Cancer Grand Challenges Summit 2023
March 8 - 10 | London, United Kingdom

Attendees list

Emma Allen-Vercoe, Co-Investigator, OPTIMISTIC, University of Guelph, CA
Emma is a microbiologist at the University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada, where she works on culture and characterisation of ‘oncomicrobes’ related to various forms of cancer, as well as the development of beneficial live microbial products that may be used therapeutically.

Uri Alon, Co-Investigator, STORMing Cancer, The Weizmann Institute of Science, IL
Uri is a professor at the Weizmann Institute of Science. His research focuses on Systems Biology - mainly principles of human tissues, ageing, and age related diseases.

Samuel Aparicio, Co-Investigator, IMAXT, BC Cancer Research Centre, University of British Columbia, CA
Samuel is the Nan & Lorraine Robertson Chair in Breast Cancer Research University of British Columbia, BC Cancer Molecular Oncology Department Head, and Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. Dr. Aparicio’s area of focus is on developing quantitative measures of clonal fitness in patients, including methods for single cell genome sequencing and patient derived xenograft models of human cancer.

Heather Ashmore, Programme Manager, IMAXT, University of Cambridge, UK
Heather is the programme manager for the IMAXT team and is based at the University of Cambridge, Cancer Research UK Cambridge Institute. Prior to this role, Heather has experience as a postdoctoral research associate and has wet-lab experience.

Vineet Bafna, Co-Investigator, eDyNAmiC, University of California, San Diego, US
Vineet is a computational biologist at the University of California, San Diego, where he is a professor of Computer Science & Engineering, and the Halicioglu Data Science Institute. His research is focused on algorithms for complex structural variation in genomes and their evolution, especially, extrachromosomal DNA.

Chris Bailey, Junior Investigator, eDyNAmiC, The Francis Crick Institute, UK
Chris is a haematology registrar and PhD candidate at the Francis Crick Institute where he works with the eDyNAmiC team. His research focuses on using computational methods to understand the processes governing ecDNA formation, evolution and characterisation across multiple tumour types.

Allan Balmain, Co-Team Lead, PROMINENT; Co-Investigator of Mutographs, PROMINENT and Mutographs, University of California, San Francisco, US
Allan studied Organic Chemistry at the University of Glasgow and cancer genetics at The Beatson Institute for Cancer Research. He is presently Professor of Cancer Genetics at University of California, San Francisco, where he developed approaches to understanding the interactions between the environment and cancer at the genetic, molecular and cellular levels using the mouse as a model system.

Gemma Balmer, Head of Research, Cancer Grand Challenges, Cancer Research UK
Gemma has been the Head of Research for the Cancer Grand Challenges initiative at CRUK since 2021. She has been at CRUK for 10 years, working with the Discovery Research portfolio, CRUK Institutes and most recently Cancer Grand Challenges. Gemma originally trained as a scientist in the UK, studying cardiac regeneration and repair post-myocardial infarction.

Rachael Barber, Head of Strategic Partnerships, Cancer Research UK
Rachael is Head of Strategic Partnerships at Cancer Research UK. She leads on exploring opportunities to collaborate with other non-commercial research organisations including government and non-profit funding agencies on strategic initiatives including Cancer Grand Challenges.

Simon Barry, Co-Investigator, Rosetta, AstraZeneca, UK
Simon is an Executive Director at AstraZeneca Cambridge UK where he leads the Tumour Microenvironment research area focused on developing small molecule therapeutics and immunotherapy combinations. He is also the lead scientist for capivasertib, an AKT inhibitor being developed in multiple indications.
René Bernards, Scientific Committee, Cancer Grand Challenges, Netherlands Cancer Institute, NL
René is a professor of molecular carcinogenesis at the Netherlands Cancer Institute in Amsterdam. His laboratory uses functional genomic approaches to find vulnerabilities of cancers that can be exploited therapeutically.

Proteeti Bhattacharjee, Programme Manager, PRECISION, Netherlands Cancer Institute, NL
Proteeti is the scientific project and communications manager of the PRECISION consortium and is based in the Netherlands Cancer Institute. She has several years of experience in international science management, networking, communication and research administration.

Raquel Blanco, PhD student, PROMINENT, Institute for Research in Biomedicine Barcelona, ES
Raquel is a bioinformatics predoctoral researcher at the Barcelona Biomedical Genomics laboratory, led by Dr. Núria López-Bigas. Raquel’s research is focused on how mutant cells remain normal or evolve into cancer depending on their exposition to specific stimuli called cancer promoters. Her aim is being able to decipher the molecular signatures of cancer promotion to inform prevention.

Maggie Blanks, Patient Advocate, Mutographs, UK
Maggie is founder and CEO of the UK charity Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund, following the death of her husband Alan from the disease. The charity funds research into the disease and promotes patient and public involvement at all stages.

Saumya Bollam, PhD Student, PROMINENT, University of California, San Francisco, US
Saumya is a PhD candidate in the Biomedical Sciences program at UCSF, in Allan Balmain’s lab. Her current research focuses on gene expression programs stimulated by promoters of tumorigenesis. She is also passionate about communicating novel cancer biology findings to the non-scientist audience and enabling people to more fully understand their environments.

Catherine Bollard, Co-Team lead, NexTGen, Children’s National and the George Washington University, US
Catherine is the Director of the Center for Cancer and Immunology Research at Children’s National Hospital, Professor of Pediatrics at The George Washington University and the Associate Center Director for Translational Research and Innovation at the George Washington Cancer Center. Her bench and translational research focuses on the development of novel cell therapies for cancer and post-transplant virus-associated diseases.

Martyn Bottomley, Regional Translation Lead, Cancer Research Horizons, Cancer Research UK
Martyn works in the Search and Evaluation Team, part of the Commercial Partnerships Team in Cancer Research Horizons (CRH). CRH is the translation and drug discovery engine of Cancer Research UK. Martyn is responsible for opportunities arising from Central UK.

Paul Brennan, Co-Team Lead/Co-Investigator, PROMINENT and Mutographs, International Agency for Research on Cancer, FR
Paul leads the Genomic Epidemiology branch at the International Agency for Research on Cancer. The main focus of his work is to use genomics and epidemiology to better understand causes of cancer. He has a particular focus on esophageal cancer in North East Iran, as well as renal and pancreas cancer in central Europe.

Dario Bressan, Co-Investigator, IMAXT, University of Cambridge, UK
Dario is a molecular biologist and the head of the IMAXT laboratory at the CRUK Cambridge Institute. His research focuses on technology development in the field of spatial molecular profiling, and on integrating microscopy and genomics/transcriptomics to profile the tumour micro-environment across a range of cancer and tissue types, both in primary disease and in metastasis.

Kevin Brindle, Co-Investigator, Rosetta, University of Cambridge, UK
Attendees list cont’d...

Josephine Bunch, Team Lead, Rosetta, National Physical Laboratory, UK
Josephine is an analytical chemist at the National Physical Laboratory in the UK and holds the Chair of Biomolecular Mass Spectrometry at Imperial College London. Josephine leads the Rosetta project on molecular imaging of tumours. Her research concerns the development of mass spectrometry imaging methods and multimodal pipelines for metabolic imaging.

Dan Burkwood, Director of Research Operations and Comms, Cancer Research UK
Dan is Director of Research Operations and Communications at Cancer Research UK.

Bette Caan, Co-Investigator, CANCAN, Kaiser Permanente of Northern, US
Bette is a Senior Research Scientist, Kaiser Permanente Medical Program of Northern California, Division of Research and Professor Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center. The Caan research group is focused on identifying energy balance risk factors, specifically muscle related on cancer outcomes. They have demonstrated that cancer patients with low muscle have poorer survival, inferior surgical outcomes and higher rates of chemotoxicities.

Andrew Campbell, Senior Postdoctoral Researcher, Rosetta, The Beatson Institute for Cancer Research, UK
Andrew is a cancer scientist at The Beatson Institute for Cancer Research in Glasgow, UK. His focus is the development of novel, patient-relevant in vivo models of colorectal cancer, which are applied to target discovery, target validation and preclinical trialling of novel therapeutic approaches.

Peter Campbell, Co-Investigator, Mutographs, The Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, UK
Peter is Head of Cancer, Ageing and Somatic Mutation Programme at Wellcome Sanger Institute. His research focuses on the use of next-generation sequencing technologies for annotating cancer genomes. He has expertise in the large-scale sequencing of cancer genomes, development of informatics tools for the integration and analysis of genomic data sets in cancer.

Gabriel Capellá, Director, Bellvitge Biomedical Research Institute, ES
Gabriel’s research interests include translational cancer research in the molecular basis of pancreatic and colorectal cancer, implementation of cancer genetics units and molecular testing of hereditary cancer in Spain. His research projects focus in the detection and clinical and molecular characterization of Lynch Syndrome and Familial Adenomatous Polyposis. Currently he is Director of Bellvitge Biomedical Research Institute.

Howard Chang, Co-Investigator, eDyNAmiC, Stanford University School of Medicine, US
Howard is a physician-scientist at Stanford University. His research has focused on the noncoding genome and mechanisms that coordinate the activities of large number of genes in cell fate control. The long term goal of his laboratory is to decipher the regulatory information in the human genome for disease diagnosis and therapy.

Fiona Chennells, Strategic Partnerships Manager, Cancer Research UK, Cancer Research UK
Fiona is a Senior Strategic Partnerships Manager at Cancer Research UK, supporting partnerships with non commercial organisations to advance Cancer Research UK’s research ambitions.

David Chuter, Patient Advocate, eDyNAmiC, UK
David is an Oesophageal-Gastric cancer survivor and patient advocate in cancer research and cancer patient support. His aim is to be the voice and representative of all cancer patients as an equal partner in all research.

Karen Chichowski, Co-Investigator, SPECIFICANCER, Brigham and Women’s Hospital and Harvard Medical School, US
Karen is a Professor at Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Harvard Medical School and the Director of the Center for Targeted Therapies. Her research focuses on deconstructing the pathogenesis of Ras-related signalling pathways in cancer. More recently, she has been studying the intersection between oncogenic and epigenetic signals in cancer and investigating how convergence points represent unique nodes of vulnerability.
Attendees list cont’d...

Tony Coll, Collaborator, CANCAN, University of Cambridge, UK
Tony is a clinician scientist and practicing diabetologist with a long standing interest in the neuroendocrine regulation of appetite and body composition. He is based at the Wellcome-MRC Institute of Metabolic Science in Cambridge.

Marc-Olivier Coppens, Co-Investigator, NexTGen, University College London, UK
Marc-Olivier is Ramsay Memorial Professor in Chemical Engineering and Vice-Dean for Engineering (Interdisciplinarity, Innovation) at University College London. He is most recognised for pioneering nature-inspired chemical engineering (NICE) over the past 25 years and developing a systematic nature-inspired solution methodology to accelerate innovation and address Grand Challenges. He founded and directs the University College London Centre for Nature-Inspired Engineering.

Scott Crowther, Patient Advocate, NexTGen, UK
Scott's youngest son, Ben, was stolen by rhabdomyosarcoma in 2019, age 7, just one year after being diagnosed. Scott is a patient advocate on several UK paediatric cancer research projects and co-runs a research fund in memory of Ben, with his wife Sarah.

Conrad Russell Cruz, Co-Investigator, NexTGen, Children’s National Hospital, US
Conrad is an Associate Professor at Children's National Hospital. His research is focused on developing novel cell based therapies for pediatric brain and solid tumors.

Helen Davies, Senior Research Associate, PRECISION, University of Cambridge, UK
Helen is a Senior Research Associate in the team of Prof Serena Nik-Zainal, base at the University of Cambridge. She specialises in the biological interpretation of cancer whole genome sequencing data and the investigation of the clinical utility of mutational signatures.

Teresa Davoli, Co-Investigator, SPECIFICANCER, New York University School of Medicine, US
Teresa is an Assistant Professor at New York University, Langone Health and is interested in studying aneuploidy and chromosomal instability in cancer and immune evasion.

Ana Carolina De Carvalho Peters, Programme Manager, PROMINENT, International Agency for Research on Cancer, FR
Carol is a scientist at the Genomic Epidemiology branch of the International Agency for Research on Cancer and is the programme manager of the PROMINENT team.

Lluvia Del Rio, Patient Advocate, PROMINENT, University of California, San Francisco, US
Lluvia is a program director for an NGO focusing on improving health outcomes for cancer patients. She is also a thyroid cancer survivor. Since 2018 she has dedicated much of her spare time to organizations focused on assistance and resources for the most vulnerable and underserved groups facing cancer.

Cody Despins, PhD Student, OPTIMISTIC, BC Cancer Research Centre, University of British Columbia, CA
Cody is a PhD candidate in Dr. Robert Holt’s lab at the BC Cancer Research Centre in Vancouver, Canada. His research project focuses on studying immune responses and vaccine development for the oncomicrobe F. nucleatum.
Tony Dickherber, Programme Director, National Cancer Institute, US
Tony is a program director at the US National Cancer Institute (NCI) where he serves as Co-Director of the IMAT program, co-chair of NCI’s Cancer Moonshot New Technologies Implementation Team, co-director of the Cancer Grand Challenges program, and participates in a number of activities focused on new technology development.

Khanh Dinh, Postdoctoral Researcher, IMAXT, Columbia University, US
Khanh is a postdoctoral researcher at Columbia University where he is supervised by Dr. Simon Tavaré. His research is focused in developing mathematical models, simulation algorithms and inference methods for cancer evolution using copy number and mutational data from single-cell DNA technologies.

Stephanie Doetsch, Research Assistant, NexTGen, Cardiff University, UK
Stephanie is a Research Assistant for Cardiff University in Andrew Sewell’s lab working on the NexTGen project. Her research focusses on finding a T-cell/TCR capable of killing pediatric cancer cells.

Emmanuel Donnadieu, Co-Investigator, NexTGen, INSERM, FR
Emmanuel is an immunologist at INSERM where he leads the Cancer and immune response team. His research is focused on T cells in tumours using ex vivo human preclinical models. In NexTGen, he is associated with WP2 and 4.

Laure Dossus, Scientist, PROMINENT, International Agency for Research on Cancer, FR
Laure is a molecular epidemiologist at the International Agency for Research on Cancer. Her research is focused on understanding mechanisms underlying the associations between obesity, metabolic health and cancer, in particular female cancers.

Raymond DuBois, Executive Chairman of the Board, Mark Foundation for Cancer Research, US
Ray is the Executive Chair of the Mark Foundation for Cancer Research in NYC and Director of the Hollings Cancer Center in Charleston, SC. His work is focused on the prevention and interception of colorectal cancer at the earliest stages of development. His focus has been on understanding the links between chronic inflammation and cancer progression.

Richard Dunne, Collaborator, CANCANC, University of Rochester, US
Richard is a medical oncologist specializing in Gastrointestinal (GI) malignancies and Leader of the Gastrointestinal Cancer Unit and Clinical Research Program at the University of Rochester. His research focuses on developing novel therapies for cachexia and pancreatic cancers. Dr. Dunne serves as Study Chair for CANCANC’s LOTUS-CC study: A Longitudinal Observational Trial to Uncover Subtypes of Cancer Cachexia.

Ellie Dunstone, PhD student, Mutographs, Wellcome Sanger Institute, UK
Ellie is a final-year PhD student in computational genomics, working in the group of Professor Sir Michael Stratton at the Wellcome Sanger Institute. She is part of the Mutographs project, analysing mutational signatures in normal human tissues exposed to cytotoxic chemotherapy drugs and other mutagens.

Catherine Elliot, Director, Research and Partnerships, Cancer Research UK
Catherine is Director of Research & Partnerships at Cancer Research UK, a post she took up in August 2021, leading on discovery, training and clinical research. Prior to this role, Catherine spent six years at the University of Edinburgh as College Registrar for Medicine and Veterinary Medicine, overseeing strategic delivery across a College of 3,000 staff.
Attendees list cont'd...

Alessia Errico, Associate Director, Cancer Research Horizons, Cancer Research UK
Alessia is a technology transfer professional, specialising in the field of oncology. She is the Associate Director for Search & Evaluation at Cancer Research Horizons. She leads a team of professional responsible for sourcing new opportunities that have the potential of translating to the clinic and defines the strategy to increase translational outputs from CRUK funded research.

Gerard Evan, Trustee, Cancer Research UK, The Francis Crick Institute and King’s College London, UK
Gerard has a Ph.D. in Molecular Immunology (Cambridge, 1981), post-doc with J. Michael Bishop (UCSF, 1982), and has been Principal Scientist (Imperial Cancer Research Fund Laboratories in London, 1986), Royal Society Research Professor (UCL 1996), Distinguished Professor (UCSF 1999), Professor and Chair of Biochemistry (Cambridge 2005), Principal Co-Investigator (Francis Crick Institute and KCL, 2022). His research focuses on defining the molecular aberrations that underpin genesis and maintenance of cancers.

Lorenzo Ferri, Co-Investigator, STORMing Cancer, McGill University, CA
Lorenzo is the David S. Mulder Chair in Surgery and Professor in the Departments of Surgery and Oncology at McGill University. He is director of the McGill Division of Thoracic Surgery and heads the McGill University Health Centre Upper Gastrointestinal Cancer Program. His research program centres on investigating mechanisms of esophageal cancer progression and therapy resistance.

Ian Fingerman, Program Director, National Cancer Institute, US
Ian is a Program Director at the National Cancer Institute. He is a member of the DNA and Chromosomes Aberrations Branch in the Division of Cancer Biology. His portfolio areas include epigenetics, transcriptional regulation of gene expression, non-coding RNAs and transposable elements.

Andrew Futreal, Co-Investigator, PRECISION, MD Anderson Cancer Center, US
Andrew is vice president of Strategic Translational Research Programs, chair of Genomic Medicine and the newly appointed holder of the Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Distinguished University Chair in Cancer Research. He is responsible for oversight and direction of large-scale, institutional programmatic investments in strategic research initiatives reflective of the nation’s No. 1 cancer hospital.

Felipe Galvez-Cancino, Postdoctoral Researcher, NexTGen, University College London, UK
Felipe is a cancer immunologist at University College London Cancer Institute where he focuses his research into developing new immunotherapies for brain and lung cancer. His current research is focused on understanding and targeting Tregs in tumors.

Monica Ganan, Translational Lead, Cancer Research Horizons, Cancer Research UK
Monica helps researchers identifying, securing, and progressing intellectual property to a level that can be translated into solutions for patients.

Judy Garber, Scientific Committee, Cancer Grand Challenges, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, US
Judy is the Susan F. Smith Chair and Chief of the Division of Cancer Genetics and Prevention at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, and a Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. She conducts research in clinical cancer genetics, with a special focus in the genetics of breast cancer.
Magali Garrett, Patient Advocate, Rosetta, UK
Magali has been supporting the Rosetta Grand Challenge Project as a Patient Advocate since her recovery from breast cancer in 2017. She is also part of the Cancer Research UK Imperial Centre Public Involvement Group that engages with scientists and clinicians in research projects to help build bridges between patient communities and the Science world.

Philippe Gascard, Programme Manager, STORMing Cancer, University of California, San Francisco, US
Philippe is a biochemist/cell biologist at University of California San Francisco. His interest focuses on early carcinogenesis events and on a type of rare, aggressive and often therapy-resistant cancers characterized by changes in tissue identity (i.e. metaplasia) in breast, gastro-intestinal tract (oesophagus, stomach, colon) and lung with an emphasis on stroma-epithelium cross-talk.

Debarati Ghosh, Research Scientist, IMAXT, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, US
Debarati is a research scientist at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She is leading the development and application of expansion sequencing (ExSeq). Her Research work is focused on how nanoscale expansion sequencing can be implemented to reveal spatial relation between tumor and non-tumor cell for different stages of cancer from early development, metastasis to disease resistance.

Sharmistha Ghosh-Janjigian, Program Director, Division of Cancer Prevention, National Cancer Institute, US
Sharmistha is a Program Director at the Division of Cancer Prevention, National Cancer Institute, United States. She is involved in several scientific programs focused on risk assessment, detection, diagnosis, and prognosis of early cancer, and provides scientific and programmatic leadership to the Pancreatic Cancer Detection Consortium (PCDC).

Luke Gilbert, Co-Investigator, PROMINENT, University of California, San Francisco, US
Luke is an Associate Professor at UCSF. The Gilbert lab has developed repurposed CRISPR systems that are used to turn genes on (CRISPRa/CRISPRon) and off (CRISPRi/CRISPRoff). They have developed strategies for mapping human genetic interactions at large scales or at single cell resolution. Translationally, we focus on using CRISPR functional genomics expertise to tackle big problems in cancer biology.

Ian Gilmore, Co-Investigator, Rosetta, National Physical Laboratory, UK
Ian is a Senior Fellow at the National Physical Laboratory and a Visiting Professor in the School of Pharmacy at the University of Nottingham. He is founding director of the UK’s National Centre of Excellence in Mass Spectrometry. Ian’s research goal is to achieve super-resolution label-free metabolic imaging. Ian is a member of the UK Committee on Research Integrity.

Kathryn Gilroy, Trainee, SPECIFICANCER, The Beatson Institute for Cancer Research, UK
Kathryn is a bioinformatician with the Sansom group at The Beatson Institute for Cancer Research. She examines various forms of next-generation sequencing data to investigate oncogenic WNT pathway activation in tissues that are permissive or non-permissive to transformation.

Marcus Goncalves, Co-Team Lead, CANCAN, Weill Cornell Medicine, US
Marcus is a physician-scientist at Weill Cornell Medicine where he is a clinical endocrinologist and basic scientist. His lab studies the tumor-host interactions that alter systemic metabolism, support tumor progression, and promote cancer-induced complications like cachexia.

Eduardo Gonzalez Solares, Postdoctoral Researcher, IMAXT, Institute of Astronomy, University of Cambridge, UK
Eduardo is an astronomer at the Institute of Astronomy, University of Cambridge. His focus is on image data analysis, data management, and efficient computing using cloud resources. As part of the IMAXT team he focus on supporting the compute needs as well as data processing pipelines required for the large data volumes produced by the project.
Marc Gunter, co-investigator, PROMINENT, Imperial College London, UK
Marc is Professor of Cancer Epidemiology and Prevention at Imperial College London. He is a molecular epidemiologist and his research focuses on the role of nutrition and metabolism in cancer development. He has a specific interest in the link between obesity and metabolic dysfunction in cancer development and understanding the biological mechanisms that underlie this relationship.

Richard Goodwin, Co-Investigator, Rosetta, AstraZeneca, UK
Richard is head of Integrated imaging at AstraZeneca, delivering multidimensional imaging for project insight that connects safety and efficacy endpoints in preclinical and clinical tissues.

Margaret Grayson, Chair, Patient Advocacy Panel, Cancer Grand Challenges, NI
Margaret lives in Belfast and is Chair of the Cancer Grand Challenges Advocacy Panel. Patient advocacy plays a vital role in Cancer Grand Challenges. From helping shape challenge goals, to working closely with the teams, the voice, experience and insight of people affected by cancer is central to Cancer Grand Challenges. Each panel member brings a unique perspective based on their skills and experience.

Marc Gunter, co-investigator, PROMINENT, Imperial College London, UK
Marc is Professor of Cancer Epidemiology and Prevention at Imperial College London. He is a molecular epidemiologist and his research focuses on the role of nutrition and metabolism in cancer development. He has a specific interest in the link between obesity and metabolic dysfunction in cancer development and understanding the biological mechanisms that underlie this relationship.

Kevin Haigis, Co-Investigator, SPECIFICANCER, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, US
Kevin is the Chief Scientific Officer at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Professor of Medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School. The Haigis laboratory combines computational and informatic approaches with experimental approaches in genetically engineered mice and human models to study the relationship between Ras signalling, colorectal cancer, and inflammation.

Harry Hall, Patient Advocate, Rosetta, UK
Harry is from a background in design, advertising and marketing. Harry has represented patients and helped cancer researchers for twenty years. Since his own bowel cancer treatment, he has worked tirelessly with Hospitals, Charities, Universities, and medical organisations, to improve cancer patient care and treatments. As NHS Training for Innovation’s Marketing Consultant, he worked on numerous patient safety projects across the country.

Sean Hanlon, Program Director, National Cancer Institute, US
Sean is Deputy Director of the National Cancer Institute Center for Strategic Scientific Initiatives. He provides scientific leadership to transdisciplinary programs and innovative partnerships, including the NCI-CRUK Cancer Grand Challenges program, the NCI’s Human Tumor Atlas Network, and the NIH 4D Nucleome program. He also serves on NCI, NIH, and inter-agency committees, including co-chairing the trans-NCI Artificial Intelligence working group.

Greg Hannon, Team lead, IMAXT, University of Cambridge, UK
Greg is Director at the Cancer Research UK Cambridge Institute and the team lead of IMAXT. Greg is internationally recognised for his contributions to small RNA biology, cancer biology and mammalian genomics. He has a long history in the discovery of cancer genes and has developed tools and strategies for manipulation of gene expression in mammalian cells and animals.
Anton Henssen, Co-Investigator, eDyNAmiC, Charité, DE
Anton is a pediatric oncologist at the Charité Children’s Hospital in Berlin where he leads the Preclinical Cancer Research Program. His research is focused on ecDNA and the development of new agents for treating pediatric solid tumor malignancies.

Kristian Helin, Co-Investigator, SPECIFICANCER, Institute of Cancer Research, UK
Kristian is the CEO and President of ICR in London. The research in his laboratory is focused on epigenetic, and its role in regulating gene expression, cell fate and cancer. Kristian is also interested in developing new agents for the treatment of cancer and has co-founded two biotech companies based on the work in his lab.

David Hemfrey, Programme Manager, Rosetta, National Physical Laboratory, UK
David is the Group Leader of the National Centre of Excellence in Mass Spectrometry Imaging at the National Physical Laboratory, where he is accountable for all elements of the group’s operational management. David has been the Programme Manager for the ROSETTA Grand Challenge since 2021.

Delilah Hendriks, Senior Postdoctoral Researcher, SPECIFICANCER, Hubrecht Institute, NL
Delilah is a senior postdoc at the Hubrecht Institute in the lab of Hans Clevers. Her research is focused on understanding liver biology in health and disease using innovative organoid models combined with CRISPR-Cas genome engineering strategies. A main focus is to understand the progression from non-alcoholic fatty liver disease towards liver cancer.

Anton Henssen, Co-Investigator, eDyNAmiC, Charité, DE
Anton is a pediatric oncologist at the Charité Children’s Hospital in Berlin where he leads the Preclinical Cancer Research Program. His research is focused on ecDNA and the development of new agents for treating pediatric solid tumor malignancies.

Claire Heride, Translation Manager, Cancer Research Horizons, Cancer Research UK
Claire is a translation manager within the Search & Evaluation team of Cancer Research Horizons. She supports the protection of new IP arising from the OPTIMISTICCGC.

Tony Hickson, Chief Business Officer, Cancer Research Horizons, Cancer Research UK
Tony is the Chief Business Officer for Cancer Research UK / Cancer Research Horizons. He leads the Commercial Partnerships team responsible for the commercialisation of IP from CRUK funded projects, new start-up creation, licences and corporate alliances.

Jodi Hirschman, Programme Manager, OPTIMISTICC, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, US
Jodi is the program manager of the OPTIMISTIC project. Her graduate research background focused on microbial gene regulation and signal transduction. Prior to joining OPTIMISTICC she was a scientific writer and curator for the the Human Cell Atlas and the Connectivity Map at the Broad Institute, and the Saccharomyces Genome Database at Stanford University.

Sui Huang, Co-Investigator, STORMing Cancer, Institute for Systems Biology, US
Sui is professor at the Institute for Systems Biology in Seattle. His research approaches cancer as a nonlinear stochastic dynamical system, seeking to unite molecular/cellular mechanisms with inevitable (fundamental) principles of organismal complexity. One focus is the interplay of cancer and stromal cells in their non-genetic cell state dynamics in tumor driving ‘the arrow of progression’.

Owen Harris, Co-Investigator, IMAXT, Súil, CA
Owen is a designer, XR developer and educator in playful design. Over the last 10 years he has developed several VR applications and experiences that have brought science, well being and playfulness together. He has shown this work all over the world and continues to be an advocate for the collaboration between artists and scientists.
Weini Huang, Co-Investigator, eDyNAmiC, Queen Mary University, UK. Weini is a mathematical biologist at Queen Mary University and leads a research group on modelling cancer evolution. Weini is interested in understanding how genetic and phenotypic diversity and other population patterns are formed and maintained in nature/normal and cancer cell populations through theoretical approaches as well as their connections with experimental/clinical observations.

Aaron Huebner, Group Leader, PROMINENT, University of California, San Francisco, US
Aaron is a developmental and stem cell biologist at the University of California, San Francisco. Aaron has recently joined the PROMINENT team where he will be studying the nongenetic drivers of epithelial cancer progression in the skin and stomach.

Sheng Hui, Co-Investigator, CANCAN, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, US
Sheng is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Molecular Metabolism in the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. His research focuses on understanding body weight regulation by measuring metabolites and determining metabolic fluxes in animal models.

Laura Humphreys, Programme Manager, Mutographs, Wellcome Sanger Institute, UK
Laura is the Mutographs Programme Manager, working at the Wellcome Sanger Institute, Cambridge, UK. She is an experienced programme and project manager with a background in research management, strategy and operations and a PhD in colorectal cancer.

David Hunter, Scientific Committee, Cancer Grand Challenges, University of Oxford, UK
David is the Richard Doll Professor of Epidemiology and Medicine at the University of Oxford, and has facilitated the development of many initiatives in cancer genetics and genetic epidemiology. He is Chief Science Advisor to Our Future Health a major new UK initiative that aims to return genomic information to consenting participants.

Stefan Hutten, PhD Student, PRECISION, Netherlands Cancer Institute, NL
Stefan is a PhD student at the Netherlands Cancer Institute, where he studies the progression of DCIS as part of the PRECISION team. Specifically he creates model of DCIS by intraductal injection of primary DCIS tissues and following the natural progression in mice.

Shelley Hwang, Co-Investigator, PRECISION, Duke University, US
Shelley is a Professor of Surgery and Radiology, Vice Chair of Research, and Breast Cancer Disease Group Lead. Her research interests include breast cancer prevention, identifying less invasive treatments for early stage breast cancers, and understanding the genetic and stromal determinants of cancer progression. Dr. Hwang was the top funded surgeon-scientist in the USA in 2019.

Giulia-Andreea Ionescu, Research Assistant, NexTGen, Cardiff University, UK
Giulia is a research assistant at Cardiff University, starting her career in cancer research as part of the Sewell lab, working towards a PhD position. Her interests are infant and childhood cancers, stem cells applications and therapies, and development.
Mariam Jamal-Hanjani, Co-Investigator, CANCAN, University College London Cancer Institute, UK
Mariam is a thoracic oncologist and cancer researcher at the University College London Cancer Institute. Her research is focused on studying the biological processes driving metastatic disease and death in lung cancer, including genomic drivers of tumour dissemination, tumour-and host-initiated mediators of catabolic states indicative of cachexia, and failure of the adaptive immune system in advanced disease.

Claire James, Patient Advocacy Panel, Cancer Grand Challenges
Claire is sports mad - she runs half marathons for fun (pandemics permitting). She loves helping people enjoy running. She enjoys cycling, paddleboarding, yoga and gym sessions. Sport helps her deal with the stress of living with incurable myeloma and the permanent impact of breast cancer treatment. She is part of the Cancer Grand Challenges Patient Advocacy Panel and several national research funding bodies.

Tobias Janowitz, Co-Team Lead, CANCAN, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, US
Tobias is a medical oncologist at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory where he leads a research program on the whole body response to cancer. Using pre-clinical and clinical research, his group investigates how cancer progression and cancer cachexia alter metabolism, neuroendocrine responses, and immunity of the host.

Neil Jones, Vice President of Portfolio Generation, Therapeutic Innovations, Cancer Research UK
Neil is responsible for developing Cancer Research Horizons Therapeutic Innovation portfolio of early drug discovery opportunities in close collaboration with researchers and clinicians. A cell biologist with over 20 years of drug discovery experience working at the interface between academic and industry he is a passionate believer that collaborative science is critical to deliver effective therapies to cancer patients.

Nic Jones, Trustee, Cancer Research UK
Nic is a Trustee of Cancer Research UK and chairs the Research Committee of the Council. He was previously the Director of the CRUK Manchester Institute and Chief Scientist at CRUK. Nic was a member of the Cancer Grand Challenge International Committee until stepping down in 2022.

Eve Kandyba, Postdoctoral Researcher, PROMINENT, University of California, San Francisco, US
Eve is a postdoctoral scientist in Prof. Allan Balmain’s laboratory at University of California, San Francisco. She is part of the PROMINENT team and is responsible for developing the mouse skin carcinogenesis studies to examine the effect of promotion on mutation burden in normal tissue.

Evdoxia Karali, Senior Research Scientist, Rosetta, The Institute of Cancer Research, UK
Evi is a senior research scientist at the Institute of Cancer Research in London, Division of Cancer Biology and Metabolism and member of the Rosetta Grand Challenge team. Her research is focused on exploring the role of metabolic reprogramming and oncogenic signalling in cancer progression, aiming to discover novel connections between metabolic signatures and tumour characteristics.

Jill Kucab, Research Associate, Mutographs, King’s College London, UK
Jill is a Research Associate at King’s College London, UK, in the Environmental Carcinogenesis Group led by Professor David Phillips. She has a long-standing interest in the biological effects and mutational signatures induced by chemotherapeutics and environmental agents (e.g. from cigarette smoke, diet, or pollution) in human cells.

Calvin Kuo, Co-Investigator, PROMINENT, Stanford University, US
Calvin is Professor of Medicine at Stanford University where his laboratory investigates organoid modelling of cancer, infectious disease and autoimmunity.
Esther Lips, Co-Investigator, PRECISION, Netherlands Cancer Institute, NL
Esther is staff scientist at the Netherlands Cancer Institute, with an epidemiology and molecular biology background. She is working on the identification of prognostic and predictive biomarkers in breast cancer and breast cancer precursor lesions, ultimately leading to molecular based clinical tests. Within the PRECISION project she is one of the principal Co-Investigators and leads the DCIS biomarker research.

James Lam, Academic Clinical Fellow, CANCAN, University College London Hospital, UK
Jie is a specialist registrar in Medical Oncology at University College London Hospital and an NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship awardee. He is undertaking his PhD with Dr Mariam Jamal-Hanjani and the TRACERx Consortium, focused on developing bioinformatic methods to elucidate the mechanisms underpinning cancer-associated cachexia, with the aim of providing a platform for future targeted, treatment strategies.

David Lane, Chair, Scientific Committee, Cancer Grand Challenges
David is an oncologist with a special interest in tumour suppressor genes and p53 in particular. He is the current Chairman of the Cancer Grand Challenges Scientific Advisory Committee and has been a committee member since the start of the initiative. He has worked in London, Dundee, Singapore and Stockholm.

David Lewis, Co-Investigator, CANCAN, The Beatson Institute for Cancer Research, UK
David is a Group Leader at The Beatson Institute for Cancer Research in Glasgow, where he leads a multidisciplinary team of chemists, physicists, biologists and mathematicians developing better ways to image cancer. David’s research focusses on imaging nutrient usage in cancer. In CANCAN, David will be using state-of-the-art imaging technologies such as Total-Body PET to visualise metabolic rewiring during cachexia development.

Esther Lips, Co-Investigator, PRECISION, Netherlands Cancer Institute, NL
Esther is staff scientist at the Netherlands Cancer Institute, with an epidemiology and molecular biology background. She is working on the identification of prognostic and predictive biomarkers in breast cancer and breast cancer precursor lesions, ultimately leading to molecular based clinical tests. Within the PRECISION project she is one of the principal Co-Investigators and leads the DCIS biomarker research.

Kevin Litchfield, Co-Investigator, NExTGen, University College London, UK
Kevin is a Group Leader at UCL Cancer Institute and a Visiting Scientist at the Francis Crick Institute. His research interests focus on tumour immunology and bioinformatics.

Viktor Ljungstroem, Postdoctoral Researcher, SPECIFICANCER, Harvard Medical School, SE
Viktor is a resident in Clinical Genetics at Akademiska Hospital, Uppsala, Sweden and postdoc in the Park lab at Harvard Medical School. His research is focused on the tissue specificity of driver mutations focusing on KRAS.

Patrick Loi, PhD student, SPECIFICANCER, Harvard Medical School, US
Patrick is a PhD student at Harvard Medical School in the lab of Dr. Karen Cichowski. His thesis research is focused on developing a combination therapy for advanced colorectal cancers. He is involved with the SPECIFICANCER team to study the tissue specificity of EZH2 in solid cancers and its opportunities for therapeutic development.

Sherene Loi, Scientific Committee, Cancer Grand Challenges, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, AU
Sherene is a Medical Oncologist specialized in breast cancer treatment as well as a clinician scientist with expertise in genomics, immunology and drug development. She is a Group Leader at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Melbourne, a Consultant Medical Oncologist in the Breast Service and Head of the Breast Cancer Clinical Trials Unit. She Co-Chairs the International Breast Cancer Study Group(IBC SG)(Switzerland)
Attendees list cont’d...

Núria López-Bigas, Co-Team Lead, PROMINENT, Institute for Research in Biomedicine Barcelona, ES
Núria is a Catalan Institution for Research and Advanced Studies Professor at the Institute for Research in Biomedicine Barcelona, where she leads the Biomedical Genomics Lab. Her research is focused on the identification of cancer driver mutations, genes and pathways across tumor types and in understanding the mutational processes leading to the accumulation of mutations in cancer cells.

Douglas Lowy, Principal Deputy Director, National Cancer Institute, US
Douglas has been the National Cancer Institute’s (NCI) principal deputy director since July 2010, helping to lead NCI’s key scientific initiatives. He has also served as acting director several times during his tenure. His research interests include the biology of papillomaviruses and the regulation of normal and neoplastic cell growth.

Emma Lundberg, Co-Investigator, PROMINENT, Stanford University, US
Emma is Associate Professor of Bioengineering and Pathology at Stanford University, and Director of the Cell Atlas, of the Human Protein Atlas program. In the interface between bioimaging, proteomics and artificial intelligence her research aims to define the spatiotemporal subcellular architecture of the human proteome, to understand how variations in protein expression patterns contribute to cellular function and disease.

John Marshall, Co-Investigator, Rosetta, Barts Cancer Institute, Queen Mary University of London, UK
John leads a translational programme developing novel therapies that target integrins in cancer. Strategies include peptide, antibody and CAR-T based targeting.

Timothy Martin, Trainee Researcher, SPECIFICANCER, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School, US
Timothy is a postdoctoral fellow in the lab of Steve Elledge at Harvard Medical School and Brigham & Women's Hospital. His research is focused on determining tumor specific vulnerabilities and identifying the various ways tumor cells evolve to avoid the immune system.

Stuart McDonald, Co-Investigator, STORMing Cancer, Queen Mary University of London, UK
Stuart is a Reader in Gastroenterology at the Barts Cancer Institute and leads the Clonal Dynamics in Epithelia Lab. His research focuses on understanding the histological phenotypic and genetic factors that identify cancer risk in patients with premalignant diseases such as Barrett’s oesophagus. His role in STORMing Cancer is to investigate stromal factors that identify Barrett’s cancer risk.

Elizabeth McKenna, Executive Editor, Cancer Discovery, American Association for Cancer Research, US
Elizabeth earned her PhD from Harvard University in 2011. Her research with Dr. Charles Roberts showed that pediatric tumors with inactivating mutations of an epigenetic regulator are genomically stable and driven by changes in target gene expression. She joined Cancer Discovery shortly after its launch and became Executive Editor in 2019.

Frank McKeon, Co-Investigator, STORMing Cancer, University of Houston, US
Frank is a molecular biologist at the University of Houston working with Wa Xian to investigate chronic inflammatory diseases and cancer. His focus is on the role of resolved stem cell variants in the pathology and evolution of these conditions, and the development of drugs to eliminate these variants.
Amy Moore, Patient Advocate, CANCAN, US
Amy is the VP, Global Engagement and Patient Partnerships at LUNGevity Foundation. She is a PhD-trained scientist and patient advocate with extensive experience working with diverse stakeholders on large cancer research initiatives. Dr. Moore is a recognized expert on issues related to COVID and lung cancer and serves on a number of advisory boards.

Paul Mischel, Team Lead, eDyNaMiC, Stanford University School of Medicine, US
Paul leads Team eDyNaMiC. He is Professor and Vice Chair for Research, for the Department of Pathology, Stanford Medicine, and is an Institute Scholar in Sarfan ChEM-H, Stanford University. His lab has made a series of seminal discoveries that have identified a central role for ecDNA (extrachromosomal DNA) in cancer development, progression, accelerated tumor evolution and drug resistance.

Michelle Mitchell, Chief Executive, Cancer Research UK
Michelle is Chief Executive of Cancer Research UK, the world’s leading cancer charity dedicated to saving lives through research, influence and information.

Sarah Moody, Senior Staff Scientist, Mutographs, Wellcome Sanger Institute, UK
Sarah is a Senior Staff Scientist based at the Wellcome Sanger Institute (UK) and is part of the Mutographs Grand Challenge team working with Professor Sir Mike Stratton. Her research focuses on analysing the patterns of mutations (mutational signatures) in cancer genomes.

Amy Moore, Patient Advocate, CANCAN, US
Amy is the VP, Global Engagement and Patient Partnerships at LUNGevity Foundation. She is a PhD-trained scientist and patient advocate with extensive experience working with diverse stakeholders on large cancer research initiatives. Dr. Moore is a recognized expert on issues related to COVID and lung cancer and serves on a number of advisory boards.

Jen Morris, Programme Manager, STORMing Cancer, University of California, San Francisco, US
Jen is the administrative program manager for STORMing Cancer. She has been with the STORMing Cancer group since July 2021. In a previous role, Jen has worked with Co-Investigators who analysed data in smoking cessation studies.

Catherine Moss, Programme Manager, NexTGen, University College London, UK
Cathy is the Program Manager for the NexTGen team and is based at University College London. She has a background in biomedical research and has previously managed large EC-funded consortia.

Claire Mulvey, Postdoctoral Researcher, IMAXT, CRUK Cambridge Institute, University of Cambridge, UK
Claire is a post-doctoral researcher with a strong interest in the field of spatial proteomics. Since joining the Hannon/IMAXT laboratory in 2018, she has been involved in the development of cutting-edge spatial imaging methodologies, including the combination of serial two-photon tomography (STPT) with imaging mass cytometry (IMC) and their application to the field of cancer biology.

Karen Mustian, Co-Investigator, CANCAN, University of Rochester School of Medicine, US
Karen is an exercise psychophysiologist at the University of Rochester School of Medicine. She is Director of the URCC NCCR Research Base, Wilmot Cancer Prevention and Control Research Program, and the PEAK Human Performance Laboratory. Her research develops novel supportive care therapies to treat toxicities stemming from cancer and its treatments.
Paolo Nuciforo, Pathologist, OPTIMISTIC, Vall d’Hebron Institute of Oncology, ES
Paolo is the Principal Co-Investigator of the Molecular Oncology group at Vall d’Hebron Institute of Oncology. He has 15+ years of experience in oncology translational medicine and drug development both in academic and pharmaceutical environment. In the microbiome field, his main interest is studying tumor-associated microbiota and bacteria-host cells interactions in the tumor microenvironment.

Kimmie Ng, Co-Investigator, OPTIMISTIC, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, US
Kimmie is Associate Chief of the Division of Gastrointestinal Oncology at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, and Associate Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. She is also the Founding Director of the Young-Onset Colorectal Cancer Center and Director of Translational Research. Her research focuses on identifying dietary and molecular predictors of improved survival in patients with colorectal cancer.

Serena Nik-Zainal, Co-Investigator, PRECISION and eDyNAmiC, University of Cambridge, UK
Serena is the Professor of Genomic Medicine and Bioinformatics at Cambridge and NHS Consultant in Clinical Genetics. Her team uses a combination of computational and experimental approaches to study physiological changes associated with cancer and neurodegeneration. They have expertise in whole cancer genomics, functional multi-omics, mutational signatures, and development of clinical algorithms for cancer genome interpretation.

Garry Nolan, Co-Investigator, STORMing Cancer, Stanford University, US
Garry is the Rachford and Carlota A. Harris Professor in the Department of Pathology at Stanford University School of Medicine. He trained with Leonard Herzenberg (for my Ph.D.) and Nobelist Dr. David Baltimore (for postdoctoral work for the first cloning/characterization of NF-kB p65/RelA and the development of 293T rapid retroviral production systems).

Shuji Ogino, Co-Investigator, OPTIMISTIC, Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Harvard Medical School, US
Shuji is the Chief of Molecular Pathological Epidemiology (MPE) Program at Brigham & Women’s Hospital; Professor (Pathology & Epidemiology) at Harvard; Associate Member of Broad Institute of MIT & Harvard. He integrates tumor microbiology, immunology (& other disciplines) into the MPE research framework to gain novel pathogenic insights and develop prevention / treatment strategies.

Michael Olanipekun, Postdoctoral researcher, Mutographs and PROMINENT, International Agency for Research on Cancer, FR
Michael is a postdoctoral researcher at the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) in Lyon, France. He has a background studying the molecular mechanisms of asbestos cancer and is currently working on the PROMINENT study with aims to elucidate the exogenous and endogenous factors driving cancer onset to inform prevention.

Isabel Orbe, Director General, Scientific Foundation, Spanish Association Against Cancer, ES
Isabel, graduated in Business and Economics from ICADE, in Executive Management from HEC, Paris. She has a masters in Financial Markets and an Executive MBA from Garrigues. After holding positions of responsibility in various international financial organisations (Zurich and Barclays Bank), she was appointed General Director of the Scientific Foundation of the Spanish Association Against Cancer in 2009. The entity is dedicated to financing cancer research in Spain, cancer prevention and support to patients and families. They aim to award 26 million euros this year, out of a total 105 million euro portfolio.

Marta Paez Ribes, Principal Scientific Associate, IMAXT, Cancer Research UK Cancer Institute, UK
Marta studied biology in Barcelona, where she later obtained a PhD in biomedicine before moving to the University of Toronto as a postdoctoral fellow to investigate tumour angiogenesis. In 2015 she joined the University of Cambridge where she has been focused in unravelling the crosstalk between tumour cells and their microenvironment, with a special interest in metastasis.
Norbert Perrimon, Co-Investigator, CANCAN, Harvard Medical School, Howard Hughes Medical, US
Norbert studies a number of fundamental questions in cell signalling and homeostasis. Examples include mechanisms involved in controlling cell and tissue growth and signalling mechanisms used in the context of maintaining tissue integrity by stem cell systems.

Our group studies how tissues grow, maintain their mass, and communicate with others to retain physiological and growth homeostasis of the organism.

Sean Parnell, Programme Manager, CANCAN, Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey, US
Sean is an epidemiologist who has specialized in program management in both university and government public health settings. He is the program manager for the CANCAN program where he is responsible for the administration of all grant activities over the length of the 5-year project.

KJ Patel, Scientific Committee, Cancer Grand Challenges, University of Oxford, UK
KJ trained in medicine in London and spent most of his research career at the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Cambridge. He worked as a professor for molecular medicine and stem cell genomics. His research focuses on the molecular basis of inherited genomic instability and the role it plays in the biology of stem cells, particularly those making blood.

Gita Patel, Patient Advocacy Panel, Cancer Grand Challenges, UK
Gita is a member of Cancer Research UK’s patient involvement team and on the Cancer Grand Challenges Patient Advocacy Panel.

Peter Park, Co-Investigator, SPECIFICANCER, Harvard Medical School, US
Peter is a computational biologist at Harvard Medical School and directs its PhD program in Bioinformatics and Integrative Genomics. His lab focuses on identification and interpretation of somatic mutations in whole-genome sequencing data, including at the single cell level.

Sean Parnell, Programme Manager, CANCAN, Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey, US
Sean is an epidemiologist who has specialized in program management in both university and government public health settings. He is the program manager for the CANCAN program where he is responsible for the administration of all grant activities over the length of the 5-year project.

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Gita Patel, Patient Advocacy Panel, Cancer Grand Challenges, UK
Gita is a member of Cancer Research UK’s patient involvement team and on the Cancer Grand Challenges Patient Advocacy Panel.

Norbert Perrimon, Co-Investigator, CANCAN, Harvard Medical School, Howard Hughes Medical, US
Norbert studies a number of fundamental questions in cell signalling and homeostasis. Examples include mechanisms involved in controlling cell and tissue growth and signalling mechanisms used in the context of maintaining tissue integrity by stem cell systems. Our group studies how tissues grow, maintain their mass, and communicate with others to retain physiological and growth homeostasis of the organism.

David Phillips, Co-Investigator, Mutographs, King’s College London, UK
David is Professor of Environmental Carcinogenesis at King’s College London. His research is focused on what cells do to carcinogens and what carcinogens do to cells. The former involves investigating pathways of metabolic activation of carcinogens, while the latter involves characterising the DNA damage that carcinogens cause and the mutagenic consequences thereof.

Maud Plantinga, Science Liaison, Dutch Cancer Society, NL
Maud is a science liaison at the Dutch Cancer Society. She is one of the coordinators in the Biomarker program with the focus area ‘minimal invasive techniques’ and ‘early detection’.

Olesja Popow, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, SPECIFICANCER, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, US
Olesja is a postdoctoral research fellow in the labs of Kevin Haigis and Steven Gygi at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Harvard Medical School. In her research she combines mouse models and proteomics to investigate the tissue-specific oncogenic activity of mutant KRas.

Laura Porter, Co-Investigator, OPTIMISTIC, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, US
Laura is a stage IV colon cancer survivor and has been a Patient Advocate Medical Consultant with several national and international organizations. She is a co-Co-Investigator on team OPTIMISTIC. In this position she manages 7 advocates on 6 separate projects and serves as a liaison between the advocates and scientists working closely with the project manager.
George Poulodiannis, Co-Investigator, Rosetta, The Institute of Cancer Research, UK
George is a Reader and Team Leader of the Signalling and Cancer Metabolism group at the ICR and UKRI Future Leaders Fellow. The research focus of his team is to understand the biochemical basis of metabolic reprogramming in cell growth and malignant transformation and exploit metabolism to predict and enhance the response to targeted therapies.

Fiona Powrie, Co-Investigator, OPTIMISTICC, Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology, University of Oxford, UK
Fiona is Director of the Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology, University of Oxford. She was previously the Sidney Truelove Professor of Gastroenterology and Head, Translational Gastroenterology Unit (2009-2014). Her research examines the mutualistic relationship between the intestinal microbiome and the host immune system and how this breaks down in IBD, arthritis and cancer.

Martin Pule, Co-Team Lead, NexTGen, University College London, UK
Martin leads the UCL CAR T-cell program which comprises over 80 scientists, clinicians and regulatory staff. He has pioneered the development of allogeneic CAR T-cells, automated CAR T-cell manufacture and dual antigen targeting. Twelve T-cell engineering cassettes designed by Dr Pule have been tested in first-in-human clinical studies.

Marta Puyol, Scientific Director, Scientific Foundation, Spanish Association Against Cancer, ES
Marta graduated in Genetics. PhD at the Spanish National Cancer Centre (CNIO) and postdoc at the MIT Koch Institute. Joined the FC AECC in 2013 where she holds the position of Scientific Director. Her work is focused on developing new approaches to allow Spanish-based researchers to accelerate the results in cancer and raising awareness on cancer research.

Sergio Quezada, Co-Investigator, NexTGen, University College London, UK
Sergio is a Professor of Cancer Immunology and Immunotherapy at University College London Cancer Institute and Chief Scientific officer of Achilles Therapeutics. His work at University College London focuses in tumour microenvironment, regulatory T cells and immune checkpoint-blockade. His team is integrating their immune-regulatory work with identification of T cell reactivities within tumours and their relevance/application to cancer immunotherapy.

Phil Quirke, Co-Investigator, OPTIMISTICC, University of Leeds, UK
Phil is a gastrointestinal pathologist, medical scientist, Yorkshire Cancer Research Centenary Professor of Pathology, Leeds University, has a long-standing interest in Bowel Cancer. He has had an impact on improving outcomes in this disease leading to the award of the Fellowship of the Academy of Medical Sciences UK and NIHR Senior Co-Investigator and is Co-I on Optimisticc investigating the Microbiome.

Nivetha Ramesh Babu, Research Assistant, Baylor College of Medicine, US
Nivetha is a research assistant in Trey Westbrook Lab of Baylor college of Medicine, currently working on CRUK project. Her research work focuses on elucidating the importance of tissue specificity in tumor progression in specific driver gene focused mechanisms.

Daniel Rea, Co-Investigator, PRECISION, University of Birmingham, UK
Daniel is a medical oncologist based at University Hospital Birmingham/University of Birmingham, specialising in breast cancer research and treatment. He is the chief Co-Investigator for several large multicentre national and international clinical trials in early breast cancer. He has an active teaching role within the University, teaching and examining undergraduate and postgraduate courses.

Timothy Rebbeck, Scientific Committee, Cancer Grand Challenges, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, US
Timothy is the Vincent L. Gregory Professor of Cancer Prevention and a member of the Cancer Grand Challenged Scientific Committee. His areas of research are the etiology of cancer and cancer disparities, with a focus on prostate cancer and global health.
Attendees list cont’d...

**Tommy Rennison, Regional Translation Lead, Cancer Research Horizons, Cancer Research UK**
Tommy is a Translation Lead within the Search and Evaluation team of Cancer Research Horizons (CRH). He is the lead CRH representative for the SPECIFICANCER Grand Challenge team, and also has an interest in the discovery and development of novel bespoke therapies for children and young people’s cancers.

**Kim Rhoads, Co-Investigator, PROMINENT, University of California, San Francisco, US**
Kim is a board-certified general and colorectal surgeon, with additional training in basic cancer research, epidemiology, health services research, health policy, and community-based participatory research. She currently serves as the inaugural Associate Director for Community Engagement at the UC San Francisco Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center.

**Pema Richeson, Programme Manager, eDyNAmiC, Stanford University, US**
Pema is a certified Project Management Professional (PMP) who has worked in academia for 15 years and in academic medicine for 12 years. She serves as the Programme Manager for Team eDyNAmiC. In addition, she oversees a Foundation-funded neuropathology autopsy core and is the Administrator for the NCI-funded Stanford SeroNet grant.

**James Ritchie, Regional Translation Lead, Cancer Research Horizons, Cancer Research UK**
James is the Regional Translation Lead (South) at Cancer Research Horizons where he leads a team responsible for translation of CRUK funded research in the Southern UK towards patient benefit and commercialisation. In addition, he is also currently Head of Business Development for CancerTools.org, the research reagents arm of CRUK.

**Maria Caterina Rotiroti, Postdoctoral Researcher, NexTGen, Stanford University - School of Medicine, US**
Maria is a postdoctoral fellow in Dr. Robbie Majzner’s laboratory at Stanford University focused on the development of novel immunotherapies for pediatric cancers. She obtained her PhD in Molecular and Translational Medicine from the University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy, by training in CAR-T cell therapy development at the Fondazione Tettamanti (Monza, Italy).

**Kole Roybal, Co-Investigator, STORMing Cancer, University of California, San Francisco, US**
Kole is an Associate Professor in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at the University of California, San Francisco. He is an Co-Investigator in the Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy, the Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center, and an inaugural Chan Zuckerberg Biohub Co-Investigator. His lab focuses on the development of NextGen T cell therapies for cancer.

**Erin Runbeck, Research Associate, NexTGen, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, US**
Erin is a research associate in the laboratory of Dr. John M. Maris at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Here, she focuses on developing CAR T cells for novel targets in pediatric malignancies and students.

**Ann Russell, Patient Advocate, STORMing Cancer, UK**
Ann is a Patient Advocate involved with Cancer Research Trials/Studies both clinical and surgical. She works with researchers in Cambridge, Birmingham, Queens and Norfolk and Norwich University hospitals. A member of the CRUK Cambridge Cancer Institute Research Cabinets, NCRI Consumer Forum and the ICPV. I have represented cancer patients nationally at the MRC CTU and the HTA.

**Hamish Ryder, CEO, Cancer Research Horizons, Cancer Research UK**
Hamish leads Cancer Research Horizon’s therapeutic innovation team, an organisation of some 200 drug discovery professionals dedicated to translating the newest advances in science into breakthrough therapies for cancer patients. Prior to his 15 years at CRUK drug discovery he spent 20 years in biopharma companies.
Attendees list cont’d...

Blake Sanders, Postdoctoral Researcher, OPTIMISTIC, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, US
Blake is a postdoc in Matthew Meyerson’s lab at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. His research is focused on understanding the role of the the microbiome on colorectal cancer, specifically Fusobacterium nucleatum.

Owen Sansom, Co-Investigator, Rosetta/ SPECIFICANCER, The Beatson Institute for Cancer Research, UK
Owen has been the Director of The Beatson Institute for Cancer Research since Aug 2017 and was instrumental in the formation of the CRUK Scotland Centre, a joint initiative between Glasgow & Edinburgh and in April 2022, was appointed its co-director. Owen was appointed Director of the MRC Mouse Genetics Network in 2021.

Elinor Sawyer, Co-Investigator, PRECISION, King’s College London, UK
Elinor is a clinical oncologist at Guys and St Thomas Foundation Trust where she specialises in radiotherapy and systemic therapy for breast cancer particularly ER+ breast cancer. My research interests are genetic predisposition to breast cancer, particularly lobular breast cancer and DCIS, and identification of biomarkers that predict progression of LCIS and DCIS.

Amy Schade, Postdoctoral Fellow, SPECIFICANCER, Harvard Medical School, US
Amy is a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Karen Chichowski’s laboratory. Her research is focused on developing novel therapeutics for treatment of triple negative breast cancer and prostate cancer.

Marion Scharpfenecker, Programme Manager, Dutch Cancer Society, NL
Marion works at the Dutch Cancer Society as scientific strategist for biomarker research and science liaison for small to large scale national and international projects and collaborations. She attends the summit as representative of the co-funder of PRECISION.

Marjanka Schmidt, Co-Investigator, PRECISION, Netherlands Cancer Institute, NL
Marjanka, PhD is a professor of genetic epidemiology of (breast) cancer at the Netherlands Cancer Institute (head of Division Molecular Pathology, leader of Early Detection Theme) and Leiden University. Her research focuses on genetic (hereditary) variants of breast cancer subtypes and outcome.

Ryan Schoenfeld, CEO, NextGen/ SPECIFICANCER, The Mark Foundation for Cancer Research, US
Ryan is Chief Executive Officer of The Mark Foundation for Cancer Research, a non-profit organization that funds groundbreaking science across all cancer types through grants to individual Co-Investigators and multi-disciplinary teams, as well as venture investments in early-stage companies, with a mission to accelerate research that will transform the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer.

David Scott, Director, Cancer Grand Challenges, Cancer Research UK
David has been the Director of the Cancer Grand Challenges initiative at CRUK since 2020. Before this, he was Director of Discovery Research at CRUK for over 11 years where he oversaw the charity’s basic science portfolio. David originally trained as a scientist in the UK and Italy, modelling fluid and solute transport across the vasculature and interstitial tissues.

Sergey Senkin, Postdoctoral Scientist, Mutographs, International Agency for Research on Cancer, FR
Sergey is a postdoctoral scientist at IARC’s Genomic Epidemiology Branch. His research is focused on analysis of genomics data using mutational signatures as part of the Mutographs Grand Challenge. Before joining IARC, Sergey took part in CERN’s Large Hadron Collider experiments during his PhD studies at the University of Bristol and later postdoctoral work.
Attendees list cont’d...

Andrew Sewell, Co-Investigator, NexTGen, Cardiff University, UK
Andrew is a distinguished Research Professor and Wellcome Senior Co-Investigator at Cardiff University leads the T-cell modulation group. They aim to understand the role of the T-cell receptor (TCR) during infection, autoimmunity and transplant rejection. We are deconvoluting what dominant anticancer TCRs recognise during successful clearance of solid cancers with the aim of developing new T-cell/TCR-based cancer immunotherapies.

Sarina Shabso, Postdoctoral Researcher, SPECIFICANCER, Hubrecht Institute, NL
Sarina is a postdoctoral researcher at the Hubrecht institute where she uses human organoids and genome engineering to model cancer development in various tissues.

Sohrab Shah, Co-Investigator, IMAXT, MSKCC, US
Sohrab is the Chief of Computational Oncology in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics. He holds the Nicholls-Biondi Endowed Chair in Computational Oncology at MSK and is a Susan G. Komen Scholar. Dr. Shah is a computational biologist whose research focuses on understanding the principles and processes of cancer evolution applied to studying drug resistance and metastasis.

Christine Siemon, Scientific Program Specialist, National Cancer Institute, US
Christine is a Scientific Program Specialist in the Office of the Deputy Director at the National Cancer Institute (NCI). She works directly with the NCI Deputy Director to coordinate, develop, and implement immediate and long-term scientific programs for the NCI.

Anju Singh, Program Officer, National Cancer Institute, US
Anju is a program director in the Immuno-oncology Branch at the National Cancer Institute, USA. Her programmatic research interests include pediatric cancer immunotherapy, adoptive cellular immunotherapies, checkpoint inhibitor immunotherapy, combination therapies and cancer immunometabolism.

Lillian Siu, Scientific Committee, Cancer Grand Challenges, Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, CA
Lillian is a senior medical oncologist at Princess Margaret Cancer Centre in Toronto, Canada, and a Professor of Medicine at the University of Toronto. She is the Director of the Phase I Trials Program, and holds the BMO Chair in Precision Genomics. Her research focus is in the area of experimental therapeutics, and in head and neck malignancies.

Matthew Stachler, Co-Investigator, STORMing Cancer, University of California, San Francisco, US
Matthew is a molecular and gastrointestinal pathologist at the University of California, San Francisco where he leads a research lab focused on understanding what drives pre-neoplastic progression into invasive cancer. Specifically, Dr. Stachler is focused on pre-malignant lesions of the upper gastrointestinal tract, including Barrett’s esophagus/esophageal adenocarcinoma and gastric intestinal metaplasia/gastric adenocarcinoma.
Richard Stephens, Patient Advocate, STORMing Cancer, UK
Richard has been a patient advocate since 1999, and has been a cancer patient and trial participant. He has chaired strategic groups in the UK and Europe, and works with industry and patient groups globally. He helped found the AllTrials campaign and useMYdata movement, and is the founding Editor of the Journal of Research Involvement and Engagement.

Hilary Stobart, Patient Advocate, PRECISION, UK
Hilary has been a patient advocate since being treated for breast cancer in 2009. She is a member of the UK NCRI Consumer forum, Independent Cancer Patients’ Voice and is a BIG patient partner. She is closely involved with a number of trials looking at the optimisation of treatment with the minimum of side-effects in breast cancer and DCIS.

Karin Straathof, Co-Investigator, NexTGen, University College London, UK
Karin is an assistant professor at University College London and consultant paediatric oncologist at Great Ormond Street Hospital. Her research focus is on the development of T cell immunotherapies for childhood solid tumours. Her expertise is in pre-clinical testing and early phase clinical trials of engineered T cells for high-risk paediatric cancers including brain tumours.

Mike Stratton, Team Lead, Mutographs, Wellcome Sanger Institute, UK
Mike is Director of the Wellcome Sanger Institute and Chief Executive Officer of the Wellcome Genome Campus. His primary research interests have been in the genetics of cancer. His early research focused on inherited susceptibility. Mike mapped and identified the major high-risk breast cancer susceptibility gene BRCA2 and subsequently a series of moderate-risk breast cancer and other cancer susceptibility genes.

Charles Swanton, Scientific Committee, Cancer Grand Challenges, The Francis Crick Institute, UK
Charles is group leader, Cancer Evolution and Genome Instability, at the Francis Crick Institute and thoracic oncologist at UCLH. His research focuses on how tumours evolve over space and time, processes that drive cancer cell-to-cell variation in the form of new cancer mutations or chromosomal instabilities, and the impact of such cancer diversity on effective immune surveillance and clinical outcome.

Josep Tabernero, Co-Investigator, OPTIMISTIC, Vall d'Hebron Institute of Oncology (VHIO), ES
Josep is the Head of the Medical Oncology Department at the Vall d'Hebron University Hospital, Director of the Vall d’Hebron Institute of Oncology (VHIO) and Professor of Medicine at UViUCC. He is Principal Co-Investigator of several Phase I pharmacodynamic studies and translational projects with tumor-directed targeted therapies and immune-based therapies.

Zoltan Takats, Co-Investigator, Rosetta, Imperial College London, UK
Zoltan is Professor of Analytical Chemistry at Imperial College London. He’s been pioneering in-vivo mass spectrometry and spectroscopically guided semi-autonomous surgical interventions for cancer treatment for the last 15 years.

Mark Taylor, Postdoctoral Researcher, PROMINENT, University of California San Francisco, US
Mark is a post-doctoral scholar and medical student at UCFS where he studies gene networks at the single-cell level in multistage carcinogenesis of cutaneous squamous cell carcinomas.

Alastair Thompson, Co-Investigator, PRECISION, Baylor College of Medicine, US
Alastair is a Breast Cancer expert from the UK and US as surgeon clinician scientist ranging from basis molecular biology through to clinical trials.
Ignacio Vázquez-García, Research Fellow, IMAXT, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, US
Ignacio is a postdoctoral research fellow in Computational Oncology at Memorial Sloan Kettering and Columbia University. He is interested in studying the mechanisms of spatio-temporal tumor evolution, progression and therapy response using single-cell genomics and in situ imaging. His current research focuses on genomic instability and its impact on tumor evolutionary dynamics and the immune microenvironment.

Thea Tlsty, Team Lead, STORMing Cancer, University of California, San Francisco, US
Thea is a Pathology Professor at UCSF studying genetic, epigenetic and functional changes involved in early steps of cancer and how interactions between stromal components and epithelial cells moderate carcinogenesis. She is Program Leader for a CRUK Grand Challenge team that studies how chronic inflammation increases cancer incidence and how mechanistic insights can be used for clinical benefit.

Laura Torrens, Postdoctoral Scientist, Mutographs/ PROMINENT, International Agency for Research on Cancer, FR
Laura is a Postdoctoral Scientist at the Genomic Epidemiology Branch of the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC). Dr. Torrens’s research focuses on identifying preventable causes of head and neck cancer and associated mutational signatures related to its exposure in order to unravel relevant carcinogenic mechanisms in this tumor type.

Jacco van Rheenen, Co-Investigator, PRECISION, Netherlands Cancer Institute, NL
Jacco is group leader at the Netherlands Cancer Institute (NKI) and the Oncode Institute, and professor in Intravital Microscopy at the University Medical Center Utrecht. The van Rheenen group studies the identity, behaviour, and fate of cells that drive the initiation and progression of cancer by high resolution intravital microscopy technologies.

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Karen Vousden, Scientific Committee, Cancer Grand Challenges, The Francis Crick Institute, UK
Karen is a cancer biologist at the Francis Crick Institute. Her work has contributed to our understanding of the regulation and function of the tumour suppressor p53, revealing an ability of p53 to help cells adapt to transient periods of nutrient starvation. Her studies now focus on a more general investigation of cancer cell metabolism.
Attendees list cont’d...

Sara Wakeling, Patient Advocate, NexTGen, University College London, UK
Sara is a Patient Advocate for team NexTGen. She is the co-founder of Alice’s Arc, a children’s cancer charity focussed on funding research into the childhood cancer, rhabdomyosarcoma. Sara holds a number of PPI/E roles including the NCRI, Novel Agents Group and the European paediatric Soft Tissue Sarcoma Group (EpSSG). She is also a PPI/E Research Assistant at UCL.

Ian Walker, Executive Director, Policy, Information and Communications, Cancer Research UK
Ian is responsible for developing and implementing Cancer Research UK’s strategic priorities across policy, information and communications and has over 15 years’ combined experience dedicated to advancements in cancer prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. Ian is a trustee for the Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC) and has previously held a Non-executive role in the biotechnology sector.

Nicholas Walton, Co-Investigator, IMAXT, University of Cambridge, UK
Nicholas is an astronomer and data scientist at the Institute of Astronomy, University of Cambridge. His research focuses on large scale survey analysis, with interests in understanding the formation and evolution of our Milky Way. Within the IMAXT team, he leads its image and data analysis group, segmenting, federating and integrating the multi-modal, high resolution, imaging data.

Joanna Watson, Program Staff, National Cancer Institute, US
Joanna is a Program Director and Chief of the Tumor Metastasis Branch in the Division of Cancer Biology, NCI. She oversees several programs, including the Metastasis Research Network. Her portfolio includes cancer cachexia and tumor progression.

Benjamin Werner, Co-Investigator, eDyNAmiC, Barts Cancer Institute London, UK
Benjamin is a computational biologist working on mathematical and computational models of somatic evolutionary processes in healthy and cancerous tissues.

Jelle Wesseling, Team Lead, PRECISION, Netherlands Cancer Institute, NL
Jelle is professor of breast pathology at the Netherlands Cancer Institute–Antoni van Leeuwenhoek Hospital and at Leiden University Medical Center and lead principal Co-Investigator PRECISION Grand Challenge. PRECISION aims to conquer overtreatment of women with low-risk DCIS, potential precursor to breast cancer. Ultimately, this will save thousands of women from across the globe, the burden of needless intensive treatment.

Lodewyk Wessels, Co-Investigator, PRECISION, Netherlands Cancer Institute, NL
Lodewyk is a computational biologist researching response to therapy using model systems and patient data. He has a specific interest in combination treatment design.

Eileen White, Co-Team Lead, CANCANC, Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey, US
Eileen is a cancer biologist who is Deputy Director of the Rutgers Cancer Institute at Rutgers University and Associate Director of the Ludwig Princeton Branch of the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research at Princeton University. Her research focuses on the role of diet and nutrient scavenging in cancer, and metabolic control of the anti-tumor immune response.
Attendees list cont'd...

Maxwell White, PhD student, OPTIMISTIC, Johns Hopkins University, US
Maxwell is an MD-PhD student at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in the laboratory of Dr. Cynthia Sears. Broadly interested in molecular mechanisms of bacterial pathogenesis, his current research aims to elucidate the mechanism of action of the Bacteroides fragilis toxin (BFT) associated with acute diarrhea, inflammatory bowel disease, and colorectal cancer.

Neil White, Senior Advisor, Emmerson Collective, US
Neil is part of the venture investing team of the Emerson Collective, based in San Francisco, CA. Neil focuses on oncology therapeutics investing and company building.

Douglas Winton, Co-Investigator, STORMing Cancer, Cancer Research UK Cambridge Institute, UK
Doug is Group Leader at Cancer Research UK Cambridge Institute. His research is on how stem cell renewal processes dictate fixation and expansion of somatic variants to dictate mutational burden in colonic epithelium.

Henry Wood, Senior Research Fellow, OPTIMISTIC, University of Leeds, UK
Henry is a Senior Research Fellow at the University of Leeds, working in the Pathology and Data Analytics department. His research is focussed on microbial and genomic markers that can be used to understand or screen large populations of cancer patients.

Wa Xian, Co-Investigator, STORMing Cancer, University of Houston, US
Wa is a stem cell biologist at the University of Houston focused on the development of novel cloning technologies for stem cells of epithelial cancers and those of their precursors. She exploits these clones to resolve intra-lesional heterogeneity and cancer evolution, and leverages their immortality for high-throughput screens to identify novel therapeutics directed to neoplastic stem cell populations.

Mariia Yuneva, Co-Investigator, Rosetta, The Francis Crick Institute, UK
Mariia is a senior group leader at the Francis Crick Institute. Her group studies the role of metabolism in different aspects of tumourigensis.