Goodbye Flat Biology: ex vivo to in vivo models of cancer Programme

Essen, Germany

23 - 25 September 2025

Scientific Programme

Tuesday 23rd September 2025

Listed times are in Central European Summer Time (CEST)

11:30 REGISTRATION & WELCOME LUNCH (LUNCH FROM 12:00)

13:00 CONFERENCE WELCOME

SESSION 1: CELL-BASED THERAPIES

Chair: Valerie Weaver

13:10 OPENING KEYNOTE LECTURE

Michael Milone

Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, USA

Navigating Beyond the Cancer Therapy Horizon with Engineered T cells

Q&A 13:35 - 13:50

13:50 **Emmanuel Donnadieu**

Institut Cochin, Paris, France

Optimizing CAR T cell efficacy in human solid tumors

Q&A 14:10 - 14:20

14:20 **Proffered Paper 1**

Q&A 14:30 - 14:35

14:35 EXHIBITOR INTRODUCTIONS

14:45 COFFEE BREAK, EXHIBITION & SOLO TRAVELLER MEET-UP

15:15 **Peter Friedl**

Radboud UMC, Nijmegen, Netherlands

Q&A 15:35 - 15:45

15:45 **Matt Paszek**

Smith School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, Cornell University, New York, USA

Q&A 16:05 - 16:15

16:15 POSTER SPOTLIGHTS

16:25 INDUSTRY SYMPOSIUM

16:55 NETWORKING EVENT

17:25 WELCOME RECEPTION

18:15 POSTER DISCUSSION SESSION 1

Wednesday 24th September 2025

Listed times are in Central European Summer Time (CEST)

08:15 EARLY POSTER VIEWING

08:45 INDUSTRY SPOTLIGHT

SESSION 2: MECHANOBIOLOGY
Chair: Emmanuel Donnadieu

09:00 **Johanna Ivaska**
University of Turku, Turku, Finland
3D matrix guided cues in cancer progression

Q&A 09:20 - 09:30

09:30 **Proffered Paper 2**

Q&A 09:40 - 09:45

09:45 **Sara Wickstrom**
Max Planck Institute for Molecular Biomedicine, Munster, Germany
Functional interactions of tissue architecture, mechanics and cell state in cancer

Q&A 10:05 - 10:15

10:15 **Thomas H. Barker**
University of Virginia, Charlottesville, USA
The Matrix Plain and Simple: an ideal model system to explore complex disease microenvironments

Q&A 10:35 - 10:45

10:45 COFFEE BREAK & EXHIBITION

11:15 **Samantha Stehbens**
Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia
The Mechanobiology of Microtubules: Understanding How Tumour Cells Survive Confined Spaces

Q&A 11:35 - 11:45

11:45 **Proffered Paper 3**

Q&A 11:55 - 12:00

12:00 POSTER SPOTLIGHTS

12:10 INDUSTRY SYMPOSIUM

12:40 LUNCH

13:40 POSTER DISCUSSION SESSION 2

SESSION 3: PLASTICITY
Chair: Henriette Lanz

15:10 **Marta Shahbazi**
MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Cambridge, UK
From tissue shape to cell fate during mouse embryo development

Q&A 15:30 - 15:40

15:40 **Proffered Paper 4**

Q&A 15:50 - 15:55

15:55 **Proffered Paper 5**

16:05 - 16:10

16:10 **Kevin Myant**
University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK
Loss of colonic lineage fidelity permits induction of squamous-like plasticity and metastasis in colorectal cancer

Q&A 16:30 - 16:40

16:40 COFFEE BREAK & EXHIBITION

17:10 **Viola Vogel**
ETH Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland

Q&A 17:30 - 17:40

17:40 **Chris Tape**
UCL Cancer Institute, London, UK
Single-cell Phenoscaping of Tumour Microenvironment Organoids

Q&A 18:00 - 18:10

19:30 CONFERENCE DINNER (OPTIONAL TICKETED EVENT)

Thursday 25th September 2025

Listed times are in Central European Summer Time (CEST)

08:15 EARLY POSTER VIEWING

08:45 INDUSTRY SPOTLIGHT

SESSION 4: MODELLING THE TUMOUR MICROENVIRONMENT
Chair: Viola Vogel

09:00 **Henriette Lanz**
MIMETAS, Oegstgeest, Netherlands
Influencing drug responses through in vitro tumour microenvironment characteristics

Q&A 09:20 - 09:30

09:30 **Val Weaver**
UCSF, San Francisco, USA

Q&A 09:50 - 10:00

10:00 **Proffered Paper 6**

Q&A 10:10 - 10:15

10:15 COFFEE BREAK & EXHIBITION

10:45 **David Bryant**
CRUK Beatson Institute, Glasgow, UK
Using CRISPR to dissect tumour growth and metastasis: in vitro organoid to in vivo approaches.

Q&A 11:05 - 11:15

11:15 CLOSING KEYNOTE LECTURE
Frances Balkwill

CRUK, City of London Centre, UK
3D multicellular models of ovarian cancer

Q&A 11:40 - 11:55

11:55 SUMMARY & AWARDS