigenic Bacteroides fragilis Drives Early-Onset Colorectal Cancer Susceptibility'

Q&A 09:55-10:00

10:00 **Jelle Wesseling**
Netherlands Cancer Institute, Netherlands
'Ductal Carcinoma In Situ: When cancer is not really cancer'

Q&A 10:20 - 10:30

10:30 **Ilenia Laterza**
Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Italy
Proffered Paper 3: 'The Role of E. coli Toxin CNF1 in Colorectal Cancer Progression and Metastasis'

Q&A 10:40-10:45

10:45 COFFEE BREAK & EXHIBITION

11:15 **José Perea**
Biomedical Research of Salamanca, Spain
'Immunometabolic dimension of early-onset colorectal cancer. Paradigm for the other early-onset cancers?'

Q&A 11:35-11:45

11:45 **Muhammad Shah Zaib**
University of Trento, Italy
Proffered Paper 4: 'Microbiome alterations of colorectal cancer according to age of onset, stage, and anatomic location'

Q&A 11:55-12:00

12:00 POSTER SPOTLIGHTS

12:10 INDUSTRY SYMPOSIUM - SARTORIUS

Gennaro De Vita
Sartorius
'Innovative Bioanalytical Tools for Enhanced Live-Cell Imaging'

Q&A 12:30-12:40

12:40 LUNCH

13:40 POSTER DISCUSSION SESSION 2
Led by members of the Scientific Programme Committee

SESSION 3: CLINICAL, MOLECULAR AND BIOLOGICAL FEATURES
Chair: Salvatore Siena

15:10 **Keynote Speaker: Shuji Ogino**
Harvard University, US
'Assessing long-term risk factor exposures is a critical gap in early-onset cancer research: how can we overcome it using tumor biomarker analyses?'

Q&A 15:35-15:50

15:50 **Silvana C E Maas**
VHIO, Spain
Proffered Paper 5: 'Methylation fingerprints expose novel environmental contribution to early-onset colorectal cancer'

Q&A 16:00-16:05

16:05 **Giulia Calafato**
IRCCS Azienda Ospedaliero-Universitaria di Bologna, Italy
Proffered Paper 6: 'Dysregulation of Wnt/β-catenin/mTOR axis and intestinal stemness cross-talk in obesity-dependent early-onset colorectal cancer'

Q&A 16:15-16:20

16:20 **Irit Ben-Aharon**
Rambam Health Care Campus, Israel
'The evolving enigma- early onset colorectal cancer'

Q&A 16:40-16:50

16:50 COFFEE BREAK & EXHIBITION

17:20 **Nicola Segata**
University of Trento, Italy
'The microbiome in early-onset colorectal cancer'

Q&A 17:40-17:50

17:50 THE EMBO KEYNOTE LECTURE
Alberto Bardelli
IFOM, Italy
'The exposome and early onset colorectal cancers'

Q&A 18:10-18:20

19:30 CONFERENCE DINNER (OPTIONAL TICKETED EVENT)

Thursday 13th November 2025

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08:30 EARLY POSTER VIEWING WITH COFFEE AND BISCUITS

SESSION 4: EXPERIMENTAL MODELS

Chair: Yin Cao

09:00 **Cheryl Walker**
Baylor College of Medicine, US
'Epigenomic reprogramming by early life environmental exposures alter cancer risk in adulthood'

Q&A 09:20-09:30

09:30 **Gianluca Mauri**
Ospedale Niguarda, Italy
'From biological understanding to personalized clinical management of early-onset colorectal cancer'

Q&A 09:50-:10:00

10:00 **Pauliina Kallio**
University of Helsinki, Finland
Proffered Paper 7: 'A Multipotent PROX1+ Tumor Stem/Progenitor Cell Population Emerges During Intestinal Tumorigenesis and Mediates Treatment Resistance in Early-Onset Colorectal Cancer'

Q&A 10:10-10:15

10:15 COFFEE BREAK & EXHIBITION

10:45 **Selma Masri**
UC Irvine, US
'Circadian Clock Misalignment in Colorectal Cancer: Links with Early-Onset Disease'

Q&A 11:05-11:15

11:15 KEYNOTE LECTURE
Sir Mike Stratton
Wellcome Sanger Institute, UK
'Mutagenic exposures to normal colorectal epithelium and their potential role in early-onset colorectal cancer'

Q&A 11:40-11:55

11:55 SUMMARY & AWARDS

12:15 DEPART