



SWISS
CANCER
CENTER

LEMAN

PROGRAM

15TH FACULTY & STAFF ANNUAL RETREAT

SWISS CANCER CENTER LEMAN

sponsored by ISREC Foundation

November 24 & 25, 2025
Campus Biotech, Geneva



Hôpitaux
Universitaires
Genève



Fondation Recherche Cancer



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MONDAY 24 NOVEMBER

08:20 – 08:50 WELCOME COFFEE

8:55	WELCOME REMARKS: David Gfeller
9:00-10:15	RHÔNE Chair: Flor Navarro Negredo
9:00	Precision blocking of Frizzled 5 in cancer Wnt signaling by a novel class of antagonists to dissect its pharmacological role. Alexey Koval , Vladimir Katanaev group, UNIGE.
9:15	Boosting Large-Scale Spatial Transcriptomic Analysis Through Graph-Based Aggregation Matei Teleman , David Gfeller group, UNIL
9:30	Targeting Minor Splicing Disrupts DNA Repair and Overcomes Therapy Resistance in Prostate and Breast Cancer Anke Augspach , Mark Rubin group, UNIBE
9:45	Mobilization of Tumor-Infiltrating Exhausted CD8 ⁺ T Cells Toward Long-Term Memory Fate Rongrong Li , Li Tang group, EPFL
10:00	Genetic and pharmacological depletion of TREM2 impairs progression of brain malignancies and primary breast tumors Alessandro Matera , Johanna Joyce group, UNIL

10:15 – 10:45 COFFEE BREAK

10:45-12:00	FLON Chair: Alexey Koval
10:45	Loss of mitochondrial ECHDC2 expression reduces oxidative damage of nuclear DNA and causes radiotherapy resistance Paola Francica , Sven Rottenberg group, UNIBE
11:00	Mechanisms of chrono-immunotherapy Qun Zeng , Christoph Scheiermann group, UNIGE
11:15	Investigation of the anti-tumor immune response in an advanced colorectal cancer co-culture model. Sacha Jacobs , Patrycja Nowak-Sliwinska group, UNIGE
11:30	Metabolic rewiring of aged CAR-T cells to improve immunotherapy Claudia Cifuentes Cabalero , Nicola Vannini group, UNIFR
11:45	Exploring Mesothelioma Complexity with Single-nuclei and Spatial Transcriptomics Daria Buszta , Raphael Gottardo group, CHUV-UNIL

12:00 – 13:00 LUNCH

13:00-14:00	POSTER SESSION
14:00-15:00	SARINE Chair: Sebastian Waszak
14:00	COX-signaling inhibition in 3D PDEs potentiates the efficacy of Mesothelin-redirected Bite-secreting T cells Bovannak Stewen Chap , Denarda Dangaj group, UNIL

14:15	Lack of CDK4 impacts the integrated stress response in triple-negative breast cancer cells Jaime López Alcalá , Lluís Fajas group, UNIL
14:30	Targeting c-Myc protein stabilization to block Notch1-driven T cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia Flor Navarro Negredo , Freddy Radtke group, EPFL
14:45	An ecological community of distinct leukemic stem cell populations drives relapses in acute myeloid leukemia Emeline Boët , Jerome Tamburini group, UNIGE

15:00- 15:30 COFFEE BREAK

15:30 – 16:30	AAR Chair: Michel Cuendet
15:30	Targeting spatial heterogeneity in colorectal cancer in vivo and ex vivo models Maxim Norkin , Krisztian Homicsko group, CHUV
15:45	Cancer transcriptomics: from bulk to single-cell to spatial Pratyaksha Wirapati , Mikael Pittet group, UNIGE
16:00	Cryo-Expansion Microscopy: unveiling the molecular Architecture of the Immune Synapse Florent Lemaitre , Virginie Hamel group and Benita Wolf group, UNIGE
16:15	Dissecting cell-to-cell communication mechanisms that suppress tumorigenesis by imaging live mice. Mustafa Ozturk , Sara Gallini group, EPFL

16:30- 17:00 SHORT BREAK

17:00-17:45	KEYNOTE SPEAKER Chair: David Gfeller
17:00	Inter-Individual TCR repertoire diversity of epitope-specific CD8+ T cell populations Dirk Busch , Director of the Institute of Medical Microbiology, Immunology and Hygiene at TUM – Technische Universität München, Germany

17:45 – 20:00 APERITIF

TUESDAY 25 NOVEMBER

08:45 – 09:00 WELCOME COFFEE

9:00-10:00	ARVE Chair: Daniel Tadros
9:00	The origins and dynamics of cell-free DNA in cerebrospinal fluid from patients with medulloblastoma Schuyler Stoller , Sebastian M. Waszak group, EPFL
9:15	Myeloid Cell Reprogramming in the Tumor Microenvironment of Solid Cancers via Genetic Engineering of Hematopoietic Stem Cells Agata Lesniewska , Bernhard Gentner group, UNIL

9:30	Whole Slide Image Co-Registration Of Cyclic H&E And Immunohistochemical Stainings Enables Rapid Development, Validation, And Deployment Of Tools For Clinical Routine: A Mitosis Counting Use Case MedyaTekes Mizrakli , Andrew Janowczyk group, HUG
9:45	Engineering Exhaustion-Resistant T Cells with IL-2 Variant and CD40 Agonists to Enhance Antitumor Immunity Laura Cabizzosu , George Coukos group, UNIL

10:00 – 10:30 COFFEE BREAK

10:30-11:30	ROUND TABLE
	Introduction: Melita Irving Chair: Jimmy Maillard and Sheri Mc Dowell Madiha Derouazi (Switchkine), Li Tang (EPFL), Alberto Schena (UNIL), David Weinstock (Roche)
11:30-12:00	POSTER SESSION

12:00 – 13:00 LUNCH

13:00-14:00	VENOGE Chair: Intidhar Labidi-Galy
13:00	Activin-A signaling through ALK4/ACVR1B promotes myeloid-mediated immune evasion in melanoma Lei Huang , Daniel Costam group, EPFL
13:15	The human-restricted oncoprotein POU5F1B enhances cell invasiveness through plasma membrane remodelling. Laia Simo Riudalbas , Laia Simo Riudalbas group, UNIGE
13:30	Optimized Retroviral Vector for Efficient Gene Expression and Downregulation in T-Cell Engineering Romain Vuillefroy de Silly , Melita Irving group, UNIL
13:45	Tumor-derived steroids convert NK cells into pro-fibrotic immunosuppressive effectors in human cancer Su Ziyang , Camilla Jandus and Intidhar Labidi-Galy group, UNIGE/HUG

14:00 – 14:30 BREAK

14:30-15:30	KEYNOTE SPEAKER Chair: Jerome Tamburini
	Discovery Oncology Therapeutics in an Era of Success David Weinstock , Head of the Oncology Disease Translational Area (DTA) in Pharma Research and Early Development (pRED) , ROCHE; Basel, Switzerland.

15:40	BEST TALK & POSTERS AWARDS: Mikael Pittet
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