The Tumour Ecosystem: From Mechanisms to Novel Therapeutics Programme

Bergamo, Italy

17 - 19 March 2026



Scientific Programme

Tuesday 17th March 2026

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

Chair: Leila Akkari

13:10 OPENING KEYNOTE LECTURE

Ashani Weeraratna

Johns Hopkins, Baltimore, USA

'A Complex TIME: how the tumor immune microenvironment governs tumor progression'

Q&A 13:40 - 13:55

13:55 Erik Sahai

The Francis Crick Institute, London, UK 'Modeling Tumor-Stroma Boundaries'

Q&A 14:15 - 14:25

14:25 **Proffered Paper 1**

Q&A 14:35 - 14:40

14:40 EXHIBITOR INTRODUCTIONS

Led by members of the Scientific Programme Committee

14:50 COFFEE BREAK, EXHIBITION AND SOLO TRAVELLER MEET-UP

15:20 Daniela Quail

McGill University, Montreal, Canada

'Exploiting myeloid-driven inflammation in cancer progression'

Q&A 15:40 - 15:50

15:50 **Neta Erez**

Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel

'Stromal and Immune Plasticity Shape the Metastatic Microenvironment'

Q&A 16:10 - 16:20

16:20 POSTER SPOTLIGHTS

Led by members of the Scientific Programme Committee

16:30 INDUSTRY SYMPOSIUM

Led by members of the Scientific Programme Committee

17:00 NETWORKING QUIZ

17:30	WELCOME RECEPTION
18:15	POSTER DISCUSSION SESSION 1 Led by members of the Scientific Programme Committee
Wednesday 18th March 2026	
	Listed times are in Central European Time (CET)
08:15	EARLY POSTER VIEWING
08:45	INDUSTRY SPOTLIGHT Led by members of the Scientific Programme Committee
	SESSION 2 Chair: Erik Sahai
09:00	Yardena Samuels Weizmann Institute, Rehovot, Israel 'The various layers of intratumor heterogeneity and their impact on tumor immunity'
	Q&A 09:20 - 09:30
09:30	Proffered Paper 2
	Q&A 09:40 - 09:45
09:45	Mikael Pittet Agora, Lausanne, Switzerland 'Myeloid cells: Uncovering conserved functions shaping cancer immunity
	Q&A 10:05 - 10:15
10:15	Andrea Schietinger MSKCC, New York, USA 'Tumor-specific CD8 T cell differentiation and dysfunction'
	Q&A 10:35 - 10:45
10:45	COFFEE BREAK & EXHIBITION
11:15	Mara Sherman Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, USA 'Mapping cellular hierarchies in the pancreatic tumor microenvironment'
	Q&A 11:35 - 11:45
11:45	Proffered Paper 3
	Q&A 11:55 - 12:00
12:00	POSTER SPOTLIGHTS Led by members of the Scientific Programme Committee
12:10	INDUSTRY SYMPOSIUM Led by members of the Scientific Programme Committee
12:40	LUNCH

13:40 POSTER DISCUSSION SESSION 2

Led by members of the Scientific Programme Committee

SESSION 3

Chair: Johanna Joyce

15:10 THE EMBO YOUNG INVESTIGATOR LECTURE

Leila Akkari

Netherlands Cancer Institute, Amsterdam, Netherlands 'Metabolic regulation in the brain tumor microenvironment'

Q&A 15:30 - 15:40

15:40 Proffered Paper 4

Q&A 15:50 - 15:55

15:55 **Proffered Paper 5**

Q&A 16:05 - 16:10

16:10 Anna Obenauf

IMP, Austria

'Unlocking immunity: Decoding and reprogramming the immune-evasive tumor microenvironment'

Q&A 16:30 - 16:40

16:40 COFFEE BREAK & EXHIBITION

17:10 Ilaria Malanchi

Francis Crick Institute, London, UK

'Emergency granulopoiesis and Cancer Progression'

Q&A 17:30 - 17:40

17:40 Jacco van Rheenen

NKI, Amsterdam, Netherlands

'Intravital microscopy of the fate of cells carrying mutations in cancer driver genes'

Q&A 18:00 - 18:10

18:10 PANEL DISCUSSION - MEET THE EXPERT

Ashani Weeraratna (Johns Hopkins, USA), Daniela Quail (McGill University, Canada), Direna Alonso-Curbelo (IRB Barcelona, Spain), Jacco van Rheenen (NKI, Netherlands)

19:30 CONFERENCE DINNER (OPTIONAL TICKETED EVENT)

Thursday 19th March 2026

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08:15 EARLY POSTER VIEWING

08:45 INDUSTRY SPOTLIGHT

Led by members of the Scientific Programme Committee

SESSION 4

Chair: Neta Erez

09:00 THE EMBO KEYNOTE LECTURE

Johanna Joyce

University of Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland 'Unraveling the Complexity of Cancer Ecosystems'

Q&A 09:20 - 09:30

09:30 Dinorah Friedman-Morvinski

TAU, Tel Aviv, Israel

'Overcoming the immunosuppressive Microenvironment to enhance CAR T cell therapy in brain tumors'

Q&A 09:50 - 10:00

10:00 **Proffered Paper 6**

Q&A 10:10 - 10:15

10:15 COFFEE BREAK & EXHIBITION

10:45 **Direna Alonso-Curbelo**

IRB Barcelona, Spain

'Unmasking tissue ecosystem dynamics uncoupling regeneration and tumorigenesis'

Q&A 11:05 - 11:15

11:15 CLOSING KEYNOTE LECTURE

Frank Winkler

DKFZ, Heidelberg, Germany

'Neural influences on brain tumors: from fundamental insights to new therapies'

Q&A 11:45 - 12:00

12:00 SUMMARY & CLOSE

12:10 DEPART