

Dubrovnik Conference on Cancer Mechanisms and Drug Discovery

05-09 September, 2025

Hotel Croatia, Cavtat

Organizers

Ruth Palmer, Janos Terzic, Pier Paolo DiFiore, Ivan Dikic, Geert Kops, Letizia Lanzetti, Krishnaraj Rajalingam and Wee Wei Tee

Friday Sep 5, 2025

12-16.00 **Arrival and registration**

Session I Oncogenic Signalling networks

Chairs: Ruth Palmer and Janos Terzic

16.00-16.10 **Welcome and introduction**

16.10-16.40 Keynote Lecture: **Joseph Schlessinger, Yale University, USA**
"Developing kinase modulators for cancer therapeutics"

16.45-17:15 Keynote Lecture: **Tony Hunter, SALK Institute, USA**
"A journey from phosphotyrosine to phosphohistidine and beyond"

17.20-17.40 **Letizia Lanzetti, Torino University, Italy**
"Oncogenic trafficking"

17.45-18.05 **EMBO Global Investigator Lecture: Wee Wei Tee, IMCB, Singapore**
"Targeting transcriptional dysregulation in cancer: Insights from early development"

18.10-18.30 **Pier Paolo DiFiore, EIO, Italy**
"Stemness in cancer"

19:00 – 23:00 **Welcome Dinner**

Saturday Sep 6, 2025

Session II Tumor Rewiring

Chairs: Ivan Dikic and Letizia Lanzetti

- 09.00-09.20 **Serkan Kir, Koç University, Turkey**
"EDA2R signaling in tumor-induced muscle wasting"
- 09.25-09.45 **Sara Sigismund, IEO, Milan, Italy**
"Endocytic control of cell plasticity in cancer"
- 09.50-10.10 **Volker Dötsch, Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany**
"Rewiring the p53 family in cancer"
- 10.15-10.35 **Ruth Palmer, University of Gothenburg, Sweden**
"The ALK-dependant metabolic landscape in neuroblastoma"
- 10.40 -11.10 **Tea Break**
- 11.10-11.30 **René Bernards, NKI, Netherlands**
"Combination therapies targeting RAS mutant tumors"
- 11.35-11.55 **Mallika Singh, Revolution Medicine, USA**
"Targeting Ras"
- 12.00-12.20 **Krishna Rajalingam, Mainz University, Germany**
"Targeting MYC and RAS -the two co-conspirators in cancer with flavagline derivatives"
- 12.25-12.37 ***Selected talk:* Markus Diefenbacher, Helmholtz Center Munich, Germany**
"Targeting Ubiquitin Signaling vulnerabilities in KEAP1-Inactivated Lung Cancer"
- 12.40-13.00 **Flash talks (15)**
- 13.00-13.20 **Industry/Sponsor Talk - WuXi AppTec**
- 13.00-15.30 **Lunch break and free time**

Session III Oncogenic Signaling and Genome Instability

Chairs: Wee Wei Tee and Marta Miaczynska

- 15.30-15.50 **Ofer Shoshani, Weizmann, Israel**
"Mechanisms and consequences of chromosome catastrophes in cancer"
- 15.55-16.15 **Iva Tolić, RUĐER BOŠKOVIĆ Institute, Croatia**
"Mechanobiology of mitosis and its role in mitotic fidelity"

- 16.20-16.40 **Samuel Bakhoun, Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth, USA**
"How chromosomal instability drives tumor progression"
- 16.45-17.05 **Rene Medema, Princess Maxima Center, Netherlands**
"Adaptation to genome instability"
- 17.10-17.40 **Break**
- 17.40-18.00 **Ivan Dikic, Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany**
"DNA-protein crosslinks, chromosome instability and liver cancer"
- 18.05-18.25 **Geert Kops, Hubrecht Institute, Netherlands**
"Chromosome segregation"
- 18.30-18.42 **Selected talk: Stamatis Papathanasiou, Mainz University, Germany**
"Mitotic errors as a source of inherited (epi)genetic instability"
- 18.45-18.55 **EMBO Global Investigator Lecture: Dennis Kappei, CSI, Singapore**
"Give me a break – how telomere-driven genomic instability contributes to carcinogenesis"

Free for dinner and discussion

Sunday Sep 7, 2025

Session IV Cellular Plasticity in Cancer

Chairs: Krishnaraj Rajalingam and Johanna Ivaska

- 09.00-09.20 **Maria Sibilio, Medical University of Vienna, Austria**
"Microenvironmental drivers of inflammation and tumorigenesis: Modulating innate immune cell signaling to enhance anti-cancer therapy"
- 09.25-09.45 **Marta Miaczynska, IIMCB Warsaw, Poland**
"Targeting AXL-dependent Trafficking and Signaling in Oncogenesis"
- 09.50-10.02 **Selected talk: Sourav Banerjee, University of Dundee, UK**
"An atypical, secreted kinase promotes the 'seed and soil' of high-grade brain cancer"
- 10.05-10.17 **Selected talk: Iván Plaza-Menacho, CNIO, Madrid, Spain**
"The oncogenic CCDC6-RET fusion product is a dual ATP and ADP-dependent kinase that functions via cis-autophosphorylation"
- 10.20-10.50 **Tea Break**
- 10.50-11.10 **John Scott, University of Washington, USA**
"AKAP signaling and tumor metastasis"
- 11.15-11.35 **Roger Daly, Monash University, Australia**
"Pseudokinases in Cancer"

- 11.40-11.52 **Selected talk:** Tiphaine Douanne, CNRS, Université de Nantes, France
"The LUBAC negatively regulates mitochondrial apoptosis and associated inflammation"
- 11.55-12.20 **Flash talks (15)**
- 12.30-14.00 Lunch
- 14.00-16.00 **Poster session I**

16.30-23.00 Excursion to Dubrovnik and free time for dinner
 (bus return at 22:00 and at 23:00)

Monday Sep 8, 2025

Session V Tumor Microenvironment and Metastasis

Chairs: Maria Sibilio and Dennis Kappei

- 09.00-09.20 **Anwesha Dey, Genentech, USA**
"Targeting the Hippo Pathway in Cancers"
- 09.25-09.45 **Angel Lopez, SA Pathology, Australia**
"How cytokine receptors specify cell fate in health and disease"
- 09.50-10.10 **Colinda Scheele, VIB – KU Leuven, Belgium**
"Intravital imaging and dynamics of tumour progression"
- 10.15-10.27 **Selected talk: Michael Trpcski, Garvan Institute, Sydney, Australia**
"Pinpointing and targeting novel drivers of pancreatic cancer progression and metastasis using TRAP-seq"
- 10.30-11.00 Tea Break**
- 11.00-11.20 **Daniela Krause, Mainz University, Germany**
"Targeting bone marrow microenvironment in leukemia"
- 11.25-11.45 **Janos Terzic, University of Split, Croatia**
"Gut microbiota carcinogen metabolism and tumor metastasis"
- 11.50-12.10 **Johanna Ivaska, University of Turku, Finland**
"Tumour-stroma crosstalk mediated regulation of drug sensitivity and metastasis"
- 12.15-12.27 **Selected talk: Anna Renzi, University of Trieste, Italy**
"The Prolyl Isomerase Pin1 Mediates Immune Evasion in Fibrotic Breast Cancer via Suppression of Transposable Elements"
- 12.30-12.45 **Bernd Pulverer, EMBO Press, Germany**
"From Bench to Journal: Connecting Open Science and Publishing"

13.00-14.30 Lunch

14.30-17.00 **Poster session II**

Session VI Therapy sensitivity and resistance

Chairs: Mallika Singh and Pier Paolo DiFiore

- 17.00-17.20 **Mike Yaffe, MIT Center for Precision Cancer Medicine, USA**
"CRISPR-Based Screening Reveals Mechanisms of Chemotherapy Sensitization and Resistance in Glioblastoma and Ovarian Cancer"
- 17.25-17.45 **Stuart Pitson, University of South Australia, Australia**
"Therapy resistance mechanisms in myeloid cancers"
- 17.50-18.02 **Selected talk: Matheus Henrique Dias, Princes Maxima Centrum, NL**
"Therapeutic OVERactivation of oncogenic signaling as a cancer treatment strategy"
- 18.05-18.17 **Selected talk: Nenad Pavin, University of Zagreb, Croatia**
"Macro-karyotype approach reveals a universal selection principle across cancer types"

20.00 **Farewell dinner**

Tuesday Sep 9, 2025

Session VII Emerging therapeutics and diagnostics

Chairs: Rene Medema and Daniela Krause

- 09.30-09.50 **Madelon Maurice, UMC Utrecht & Oncode Institute, NL**
"SureTACs: targeting membrane protein degradation in cancer"
- 09.55-10.15 **Paul Timpson, Garvan Institute, Australia**
"Intravital imaging of pancreatic cancer response using live biosensors imaging"
- 10.20-10.40 **Jennie Lill, Genentech, USA**
"Proteomics in drug discovery, development and clinical monitoring in Oncology"
- 10.45-10.57 **Selected talk: Tanmoy Mondal, University of Gothenburg, Sweden**
"Epitranscriptomic Modifications in Neuroblastoma: A Promising New Therapeutic Target"

11.00-11.30 **Tea Break**

- 11.30-11.50 **Connie Jimenez, UMC-Cancer Center, Netherlands**
"Phosphoproteomics for target discovery and treatment response prediction in cancer"
- 11.55-12:07 ***Selected talk:* Beatrice Tosoni, University of Padua, Italy**
"QN-302: a novel G-quadruplex-binding molecule shows high efficacy against liposarcoma"
- 12.10-12.30 **Anguraj Sadanandam, ICR, UK**
"Immune, Stromal and Metabolic Heterogeneity in Pancreatic Cancer and its Impact on Therapeutic Responses"
- 12.30-13.00 **Closing ceremony, poster awards and final remarks**

[Lunch and Departure](#)