

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 **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**