

Persister Cells: from Bacteria to Cancer Programme

Lyon, France

18 - 20 March 2025



Scientific Programme

Tuesday 18th March 2025

Listed times are in Central European Time (CET)

11:30 REGISTRATION & WELCOME LUNCH

13:00 CONFERENCE WELCOME

13:10 PERSISTERS: WHERE ARE WE NOW... AND WHERE ARE WE GOING?

Is it really possible to give a definition of persister cells? Our Scientific Programme Committee comes together to discuss the aims of the meeting and the key questions in the field.

SESSION 1: NOVEL METHODOLOGIES FOR STUDYING PERSISTENT CELLS

13:55 **Jan Michiels**

VIB-KU Leuven Center for Microbiology, Belgium

"Mechanistic Insights and Evolutionary Dynamics of Persistence in Escherichia coli"

Q&A: 14:15 - 14:25

14:25 **Proffered Paper 1**

Q&A: 14:35 - 14:40

14:40 EXHIBITOR INTRODUCTIONS

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

15:20 **Yaara Oren**

Tel Aviv University, Israel

"The day after the drug- investing drug-induced cellular memory"

Q&A: 15:40 - 15:50

15:50 **Direna Alonso-Curbelo**

IRB Barcelona, Spain

Q&A: 16:10 - 16:20

16:20 INDUSTRY SYMPOSIUM

16:50 **Cedric Blanpain**

Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium

"Tumor States mediating Resistance to Chemotherapy"

Q&A: 17:10-17:20

17:20 POSTER SPOTLIGHTS 1

17:30 WELCOME RECEPTION

18:15 POSTER DISCUSSION SESSION 1

Wednesday 19th March 2025

Listed times are in Central European Time (CET)

08:15 **EARLY POSTER VIEWING**

08:45 **INDUSTRY SPOTLIGHT**

SESSION 2: DECIPHERING THE PERSISTENT CODE: MOLECULAR MECHANISMS

09:00 **Susan Rosenberg**
Baylor College of Medicine, USA
"Drugging Bacterial and Cancer Evolution"
Q&A: 09:20 - 09:30

09:30 **Proffered Paper 2**
Q&A: 09:40 - 09:45

09:45 **Céline Vallot**
Institut Curie, France
Q&A: 10:05 - 10:15

10:15 **THE EMBO KEYNOTE LECTURE**
Chris Marine
VIB - KU Leuven Center for Cancer Biology, Belgium
Q&A: 10:35 - 10:45

10:45 **COFFEE BREAK & EXHIBITION**

11:15 **Aaron Hata**
Massachusetts General Hospital, USA
"Mechanisms driving evolution of drug resistance in lung cancer"
Q&A: 11:35 - 11:45

11:45 **Proffered Paper 3**
Q&A: 11:55 - 12:00

12:00 **POSTER SPOTLIGHTS 2**

12:10 **INDUSTRY SYMPOSIUM**

12:40 **LUNCH**

13:40 **POSTER DISCUSSION SESSION 2**

SESSION 3: EMERGING VULNERABILITIES: TARGETING PERSISTENT CELLS

15:10 **Ultan McDermot**
AstraZeneca, UK
"Genome-wide CRISPR screens identify the YAP/TEAD axis as a driver of persistent cells in EGFR mutant lung cancer"
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 **Eduard Batlle**

IRB Barcelona, Spain

Q&A: 16:30 - 16:40

16:40 COFFEE BREAK & EXHIBITION

17:10 **Johannes Zuber**

IMP - Institute of Molecular Pathology, Austria

"Unveiling persister cell vulnerabilities through in-vivo CRISPR screens"

Q&A: 17:30 - 17:40

17:40 **René Bernards**

Netherlands Cancer Institute, Netherlands

"Identification of vulnerabilities of DTPs through functional genetics"

Q&A: 18:00 - 18:10

18:10 EARLY CAREER ADVICE: MANAGING THE WORK LIFE BALANCE

19:30 CONFERENCE DINNER

Thursday 20th March 2025

Listed times are in Central European Time (CET)

08:15 EARLY POSTER VIEWING

08:45 INDUSTRY SPOTLIGHT

SESSION 4: PERSISTENT CELLS IN THE CLINIC

09:00 **Wendy Mok**

UConn Health, USA

"Targeting Metabolism and Defenses to Eradicate Bacterial Persisters"

Q&A: 09:20 - 09:30

09:30 **Shruti Bhatt**

National University of Singapore, Singapore

"Clonal Evolution of Drug-Tolerant Leukemia Cells: Implications for Treatment Resistance"

Q&A: 09:50 - 10:00

10:00 **Proffered Paper 6**

Q&A: 10:10 - 10:15

10:15 COFFEE BREAK & EXHIBITION

10:45 **Caroline Robert**

Gustave Roussy, France

"Interactions of the Persister Cells with the tumor microenvironment"

Q&A: 11:05 - 11:15

11:15 **Trevar Bivona**

UCSF, USA

"Mechanisms of persister cell biology in lung cancer"

Q&A: 11:35 - 11:45

11:45 SUMMARY & CLOSE

12:00 DEPART

