

Cancer Neuroscience Programme

Bilbao, Spain

14 - 16 October 2025



Scientific Programme

Tuesday 14th October 2025

Listed times are in Central European Summer Time (CEST)

- 11:30 **REGISTRATION**
Light refreshments will be served at 12:00
- 13:00 **WELCOME TO DAY ONE**
SESSION 1: NEURAL INFLUENCES ON CANCER CELLS
Chair: Frank Winkler
- 13:10 **OPENING KEYNOTE LECTURE**
Michelle Monje
Stanford University, US
'The Neuroscience of Brain Cancers'
Q&A: 13:40-13:55
- 13:55 **Varun Venkataramani**
University of Heidelberg, Germany
'Characterizing and targeting glioblastoma neuron-tumor networks with retrograde tracing'
Q&A: 14:15-14:25
- 14:25 **Matteo Bergami**
University Hospital Cologne, Germany
Proffered Paper 1: 'Functional synapses between small cell lung cancer and glutamatergic neurons'
Q&A: 14:35-14:40
- 14:40 **EXHIBITOR INTRODUCTIONS**
- 14:50 **COFFEE BREAK, EXHIBITION AND SOLO TRAVELLER MEET-UP**
- 15:20 **Humsa Venkatesh (Virtual Presentation)**
Harvard Medical School, US
'Neural Communication Axes in Small Cell Lung Cancer'
Q&A: 15:40-15:50
- 15:50 **Vera Thiel**
German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ), Germany
'Trace-Me(tastasis)-if-you-CAN (Cancer-Associated-Neurons): Unravelling how cancer-associated neurons shape the tumor microenvironment'
Q&A: 16:10-16:20
- 16:20 **Karen Sleiman**
IBDM, France
Proffered Paper 2: 'Matrix stiffness and its impact on cancer innervation'
Q&A: 16:30-16:35

- 16:35 [MOLECULAR ONCOLOGY: CALL FOR CONTENT](#)
- 16:45 [POSTER SPOTLIGHTS 1](#)
- 16:55 [INDUSTRY SYMPOSIUM](#)
- Q&A: 17:15-17:25
- 17:25 [MEET THE SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME COMMITTEE](#)
An informal session where the organisers for the conference will join together to share their own personal and professional experiences of their path to scientific leadership.
- 18:00 [WELCOME RECEPTION](#)
- 18:30 [POSTER DISCUSSION SESSION 1](#)
Led by members of the Scientific Programme Committee

Wednesday 15th October 2025

Listed times are in Central European Summer Time (CEST)

- 08:15 [EARLY POSTER VIEWING \(WITH COFFEE & BISCUITS\)](#)
- 08:45 [INDUSTRY SPOTLIGHT - BIOMODAL](#)
- [SESSION 2: NEURAL INFLUENCES ON THE TUMOR ENVIRONMENT](#)
Chair: Michelle Monje
- 09:00 **Erica Sloan**
Monash University, Australia
'Neural-tumour crosstalk drives breast cancer metastasis and impairs treatment response'
Q&A: 09:20-09:30
- 09:30 **Proffered Paper 3**
Q&A: 09:40-09:45
- 09:45 **Sebastien Talbot**
Queen's University, Canada
'Nociceptor neurons impact anti-tumor immunity'
Q&A: 10:05-10:15
- 10:15 **Linda Douw**
Amsterdam UMC, Netherlands
'Multiscale network neuroscience in neuro-oncological patients: from cell to circuit to cognition'
Q&A: 10:35-10:45
- 10:45 [COFFEE BREAK & EXHIBITION](#)
- 11:15 [BARBARA MARTE: MEET THE EDITORS](#)
Join us in this session led by Barbara Marte, Senior Editor at Nature (UK), to hear advice and insight about being an editor.
- 11:45 **Meike Thijssen**
Maastricht University Medical Center, Netherlands
Proffered Paper 4: 'Adrenergic Signaling affects Tumor-associated B cell Maturation in Colorectal Cancer'

- Q&A: 11:55-12:00
- 12:00 **POSTER SPOTLIGHTS 2**
- 12:10 **INDUSTRY SYMPOSIUM - LUNAPHORE**
- Q&A: 12:30-12:40
- 12:40 **LUNCH**
Light refreshments will be served.
- 13:30 **POSTER DISCUSSION SESSION 2**
Led by members of the Scientific Programme Committee
- SESSION 3: INFLUENCES OF CANCER ON THE NERVOUS SYSTEM**
Chair: Barbara Marte
- 15:00 **Timothy Wang**
Columbia University, US
'Nociceptive neurons interact directly with gastric cancer cells via a CGRP/Ramp1 axis to promote tumour progression'
- Q&A: 15:20-15:30
- 15:30 **Valentina Lind**
University College London, UK
Proffered Paper 5: 'Glioblastoma neural activity maps to a prognostic human brain network'
- Q&A: 15:40-15:45
- 15:45 **EANO SPEAKER**
Manuel Valiente
CNIO, Spain
'Molecular and cellular rationale underlying the heterogeneous impact of metastases on brain activity'
- Q&A: 16:05-16:15
- 16:15 **COFFEE BREAK & EXHIBITION**
- 16:45 **Benjamin Deneen**
Baylor College, US
'Decoding the Language of Brain Tumor and Neuron Communication'
- Q&A: 17:05-17:15
- 17:15 **Shawn Hervey-Jumper**
UCSF, USA
'Glioma remodeling of neuronal circuits'
- Q&A: 17:35-17:45
- 17:45 **PANEL DISCUSSION**
Which technologies do we need for the further advance of Cancer Neuroscience? How can we best educate future Cancer Neuroscientists? What do we need for successful development of Neuroscience-instructed Cancer Therapies?
Scheduled to end at 18:45
- 20:00 **CONFERENCE DINNER**
The conference dinner will take place at Kafe Antzokia Restaurant. After dinner, we will enjoy music and dancing with a live DJ. Optional ticketed event.

Thursday 16th October 2025

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

08:45 **INDUSTRY SPOTLIGHT**

SESSION 4: CANCER-INTRINSIC NEURAL MECHANISMS

Chair: Erica Sloan

09:00 **Frank Winkler**

University Hospital Heidelberg & DKFZ, Germany

'Neural influences on brain tumor progression and therapy resistance: from fundamental insights to clinical trials'

Q&A: 09:20 - 09:30

09:30 **Itay Tirosh**

Weizmann Institute, Israel

'Cancer cell states and their neuronal associations'

Q&A: 09:50 - 10:00

10:00 **Melina Müller**

University Hospital Heidelberg, Germany

Proffered Paper 6: 'KCa3.1 inhibition increases antitumor effects of radiotherapy in glioblastoma models'

Q&A: 10:10 - 10:15

10:15 **COFFEE BREAK & EXHIBITION**

10:45 **Sofia Micheli**

Institute of Anatomy, Switzerland

Proffered Paper 7: 'Peripheral glia drive the initiation of cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma'

Q&A: 10:55-11:00

11:00 **Leanne Li**

Crick Institute, UK

'Genetically engineered mouse models in cancer neuroscience research'

Q&A: 11:20 - 11:30

11:30 **THE EMBO CLOSING KEYNOTE LECTURE**

Doug Hanahan

EPFL, Switzerland

'The neuronal RNA-binding protein is a master regulator of the immuno-evasive tumor microenvironment'

Q&A: 12:00 - 12:15

12:15 **SUMMARY & CLOSE**