

The Tumour Ecosystem: Cellular Interactions and Therapeutic Opportunities Programme

Bergamo, Italy

19 - 21 March 2024



Scientific Programme

Tuesday 19th March 2024

Listed times are in Central European Time (CET)

- 11:30 REGISTRATION & WELCOME LUNCH
- 13:00 WELCOME TO DAY ONE
- SESSION 1 - FROM RESEARCH INSIGHTS TO THERAPEUTIC OPPORTUNITIES
Chair: Neta Erez
- 13:10 OPENING KEYNOTE LECTURE
Douglas Hanahan
Ludwig Cancer Research, Lausanne, Switzerland
'Immunosuppression in the tumour microenvironment, and beyond'
Q&A: 13:45-13:55
- 13:55 **Yuval Shaked**
Technion - Israel Institute of Technology, Technion City, Haifa, Israel
'Immune-Mediated Extracellular Matrix Remodeling Promotes Tumor Resistance and Metastasis Following Anti-Cancer Therapy'
Q&A 14:15-14:25
- 14:25 **Nicoletta Caronni**
San Raffaele Scientific Institute, Milan, Italy
Proffered Paper 1: 'IL-1 β + macrophages fuel pathogenic inflammation in pancreatic cancer'
- 14:40 EXHIBITOR INTRODUCTIONS
- 14:50 COFFEE BREAK & EXHIBITION
- 15:20 **Alexander vom Stein**
University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany
Proffered Paper 1a: 'By perturbing fibroblast polarization, stromal LYN kinase expression in the microenvironment is immunomodulatory and promotes viability of chronic lymphocytic leukemia cells. '
Q&A: 15:30-15:35
- 15:35 **Ana Farias**
Imperial College London, UK
Proffered Paper 1b: 'Type I interferons induced upon RSV infection change the lung microenvironment and impair seeding of lung metastatic breast cancer cells'
Q&A 15:45 - 15:50
- 15:50 **Johanna Joyce**
University of Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland
'Unravelling the Complexity of Cancer Ecosystems'

- Q&A: 16:10-16:20
- 16:20 **MOLECULAR ONCOLOGY CALL FOR CONTENT**
Siddhi Maniyar
Federation of European Biochemical Societies, Cambridge, UK
- 16:30 **POSTER SPOTLIGHTS**
Ngozi Akingbesote, Yale School of Medicine, New Haven, USA; Alessandra Riggio, Huntsman Cancer Institute, Salt Lake City, USA; Simge Yucel, EPFL Life Sciences, Lausanne, Switzerland
- 16:45 **SYMPOSIUM - CANCERTOOLS.ORG**
Dr Saverio Tardito
Cancer Research UK Scotland Institute, and School of Cancer Sciences, University of Glasgow
'In vitro veritas: transforming cell culture with more physiological conditions'
- 17:15 **NETWORKING QUIZ**
Our fun, informal quiz offers conference participants the chance to make new connections on the first evening of the meeting.
- 17:45 **WELCOME RECEPTION**
- 18:30 **POSTER DISCUSSION SESSION 1**

Wednesday 20th March 2024

Listed times are in Central European Time (CET)

- 08:45 **EARLY POSTER VIEWING (WITH COFFEE)**
- 09:15 **INDUSTRY SPOTLIGHT - LUNAPHORE TECHNOLOGIES**
Alioune Ndoye
Lunaphore
'Accelerating spatial biology with COMET'
- SESSION 2: THE MACROENVIRONMENT AND METABOLISM**
Chair: Douglas Hanahan
- 09:30 **Leila Akkari**
Netherlands Cancer Institute, Amsterdam, Netherlands
'Dissecting and rewiring myeloid cell heterogeneity in cancer'
Q&A: 09:50-10:00
- 10:00 **Giulia Biffi**
University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK
Proffered Paper 2: 'SMAD4 loss in malignant cells drives a fibro-inflammatory microenvironment in pancreatic cancer'
Q&A: 10:10-10:15
- 10:15 **Mariia Yuneva**
The Francis Crick Institute, London, UK
'Dissecting metabolic heterogeneity and vulnerabilities of tumours'
Q&A: 10:35-10:45
- 10:45 **COFFEE BREAK & EXHIBITION**
- 11:15 **Julio Aguirre-Ghiso**
Albert Einstein College of Medicine, New York, US

'Age-related clonal hematopoiesis (CH) serves as a host-derived driver of awakening of dormant disseminated breast cancer (BC) cells'

Q&A: 11:35-11:45

11:45 **Monica Cassandras**

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, USA

Proffered Paper 3: 'Breast cancer metastasis: uncovering the role of chronic stress in immune evasion'

12:00 **POSTER SPOTLIGHTS**

Kelly McGovern, Dana Faber Cancer Institute, Boston, USA; Tatiana Rizou, Francis Crick Institute, London, UK; Tamar Shami, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel

12:15 **LUNCH**

13:15 **POSTER DISCUSSION SESSION 2**

SESSION 3: ORGAN-SPECIFIC MICROENVIRONMENTS

Chair: Johanna Joyce

14:45 **Neta Erez**

Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel

'Stromal and Immune Plasticity Shape the Metastatic Microenvironment'

Q&A: 15:05-15:15

15:15 **Yassmin Elbanna**

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, USA

Proffered Paper 4: 'A Mechanoimmunological Basis for Metastatic Site Distribution'

15:30 **Ye'ela Scharff**

Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel

Proffered Paper 5: 'Complement signaling is a hallmark of inflammatory fibroblasts in chronic diseases and cancer'

15:45 **Erik Sahai**

The Francis Crick Institute, London, UK

'Why liver metastases are so hard to treat with immunotherapy'

Q&A: 16:05-16:15

16:15 **COFFEE BREAK & EXHIBITION**

16:45 **Karin de Visser**

Netherlands Cancer Institute, Amsterdam, Netherlands

'Dissecting how breast tumours hijack myelopoiesis to promote metastasis'

Q&A: 17:05-17:15

17:15 **Jean Albregues**

Universite Cote d'Azur, Nice, France

'Neutrophil extracellular traps formed during chemotherapy confer treatment resistance via TGF- β activation'

Q&A: 17:35-17:45

17:45 **MEET THE EXPERT**

Neta Erez, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel; Leila Akkari, Netherlands Cancer Institute, Amsterdam, Netherlands; Ruth Scherz-Shouval, Weizmann Institute, Rehovot, Israel; Jean Albregues, Universite Cote d'Azur, Nice, France

19:30 **CONFERENCE DINNER**
The Conference Dinner will be held at the atmospheric Ristorante Taverna Valtellinese, Optional ticketed event.

Thursday 21st March 2024

Listed times are in Central European Time (CET)

08:15 **EARLY POSTER VIEWING SESSION (WITH COFFEE)**

08:45 **INDUSTRY SPOTLIGHT - REACT4LIFE**

Silvia Scaglione

React4Life and National Research Council of Italy

'3D Humanized Tissue Cancer Models and Multi-Organ-on-Chip Platforms to Investigate Immune-Tumor Cellular Interactions and Test New Therapeutics'

SESSION 4: STROMAL AND IMMUNE CELLS SHAPE THE TME

Chair: Erik Sahai

09:00 **Ruth Scherz-Shouval**

Weizmann Institute, Rehovot, Israel

'Transcriptional and functional plasticity of cancer-associated fibroblasts in the tumor microenvironment'

Q&A: 09:20-09:30

09:30 **Sara Zanivan**

CRUK Scotland Institute, Glasgow, UK

'Harnessing CAF metabolism to create an anti-tumour microenvironment'

Q&A: 09:50-10:00

10:00 **Antoinette van Weverwijk**

Netherlands Cancer Institute (NKI), Amsterdam, Netherlands

Proffered Paper 6: 'Distinct p53 hotspot mutations differentially regulate immune composition and immunotherapy response in breast cancer'

10:15 **COFFEE BREAK & EXHIBITION**

10:45 **Santiago Zelenay**

CRUK Manchester Institute, Manchester, UK

'Protumorigenic inflammation: a targetable immune checkpoint and a biomarker of immunotherapy response'

Q&A: 11:05-11:15

11:15 **THE EMBO KEYNOTE LECTURE**

Clare Isacke

ICR, London, UK

'Targeting the tumour microenvironment to limit metastatic relapse'

Q&A: 11:50-12:00

12:00 **SUMMARY, AWARDS AND CLOSE**

12:10 **DEPART**