

# 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 $\beta$ + macrophages fuel pathogenic inflammation in pancreatic cancer'
- 14:40 EXHIBITOR INTRODUCTIONS
- 14:50 COFFEE BREAK & EXHIBITION
- 15:20 **Adrienne Boire**  
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Centre, New York, USA  
'Cancer growth in a nutritional desert: Leptomeningeal Metastasis'  
Q&A: 15:40-15:50
- 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
- 16:30 POSTER SPOTLIGHTS  
Ngozi Akingbesote, Yale School of Medicine, New Haven, USA; Alessandra Riggio, Huntsman Cancer Institute, Salt Lake City, USA; Alexander vom Stein, University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany; 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 **SPEED NETWORKING**
- 17:45 **WELCOME RECEPTION**
- 18:30 **POSTER DISCUSSION SESSION 1**

## Wednesday 20th March 2024

**Listed times are in Central European Time (CET)**

- 08:15 **EARLY POSTER VIEWING (WITH COFFEE & BISCUITS)**
- 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**  
Ana Farias, Imperial College London, London, UK; 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- $\beta$  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

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- 08:15 **EARLY POSTER VIEWING SESSION (WITH COFFEE & BISCUITS)**
- 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  
'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**