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-1β+ 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**

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**Wednesday 20th March 2024**

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

08:45  **INDUSTRY SPOTLIGHT - LUNAPHORE TECHNOLOGIES**  
Alioune Ndoye  
Lunaphore  
‘Accelerating spatial biology with COMET’

**SESSION 2: THE MACROENVIRONMENT AND METABOLISM**  
Chair: Douglas Hanahan

09:00  **Leila Akkari**  
Netherlands Cancer Institute, Amsterdam, Netherlands  
‘Dissecting and rewiring myeloid cell heterogeneity in cancer’  
Q&A: 09:20-09:30

09:30  **Giulia Biffi**  
University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK  
Proffered Paper 2: ‘SMAD4 loss in malignant cells drives a fibro-inflammatory microenvironment in pancreatic cancer’

09:45  **Mariam Jamal-Hanjani**  
UCL, London, UK  
‘Insights into lung cancer evolution and metastases in TRACERx and PEACE’  
Q&A: 10:05-10:15

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-Fabre 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 Albrengues**  
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**
The Conference Dinner will be held at the atmospheric Ristorante Taverna Valtellinese, Optional ticketed event.

Thursday 21st March 2024

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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

10:15 COFFEE BREAK & EXHIBITION

10:45 Santiago Zelenay
CRUK Manchester Institute, Manchester, UK
‘Protumourigenic 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