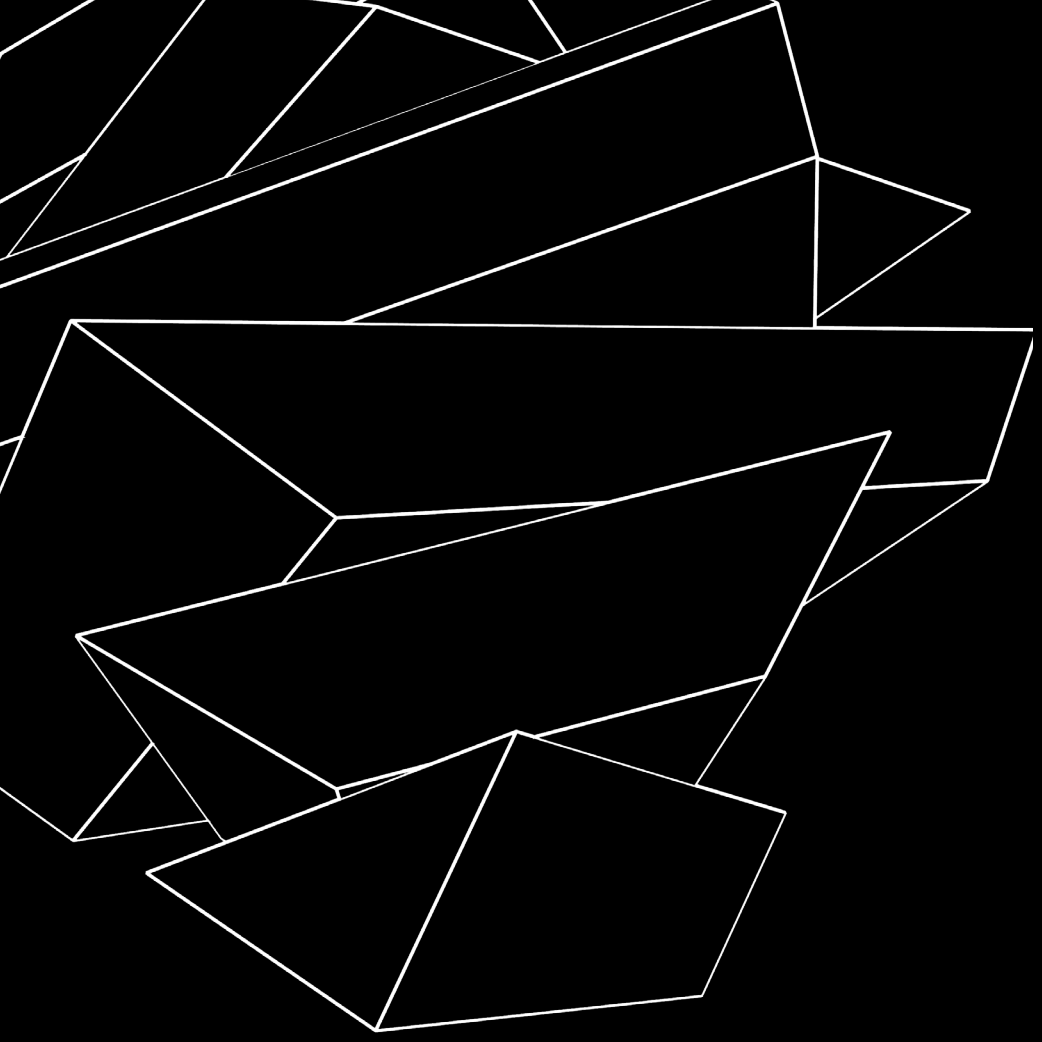

CANCER GRAND CHALLENGES

Future Leaders' Conference

Barcelona, Spain

Wednesday 13–Friday 15 November 2024

Future Leaders' Conference

Barcelona, Spain
13 - 15 November 2024

Connect and collaborate

Scan the QR code to:

- view the full event programme, including speaker bios and attendee list
- connect and collaborate with your fellow attendees on Slack
- stay up to date with important event information

Connect with us

@CancerGrand #FLC24

Join the Q&A via **Sli.do/FLC24**

Conference programme

Future Leaders' Conference

Barcelona, Spain
13 - 15 November 2024

Wednesday

8:00 - 13:00

Social activity for early arrivals

If you arrive early, make the most of your time in Barcelona by booking yourself on to one of the multiple free tours available, or visiting the Sagrada Familia. Share your plans and connect with fellow attendees on the Slack channel to self-organise activities.

13:00 - 15:00
Lower ground lobby

Registration

15:00 - 15:30
Glories

Welcome

Welcome to the Cancer Grand Challenges Future Leaders' Conference 2024

Session chair

David Scott, Director, Cancer Grand Challenges, Cancer Research UK

Speaker

Mariya Mardamshina, Postdoctoral Researcher, PROMINENT, Stanford University, US

15:30 - 16:30
Glories

Keynote talk
Genomic insights: charting the future of cancer epidemiology

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.

Session chair

Mariya Mardamshina, Postdoctoral Researcher, PROMINENT, Stanford University, US

Speaker

David Hunter, Richard Doll Professor of Epidemiology and Medicine and Director of the Harvard-Oxford Program in Epidemiology

Conference programme

Future Leaders' Conference

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16:30 - 17:30
Glories

Networking: setting a grand challenge

Meet your challenge-setting group and learn more about your challenge theme. Connect with your peers, share ideas and find out how we set cancer grand challenges.

Session chair

Mariya Mardamshina, Postdoctoral Researcher, PROMINENT, Stanford University, US

Speakers

Garrett Lindsey, PhD Student, eDyNAmiC, The Scripps Research Institute, US

Emma Brown, Postdoctoral Researcher, CANCAN, Cancer Research UK Scotland Institute, UK

Jack Sanford, Postdoctoral Researcher, CANCAN, New York University Langone, US

17:30 - 19:00
Glories

Poster session one and meet the expert sessions

Learn more about the latest research the future leaders are working on to tackle their challenge. Presenters and abstracts are available in the abstract booklet.

19:00 - 21:00
Hotel rooftop

Welcome reception

Join us on the rooftop for a welcome drink and refreshments.

Conference programme

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8:00 - 8:45
Hotel restaurant

Breakfast with your Cancer Grand Challenges team

Buffet breakfast will be served in the hotel restaurant. Please find your fellow Cancer Grand Challenges teammates for an informal breakfast. Teams in attendance are: NexTGen, PROMINENT, CANCAN, eDyNAmiC, SPECIFICANCER, OPTIMISTICC, PROTECT, PROSPECT, MATCHMAKERS, SAMBAI and KOODAC.

8:45 - 10:00
Glories

Panel discussion: introduction to the five new teams tackling cancer inequities, early-onset colorectal cancers, solid tumours in children and T-cell receptors

Learn more about the newest Cancer Grand Challenges teams, represented by their future leaders. Speakers will share how the new teams plan to tackle the challenges and discuss opportunities for collaboration.

Session chair

Lorenzo de la Rica, Research Portfolio Lead, Cancer Grand Challenges, Cancer Research UK

Speakers

SAMBAI (cancer inequities)
Nyasha Chambwe, Junior Group Leader,
Institute of Molecular Medicine,
Feinstein Institutes for Medical Research, US

PROSPECT (early-onset cancers)
Ruiyi Tian, PhD Student,
Washington University in St. Louis, US

MATCHMAKERS (T-cell receptors)
Benoit Nicolet, Postdoctoral Researcher,
Netherlands Cancer Institute, NL

PROTECT (solid tumours in children)
Evon Poon, Senior Scientist,
The Institute of Cancer Research, UK

KOODAC (solid tumours in children)
Dimitrios Papadopoulos, Junior Group Leader,
University of Würzburg, DE

Conference programme

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10:00 - 10:45
Glories

Team talk from NexTGen: developing novel therapies to target unique features in solid tumours in children

Session chair

Malcolm Holterhus, Postdoctoral Researcher, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, US

Speakers

Rachel DiCioccio, Lead Clinical Research Associate, Children's National Hospital, US
Talk title: Safety of multi-antigen T-cell therapy targeting paediatric CNS tumours and product attributes that may inform clinical outcomes

Michele Palamenghi, Postdoctoral Researcher,
New York University Langone Health, US
Talk title: Design and validation of novel AI-engineered receptor targeting MHC-presented neuroblastoma-specific peptide

Thomas Parish, Senior Research Technician, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, US
Talk title: Enhancing CAR T-cell activity through recruitment of proximal T-cell signalling pathways

10:45 - 11:15
Foyer

Break

Refreshments will be served in the foyer.

11:15 - 12:00
Glories

Team talk from PROMINENT: understanding how cells and tissues maintain "normal" phenotypes whilst harbouring oncogenic mutations

Session chair

Raquel Blanco, PhD Student, Institute for Research in Barcelona, ES

Speakers

Frida Bjoerklund, PhD Student, Stanford University, US
Talk title: On the development of highly multiplex spatial proteomic assays to study phenotypical changes and spatial patterns in normal tissues to investigate causes of pre-cancer development

Hudson Horn, PhD Student, Stanford University, US
Talk title: A novel human skin air-liquid interface organoid system for studying two-step carcinogenesis

Mark Taylor, Postdoctoral Researcher, University of California, San Francisco, US
Talk title: Conserved stem-cell states identified in single-cell oncogenic series across species and cancer types

Conference programme

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12:00 - 12:30
Glories

Panel discussion: how cancer impacts people. Reflections from patient advocates

Cancer Grand Challenges Advocacy Panel (CGCAP) members Claire James and Ivana Cattaneo will share their story on how they started their work as patient advocates. They will also share the importance of what they do as members of the panel and as advocates for people affected by cancer everywhere.

Session chair

Emma Brown, Postdoctoral Researcher, CANCAN,
Cancer Research UK Scotland Institute, UK

Speakers

Claire James, CGCAP,
Cancer Research UK

Ivana Cattaneo, CGCAP,
Cancer Research UK, IT

12:30 - 13:30
Hotel restaurant

Lunch and meet the expert sessions

Please make your way to the hotel restaurant for a buffet lunch.

13:30 - 14:15
Glories

Panel discussion: practical tips on how to incorporate the voice of patients in your research

The CGCAP members will be joined by a future leader to talk about how to do patient advocacy. The future leaders will share the reality of their interactions with the patient advocates in their teams and the CGCAP members will point out tips and tricks to improve these. This session is interactive with the audience and we hope all participants walk away with practical tips for engaging effectively with patient advocates in their research.

Session chair

Emma Brown, Postdoctoral Researcher, CANCAN, Cancer Research UK Scotland Institute, UK

Speakers

Claire James, CGCAP,
Cancer Research UK

Ivana Cattaneo, CGCAP,
Cancer Research UK, IT

Mariya Mardamshina, Postdoctoral Researcher,
Stanford University, US

Thursday

14:15 - 15:00
Glories

Team talk from SPECIFICANCER: the tissue specificity of some cancer genes

Session chair

Jake Lee, Clinical Fellow, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, US

Speaker

Paolo Mita, Junior Group Leader, Institute for Systems Genetics, US
Talk title: Consequences of L1 retrotransposon depression in breast cancer cells

Olesja Popow, Scientist, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, US
Talk title: Dissecting the tissue-specific oncogenic activity of K-RasG12D

Rhea Sahu, Postdoctoral Researcher, Harvard University, Brigham and Women's Hospital, US
Talk title: Co-targeting oncogenic and epigenetic pathways in castration-resistant prostate cancer (CRPC)

15:00 - 15:30
Foyer

Break and group photo

Refreshments will be served in the foyer.

15:30 - 16:15
Glories

Team talk from eDyNAmiC: the role of extrachromosomal DNAs in cancer

Session chair

Lotte Brückner, PhD Student, Charite Berlin, DE

Speaker

Matthew Jones, Postdoctoral Researcher, Stanford University School of Medicine, US
Talk title: Coordinated inheritance of extrachromosomal DNA species in human cancer cells

Minsi Zhang, Postdoctoral Researcher, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, US
Talk title: Engineered Mdm2-containing ecDNAs can promote tumorigenesis in vivo

Shu Zhang, Postdoctoral Researcher, Stanford University, US
Talk title: Extrachromosomal DNA damage repair in micronuclei

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16:15 - 17:15
Glories

Collaboration session one: strategic thinking and tips for a good elevator pitch

In this session, you'll work with your challenge-setting groups to brainstorm and develop your selected challenge theme. Focus on identifying key issues, exploring opportunities and receiving tips to prepare a compelling elevator pitch to effectively communicate your ideas.

Session chair

Garrett Lindsey, PhD Student, eDyNAmiC,
The Scripps Research Institute, US

Jack Sanford, Postdoctoral Researcher, CANCAN,
New York University Langone, US

Speaker

David Scott, Director, Cancer Grand Challenges, Cancer Research UK

17:15 - 18:30
Glories

Poster session two and meet the expert session

Learn more about the latest research the future leaders are working on to tackle their challenge.

Presenters and abstracts are available in the abstract booklet.

18:30 - 19:00

Break

19:00 - 19:30
Hotel lobby

Transport to reception

Please meet in the hotel lobby. Coaches will be leaving at 19:00.

19:30 - 21:30
Hospital Sant Pau

Reception at Hospital Sant Pau

Join us for a private dinner and drinks reception. Sant Pau is the world's largest Art Nouveau complex, as well as being the most important work by Lluís Domènech i Montaner, the architect of Modernisme, the Catalan Art Nouveau. Declared World Heritage by UNESCO in 1997 for its singularity and artistic beauty, the Art Nouveau site was once a functioning hospital and houses the historical archive of the Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau, one of the most important collections of hospital documentation in the world today. On an exclusive tour, you will learn about what life was like in the former hospital and what kind of medicine was practised in Barcelona in the nineteen-twenties.

Coaches have been booked for return travel.

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8:00 - 8:30
Hotel restaurant

Breakfast

Buffet breakfast will be served in the hotel restaurant.

8:30 - 9:00
Glories

Optional talk: funding opportunities from the National Cancer Institute, Cancer Research UK and European Research Council

Learn about research funding opportunities and fellowships to support your career from the National Cancer Institute, Cancer Research UK and the European Research Council.

Session chair

Tony Dickherber, Program Director,
National Cancer Institute, US

Speakers

Tony Dickherber, Program Director,
National Cancer Institute, US

Veronica Caraffini, Project Advisor,
European Research Council, BE

Lorenzo de la Rica, Research Portfolio Lead,
Cancer Grand Challenges,
Cancer Research UK

9:00 - 9:45
Glories

Team talk from CANCAN: cancer cachexia

Session chair

Jack Sanford, Postdoctoral Researcher,
New York University Langone, US

Speakers

Yanshan Liang, Postdoctoral Researcher, Harvard School of Public Health, US
Talk title: Anorexia accounts for all body weight loss but has no impact on muscle strength in a colorectal cancer cachexia model

Rachel Scott, PhD Student, University College London, UK
Talk title: Identifying blood-based proteomic mediators of cancer-associated cachexia in non-small cell lung cancer in the TRACERx study

Estella Tsaturyan, PhD Student, Northwestern University, US
Talk title: Advancing methods for studying brain control of whole-body metabolism

Conference programme

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9:45 - 10:30
Glories

Team talk from OPTIMISTICC: the role of microbiota in cancer

Session chair

Blake Sanders, Postdoctoral Researcher, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, US

Speakers

Anders Dohlman, Postdoctoral Researcher, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, US
Talk title: A pan-cancer analysis links the biogeography and biodiversity of tumour-resident microorganisms to somatic mutational patterns

Jennifer El Tekle, Postdoctoral Researcher, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, US
Talk title: Uncovering the role of Fusobacterium nucleatum in the colon cancer tumour microenvironment

Ka Wing Eric Wong, Clinical Fellow, University of Leeds, UK
Talk title: Relationship between DNA double-strand break repair protein expression and survival in gastric cancer

10:30 - 11:00
Foyer

Break

Refreshments will be served in the foyer.

11:00 - 12:30
Glories

Unite and conquer: a collective brainstorm to tackle cancer's toughest challenges

This session will further facilitate getting to know each other's scientific interests and needs. This session is meant to have a brainstorming vibe with the hope that your respective discussions catalyse new ideas and possibilities for your research. As is the case for most of this conference, the more you put into this session, the more you are likely to get out of it.

Session chair

Tony Dickherber, Program Director,
National Cancer Institute, US

Speakers

Sarah Moody, Senior Staff Scientist, Mutographs,
Wellcome Sanger Institute, UK

Evidoxia Karali, Senior Scientific Officer, Rosetta,
The Institute of Cancer Research, UK

12:30 - 13:30
Hotel restaurant

Lunch

Challenge setting time and meet the expert sessions

Please make your way to the hotel restaurant for a buffet lunch.

Conference programme

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13:30 - 14:15
Glories

Keynote talk: developing T-cell based immunotherapy approaches for childhood cancer

Karin is an Associate Professor in Tumour Immuno-oncology at the University College London Cancer Institute and consultant paediatric oncologist at Great Ormond Street Hospital in London, UK.

Chair

Malcolm Holterhus, Postdoctoral Researcher, NexTGen, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, US

Speaker

Karin Straathof, Associate Professor in Tumour Immuno-oncology, NexTGen, University College London, UK

14:15 - 14:45
Glories

Collaboration session two: perfecting your pitch

In your challenge-setting teams, use this time to finalise and rehearse your pitch on your selected challenge theme.

Chair

Jack Sanford, Postdoctoral Researcher, CANCAN, New York University Langone, US

Speakers

Garrett Lindsey, PhD Student, eDyNAmiC, The Scripps Research Institute, US

14:45 - 15:15
Foyer

Break

Refreshments will be served in the foyer.

15:15 - 16:15
Glories

Cancer Grand Challenges pitches

All teams will pitch their ideas to a selected panel of experts on what the next set of Cancer Grand Challenges should be.

Chair
Jack Sanford, Postdoctoral Researcher, CANCAN, New York University Langone, US

16:15 - 16:30
Glories

Awards and closing remarks

Chair
Lorenzo de la Rica, Portfolio Lead, Cancer Grand Challenges, Cancer Research UK

Speakers

Tony Dickherber, Program Director, National Cancer Institute, US

David Scott, Director, Cancer Grand Challenges, Cancer Research UK

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Speakers

Frida Bjoerklund *(PhD Student)*

PROMINENT, Stanford University, US

Principal Investigator: Emma Lunberg

Scientific focus: spatial proteomics, single-cell proteomics, pathology and comparative pathology

Main techniques: fluorescence microscopy, immunohistochemistry and image analysis

Spare time activities: cooking, baking, gaming and walks with my dog

Raquel Blanco *(PhD Student)*

PROMINENT, Institute for Research in Barcelona, ES

Principal Investigator: Nuria Lopez-Bigas

Scientific focus: normal tissues, genomics and cancer promotion

Main techniques: duplex-sequencing and bioinformatics

Spare time activities: music

Emma Brown *(Postdoctoral Researcher)*

CANCAN, Cancer Research UK Scotland Institute, UK

Principal Investigator: David Lewis

Scientific focus: cancer cachexia, metabolic/molecular imaging, lung cancer, metabolism and preclinical mouse models

Main techniques: positron emission tomography (PET), molecular imaging and genetically engineered mouse models (GEMMs)

Spare time activities: singing, walking and hiking in Scotland

Lotte Brückner *(PhD Student)*

eDyNAmiC, Charite Berlin, DE

Principal Investigator: Anton Henssen

Scientific focus: ecDNA, neuroblastoma, oncogene amplification, micronucleation and DNA damage

Main techniques: FISH, immunofluorescence, microscopy and CRISPR-Cas9

Spare time activities: volleyball, climbing and cycling

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Speakers

Veronica Caraffini *(Project Advisor)*

European Research Council, BE

Veronica works in the Life Sciences Unit of the European Research Council Executive Agency (ERCEA). She contributes to the coordination and execution of calls for proposals, evaluation and selection of proposals by the European Research Council (ERC) and monitoring and following-up of funded projects. At ERCEA, Veronica is panel co-coordinator in the LS3 (Cell Biology, Development, Stem Cells and Regeneration) and LS4 (Physiology in Health, Disease and Ageing) panels.

Ivana Cattaneo

Cancer Grand Challenges Advocacy Panel, Cancer Research UK, IT

Ivana is passionate about cancer policy and serves on different steering committees focusing on policy advocacy on cancer research, cancer challenges, access and inequalities.

Nyasha Chambwe *(Junior Group Leader)*

SAMBAI, Feinstein Institutes for Medical Research, US

Scientific focus: breast cancer, genetic predisposition, risk models, cancer health disparities and bioinformatics

Main techniques: statistical modelling, data mining, machine learning, computational genomics and integrative analysis

Spare time activities: scientific teaching, outreach and engagement, and mentor development

Lorenzo de la Rica *(Research Portfolio Lead)*

Cancer Grand Challenges, Cancer Research UK

Lorenzo is the liaison between Cancer Grand Challenges and the research teams, responsible for planning, coordinating and the effective delivery of objectives, including the future leaders programme. His scientific background is in epigenetics and repetitive elements of the genome.

Main techniques: international science and supporting early career scientists

Spare time activities: travelling, walking my dog, visiting family in Spain and dancing

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speakers

Rachel DiCioccio *(Lead Clinical Research Associate)*

NexTGen, Children's National Hospital, US

Principal Investigator: Eugene Hwang

Scientific focus: adoptive cellular therapy, oncology, immunology, regulatory strategy and pharmacovigilance

Main techniques: flow cytometry, ELISpot, TCR sequencing, IHC and Luminex cytokine assays

Spare time activities: dancing, hiking, weightlifting, reading, going to concerts and comedy shows, kayaking and cycling

Tony Dickherber *(Program Director)*

National Cancer Institute, US

Tony is part of the leadership team for Cancer Grand Challenges. He is part of several technology-focused initiatives and organises teams across the National Cancer Institute to explore new opportunities for support.

Main techniques: various microscopy techniques (SEM, CLSM, XRD), nanofabrication (lithography, RF sputtering, evaporation) and basic immunoassaying

Spare time activities: hiking, reading and cooking

Anders Dohlman *(Postdoctoral Researcher)*

OPTIMISTICC, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, US

Principal Investigator: Matthew Meyerson

Scientific focus: colorectal cancer, gastric cancer, head-neck cancer, microorganisms and pathogens

Main techniques: whole genome sequencing, bioinformatics, computational biology and statistics

Spare time activities: carpentry, travel, soccer and film

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Speakers

Jennifer El Tekle *(Postdoctoral Researcher)*

OPTIMISTICC, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, US

Principal Investigator: Wendy Garrett

Scientific focus: colorectal cancer, gut microbiota, oncomicrobe, tumour microenvironment and cancer-associated fibroblasts

Main techniques: in vivo models, organoids and flow cytometry

Spare time activities: cooking, baking, running, hiking and going to the movies

Malcolm Holterhus *(Postdoctoral Researcher)*

NexTGen, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, US

Principal Investigator: Robbie Majzner

Scientific focus: developing and engineering novel and gate CARs to target Ewing sarcoma

Main techniques: flow cytometry, ELISA, in-fusion cloning, PCR and functional assays

Spare time activities: cooking with friends, working out and watching movies

Hudson Horn *(PhD Student)*

PROMINENT, Stanford University, US

Principal Investigator: Calvin Kuo

Scientific focus: organoids, skin cancer and carcinogenesis

Main techniques: organoids, flow cytometry and immunofluorescence

Spare time activities: snowboarding, exploring restaurants and hiking

David Hunter *(Professor)*

David Hunter, Richard Doll Professor of Epidemiology and Medicine and Director of the Harvard-Oxford Program in Epidemiology, UK

David has facilitated the development of many initiatives in cancer genetics and genetic epidemiology. He's chief science adviser to Our Future Health, a major new UK initiative that aims to return genomic information to consenting participants.

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Claire James

Cancer Grand Challenges Advocacy Panel, Cancer Research UK

Following diagnoses of myeloma in 2014 and HER2+ breast cancer in 2015, Claire volunteers for public involvement activities to use the skills gained during employment to support vital initiatives like Cancer Grand Challenges.

Matthew Jones *(Postdoctoral Researcher)*

eDyNAmiC, Stanford University School of Medicine, US

Principal Investigator: Howard Chang

Scientific focus: cancer evolution, genomics, spatial biology and bioinformatics

Main techniques: single-cell genomics, imaging and evolutionary modelling

Spare time activities: reading, playing music and travelling

Evidoxia Karali *(Senior Scientific Officer)*

Rosetta, The Institute of Cancer Research, UK

Principal Investigator: George Poulogiannis

Scientific focus: breast cancer, tumour heterogeneity, cancer and signalling and metabolism

Main techniques: 3D culture, spatial transcriptomics and MSI and PDX models

Spare time activities: reading, cycling, swimming and parenting

Jake Lee *(Clinical Fellow)*

SPECIFICANCER, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, US

Principal Investigator: Peter Park

Scientific focus: cancer evolution, genomic rearrangement, lung cancer, breast cancer and targeted therapy

Main techniques: whole genome sequencing, CRISPR-Cas9 and pathology

Spare time activities: childcare, volunteer activities and singing

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Speakers

Yanshan Liang *(Postdoctoral Researcher)*

CANCAN, Harvard School of Public Health, US

Principal Investigator: Sheng Tony Hui

Scientific focus: cancer cachexia and cancer metabolism

Main techniques: flux, metabolomics, lipidomics and mass spectrometry

Spare time activities: hiking and watching movies

Garrett Lindsey *(PhD Student)*

eDyNAmiC, The Scripps Research Institute, US

Principal Investigator: Benjamin Cravatt

Scientific focus: chemical proteomics and transcriptomics

Main techniques: mass spectrometry, microscopy and RNA-sequencing

Spare time activities: documentaries, hot yoga and new restaurants

Mariya Mardamshina *(Postdoctoral Researcher)*

PROMINENT, Stanford University, US

Principal Investigator: Emma Lunberg

Scientific focus: spatial proteomics, breast cancer, mass spectrometry and automated pipeline development

Main techniques: mass spectrometry, highly multiplexed imaging, spatial analysis, AI and laser microdissection

Spare time activities: reading and hiking

Paolo Mita *(Junior Group Leader)*

SPECIFICANCER, Institute for Systems Genetics, US

Principal Investigator: Teresa Davoli

Scientific focus: retrotransposons in human cells, DNA damage and replication fork

Main techniques: high throughput screenings, IF and live cell imaging, western blotting and flow cytometry

Spare time activities: bulk and single-cell sequencing, genome engineering and 3D cultures

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Speakers

Sarah Moody *(Senior Staff Scientist)*

Mutographs, Wellcome Sanger Institute, UK

Principal Investigator: Mike Stratton

Scientific focus: mutational signatures

Main techniques: mutational signature analysis

Spare time activities: reading science fiction and fantasy

Benoit Nicolet *(Postdoctoral Researcher)*

MATCHMAKERS, Netherlands Cancer Institute, NL

Principal Investigator: Ton Schumacher

Scientific focus: T cell, TCR, machine learning, genetic platform, immunology and cancer

Main techniques: machine learning, deep sequencing and genetic platform

Spare time activities: cycling, running and building things

Michele Palamenghi *(Postdoctoral Researcher)*

NexTGen, New York University Langone Perlmutter Cancer Center, US

Principal Investigator: Mark Yarmarkovich

Scientific focus: immunotherapy, chimeric antigen receptor and cancer

Main techniques: flow cytometry, killing assay and viral vectors

Spare time activities: gym workout, running and drawing

Dimitrios Papadopoulos *(Junior Group Leader)*

KOODAC, University of Würzburg, DE

Scientific focus: neuroblastoma, MYCN, RNA-binding, nuclear exosome and RNA sorting

Main techniques: eCLIPS, transcriptomics, mass spectrometry, CRISPR and ChIP

Spare time activities: films, music and walks

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Speakers

Thomas Parish *(Senior Research Technician)*

NexTGen, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, US

Principal Investigator: Robbie Majzner

Scientific focus: CAR T-cell engineering

Main techniques: western blot and flow cytometry

Spare time activities: reading, hiking and powerlifting

Evon Poon *(Senior Scientist)*

PROTECT, The Institute of Cancer Research, UK

Principal Investigator: Louis Chesler

Scientific focus: neuroblastoma, neural crest model and preclinical testing

Main techniques: CRISPR-Cas9 and allograft

Spare time activities: reading fiction

Olesja Popow *(Scientist)*

SPECIFICANCER, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, US

Principal Investigator: Kevin Haigis

Scientific focus: cancer biology and RAS biology

Main techniques: proteomics and mouse models of cancer

Spare time activities: gardening, baking and walking

Rhea Sahu *(Postdoctoral Researcher)*

SPECIFICANCER, Harvard University, Brigham and Women's Hospital, US

Principal Investigator: Karen Cichowski

Scientific focus: prostate cancer, oncogenic signalling, epigenetics, cancer metabolism and combination therapy

Main techniques: cell viability and death assays, cell and molecular biology techniques and mouse models

Spare time activities: dancing, reading and exploring new places and activities

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Speakers

Blake Sanders *(Postdoctoral Researcher)*

OPTIMISTICC, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, US

Principal Investigator: Matthew Meyerson

Scientific focus: colon cancer, microbiome, host-pathogen interaction and microbial genomics

Main techniques: confocal microscopy, flow cytometry, mammalian cell culture and organoid cocultures

Spare time activities: CrossFit, weightlifting, running, video games and walking my dog Darwin

Jack Sanford *(Postdoctoral Researcher)*

CANCAN, New York University Langone Health, US

Principal Investigator: Marcus Goncalves

Scientific focus: cachexia, endocrinology, lung cancer and secreted protein biology

Main techniques: mouse models of cancer, mass spectrometry and CRISPR-Cas9

Spare time activities: video games, running and hanging out with my wife and dog

David Scott *(Director)*

Cancer Grand Challenges, Cancer Research UK

David is accountable for Cancer Grand Challenges' strategic development and overall delivery. He's been responsible for the initiative since its inception. Before this, he held several leadership roles in Cancer Research UK's Research and Innovation directorate, including director of discovery research. Before joining Cancer Research UK, David worked at Imperial College London and the Wellcome Trust.

Rachel Scott *(PhD Student)*

CANCAN, University College London, UK

Principal Investigator: Mariam Jamal-Hanjani

Scientific focus: cancer associated cachexia, non-small cell lung cancer and proteomics

Main techniques: Olink proteomics and mathematical modelling

Spare time activities: running and music

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speakers

Karin Straathof *(Associate Professor)*

Associate Professor in Tumour Immuno-oncology, NexTGen, University College London, UK

Karin is also a consultant paediatric oncologist at Great Ormond Street Hospital in London, UK. Her research is focused on the development and clinical testing of engineered T-cell-based treatments for childhood solid cancers.

Mark Taylor *(Postdoctoral Researcher)*

PROMINENT, University of California San Francisco, US

Principal Investigator: Allan Balmain

Scientific focus: bioinformatics, evolution, single-cell genetics and stem-cell biology

Main techniques: single-cell transcriptomics

Spare time activities: choir, friends and medical school

Ruiyi Tian *(PhD Student)*

PROSPECT, Washington University in St. Louis, US

Principal Investigator: Yin Cao

Scientific focus: early-onset colorectal cancer, accelerated ageing and bioinformatics

Main techniques: machine learning and epidemiological methods

Spare time activities: playing violin, hiking, fishing and cooking

Estella Tsaturyan *(PhD Student)*

CANCAN, Northwestern University, US

Principal Investigator: Shawn Davidson and Navdeep Chandel

Scientific focus: neurometabolism and mitochondrial diseases

Main techniques: single-cell RNA sequencing, spatial metabolomics, MALDI MS and heavy-labelled tracer fluxomics

Spare time activities: baking, work-out and dance classes, travel and visiting friends and family

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speakers

Ka Wing Eric Wong *(Clinical Fellow)*

OPTIMISTICC, University of Leeds, UK

Principal Investigator: Phil Quirke

Scientific focus: gastric cancer

Main techniques: deep learning and digital pathology

Spare time activities: deep learning

Minsi Zhang *(Postdoctoral Researcher)*

eDyNAmiC, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, US

Principal Investigator: Andrea Ventura

Scientific focus: sarcoma and ecDNA

Main techniques: genome engineering and Cre-loxP

Spare time activities: reading and time with family

Shu Zhang *(Postdoctoral Researcher)*

eDyNAmiC, Stanford University, US

Principal Investigator: Paul Mischel

Scientific focus: extrachromosomal DNA, DNA damage repair and bioinformatics

Main techniques: CRISPR-Cas9, long reads sequencing and live cell imaging

Spare time activities: hiking, reading and handcrafting

Future Leaders' Conference

Barcelona, Spain
13 - 15 November 2024

Attendees

Marc Arago *(Postdoctoral Researcher)*

PROTECT, Institute for Research in Barcelona, ES

Principal Investigator: Cristina Mayor-Ruiz

Scientific focus: targeted protein degradation, drug discovery and cancer research

Main techniques: drug screenings, flow cytometry and western blot

Spare time activities: trail running, hiking and cooking

Takahiro Asanuma *(Postdoctoral Researcher)*

eDyNAmiC, New York University Langone, US

Principal Investigator: Jef Boeke

Scientific focus: genetic screening, S.pombe, ecDNA, extrachromosomal DNA element and RNAi

Main techniques: mutagenesis, nanopore sequencing and genetics

Spare time activities: watching movies, trips and changing the diaper of my baby

Iosune Baraibar *(Postdoctoral Researcher)*

OPTIMISTICC, Vall d'Hebron Institute of Oncology, ES

Principal Investigator: Josep Tabernero

Scientific focus: colorectal cancer, microbiome and immunotherapy

Main techniques: sample collection, 16S and bioinformatic analysis

Spare time activities: sports

Future Leaders' Conference

Barcelona, Spain
13 - 15 November 2024

Attendees

Hadley Beauregard *(PhD Student)*

OPTIMISTICC, John Hopkins Medical Institute, US

Principal Investigator: Cynthia Sears

Scientific focus: colon cancer, C. difficile, microbiome and immune evasion

Main techniques: metabolomics, cell culture, qPCR and bacteriology

Spare time activities: hiking, reading and cooking

Gabriele Buchel *(Junior Group Leader)*

KOODAC, University of Würzburg, DE

Scientific focus: neuroblastoma, MYCN, Aurora-A and transcription-replication-conflicts

Main techniques: proximity ligation assay, ChIP (qPCR and seq) and co-IP/immunoblotting

Spare time activities: running, reading and cooking

Laura Burney Ellis *(PhD Student)*

PROMINENT, Imperial College London, UK

Principal Investigator: Marc Gunter

Scientific focus: endometrial cancer, cervical cancer, ovarian cancer, epigenetics, DNA methylation and microbiome

Main techniques: EPIC array

Spare time activities: meta-analysis and weight loss study

Future Leaders' Conference

Barcelona, Spain
13 - 15 November 2024

Attendees

Thomas Cattiaux *(Data Scientist)*

PROMINENT, International Agency for Research on Cancer, FR

Principal Investigator: Sandra Perdomo

Scientific focus: cancer epidemiology and mutational signatures

Main techniques: biostatistics, bioinformatics and geospatial analysis

Spare time activities: cycling, music and stats

Patricia Centeno *(Postdoctoral Researcher)*

SPECIFICANCER, Cancer Research UK Scotland Institute, UK

Principal Investigator: Owen Sansom

Scientific focus: skin cancer, microenvironment, melanoma and non-melanoma, cancer stem cells and cell of origin

Main techniques: GEMMs, omics and scRNAseq

Spare time activities: yoga

Nicholas Chandler *(Postdoctoral Researcher)*

MATCHMAKERS, Institute for Cancer Research, NO

Principal Investigator: Johanna Olweus

Scientific focus: T-cell immunology, structural biology and cancer immunotherapy

Main techniques: receptor engineering, cellular screening assays and flow cytometry

Spare time activities: hiking, basketball and live music

Enrique Conde-Gallastegi *(Postdoctoral Researcher)*

NexTGen, University College London, UK

Principal Investigator: Sergio Quezada

Scientific focus: T-cell therapies, CAR T-cells, tumour microenvironment and tumour immune landscape

Main techniques: scRNAseq and flow cytometry

Spare time activities: spatial transcriptomics

Future Leaders' Conference

Barcelona, Spain
13 - 15 November 2024

Attendees

Andrea Curtabbi *(Postdoctoral Researcher)*

PROMINENT, University of California San Fransisco, US

Principal Investigator: Allan Balmain

Scientific focus: carcinogenesis, tumour promotion and tissue biology

Main techniques: FACS, qPCR, scRNAseq and bioinformatics

Spare time activities: AI, science history and music

Maxence Dellacherie *(Researcher)*

NexTGen, New York University Perlmutter Cancer Center, US

Principal Investigator: Mark Yarmarkovich

Scientific focus: immuno-oncology, CAR T-cells and antigen discovery

Main techniques: flow cytometry

Spare time activities: climbing, yoga and running

David Drew *(Assistant Professor)*

PROSPECT, Massachusetts General Hospital, US

Scientific focus: translational patient-derived models and precision chemoprevention of cancer and biorepositories

Main techniques: clinical trial design, multi-omic profiling, precision medicine, patient-derived model systems and biobanking

Spare time activities: playing with my son (2), travel with my wife and rooting for the Boston Red Sox

Fraser Edgar *(Postdoctoral Researcher)*

CANCAN, Cancer Research UK Scotland Institute, UK

Principal Investigator: David Lewis

Scientific focus: cancer cachexia, positron emission tomography and radiochemistry

Main techniques: carbon-11 radiolabelling and radiotracer synthetic design

Spare time activities: cooking, skiing and travelling

Future Leaders' Conference

Barcelona, Spain
13 - 15 November 2024

Attendees

Xavier Gaeta *(Postdoctoral Researcher)*

PROMINENT, Stanford University, US

Principal Investigator: Calvin Kuo

Main techniques: colorectal cancer, gut microbiota, oncomicrobe, tumour microenvironment and cancer-associated fibroblasts

Spare time activities: cooking, hiking and exploring local parks and libraries with my kids

Stephanie Gaglione *(PhD Student)*

MATCHMAKERS, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, US

Principal Investigator: Michael Birnbaum

Scientific focus: immunology, antigen discovery, cancer and autoimmunity

Main techniques: lentiviral engineering and yeast display

Spare time activities: climbing and outdoor sports

Liliana Gomez *(Junior Group Leader)*

PROSPECT, National Institute of Public Health, MX

Scientific focus: early-onset cancer, colorectal cancer, breast cancer and hereditary cancer

Main techniques: population-based epidemiology, genetic epidemiology and genomics

Spare time activities: nature contemplation, yoga, reading and sleeping

Swagata Goswami *(Postdoctoral Researcher)*

PROSPECT, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, US

Principal Investigator: Omer Yilmaz

Scientific focus: cancer metabolism, cancer cell fate and cancer metastasis

Main techniques: mouse models, organoids and co-culture, metabolomics and lipidomics, flow cytometry and sequencing

Spare time activities: reading and yoga

Future Leaders' Conference

Barcelona, Spain
13 - 15 November 2024

Attendees

Alberto Guerra *(Fellow Physician)*

KOODAC, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, US

Principal Investigator: Yaël Mossé

Scientific focus: antibody-drug conjugates, cellular therapy, neuroblastoma, developmental therapeutics and solid tumours

Main techniques: cellular engineering, ex vivo explant engineering and cell line assays (viability/microscopy/ELISAs)

Spare time activities: running, drumming, travelling and going for walks with my dog

Nuray Gunduz *(Postdoctoral Researcher)*

SPECIFICANCER, Cancer Research UK Scotland Institute, UK

Principal Investigator: Owen Sansom

Scientific focus: colorectal cancer and intestinal stem cells

Main techniques: genetically engineered mouse models and organoids

Spare time activities: reading film critics, watercolour painting and cooking

Alice Harnden *(Senior Scientific Officer)*

PROTECT, The Institute of Cancer Research, UK

Principal Investigator: Swen Hoelder

Scientific focus: drug discovery and medical chemistry

Main techniques: structural-based drug design, medicinal chemistry and organic synthesis

Spare time activities: baking, pub quizzes and watching Drag Race

Zachary Harpaz *(Student Intern)*

NexTGen, New York University Langone Health, US

Principal Investigator: Mark Yarmarkovich

Scientific focus: bioinformatics, immunotherapy, personalised medicine, CAR-T therapy and machine learning

Main techniques: machine learning, bayesian modelling and plasmid design

Spare time activities: playing basketball, hanging out with family and playing video games

Future Leaders' Conference

Barcelona, Spain
13 - 15 November 2024

Attendees

Chad Hewitt *(Scientist II)*

KOODAC, Nurix Therapeutics, US

Scientific focus: DEL and targeted protein degradation

Main techniques: DEL screening

Spare time activities: running and hiking

Blythe Irwin *(PhD Student)*

MATCHMAKERS, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, US

Principal Investigator: Brandon DeKosky

Scientific focus: T cell, immunotherapy, cancer and natively paired TCR libraries

Main techniques: single-cell RNA capture, flow cytometry, lentiviral transduction and library screening

Spare time activities: choir, writing, baking, weightlifting and running

Hu Jin *(Postdoctoral Researcher)*

SPECIFICANCER, Harvard Medical School, US

Principal Investigator: Peter Park

Scientific focus: bioinformatics, cancer genomics and mutagenesis

Main techniques: machine learning, statistical methods and mutational signatures

Spare time activities: exercise, travel and cooking

Future Leaders' Conference

Barcelona, Spain
13 - 15 November 2024

Attendees

Tracy Lee *(Master's Student)*

OPTIMISTICC, Canada's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre, BC Cancer Research Institute, CA

Principal Investigator: Robert Holt

Scientific focus: Fusobacterium nucleatum, colorectal cancer, adverse pregnancy outcomes, vaccines and immunology

Main techniques: murine models, ELISA and qPCR

Spare time activities: taking dance classes and reading

Emily Leeming *(Postdoctoral Researcher)*

PROSPECT, King's College London, UK

Principal Investigator: Jordana Bell

Scientific focus: diet, the gut microbiome and colorectal cancer

Main techniques: randomised controlled trials

Spare time activities: reading, hikes and travelling

Tuo Li *(Junior Group Leader)*

eDyNAmiC, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, US

Principal Investigator: Zhijian James Chen

Scientific focus: innate immunity and ecDNA

Main techniques: molecular biology, biochemistry and proteomics

Spare time activities: reading and hiking

Future Leaders' Conference

Barcelona, Spain
13 - 15 November 2024

Attendees

Bingxu Liu *(Postdoctoral Researcher)*

MATCHMAKERS, Institute for Protein Design - University of Washington, US

Principal Investigator: David Baker

Scientific focus: expand beyond the limitations of living systems

Main techniques: protein design and high-throughput screening

Spare time activities: fishing, tennis, hiking and flying

Kevin Lu *(Postdoctoral Researcher)*

NexTGen, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, US

Principal Investigator: Robbie Majzner

Scientific focus: paediatric oncology, CAR T-cell therapy and synthetic immunology

Main techniques: flow cytometry, co-culture experiments, cloning and single-cell RNA-seq

Spare time activities: bioinformatics

Rachel Martini *(Postdoctoral Researcher)*

SAMBAI, Morehouse School of Medicine, US

Principal Investigator: Melissa Davis

Scientific focus: breast cancer, genomics and health disparities

Main techniques: whole genome sequencing, RNA sequencing and spatial transcriptomics

Spare time activities: spending time with my family

Future Leaders' Conference

Barcelona, Spain
13 - 15 November 2024

Attendees

Lindsey Mattick *(Postdoctoral Researcher)*

CANCAN, University of Rochester, US

Principal Investigator: Karen Mustian

Scientific focus: cancer control and symptom science

Main techniques: RNA-Seq

Spare time activities: running and sailing

Gonzalo Mercado Vico *(PhD Student)*

CANCAN, University College London Cancer Institute, UK

Principal Investigator: Karin Straathof

Scientific focus: selection immunotherapy, CAR T-cell therapy, paediatric tumours and gene editing

Main techniques: Flow cytometry, next-generation sequencing and in vivo studies

Spare time activities: travelling, hiking, swimming and cycling

Nethaji Muniraj *(Staff Scientist)*

NexTGen, Children's National Hospital, US

Principal Investigator: Conrad Russell Cruz

Scientific focus: CAR-NK/T-Cell therapy, glioblastoma, paediatric solid tumour and stereotactic surgery (in-vivo models)

Main techniques: stereotactic surgery (mouse), flowcytometry, Luminex, Elisa, cytotoxicity and cell culture

Spare time activities: CRISPR-Cas9 and bioinformatics

Future Leaders' Conference

Barcelona, Spain
13 - 15 November 2024

Attendees

Sharon Mweni *(Staff Researcher)*

SAMBAI, Machakos County Referral Hospital, KE

Principal Investigator: Melissa Davis

Scientific focus: breast cancer, GIT cancers and childhood cancers

Main techniques: immunohistochemistry

Spare time activities: watching movies, cooking, reading, travelling and swimming

Suraya Nagaraja *(Postdoctoral Researcher)*

PROSPECT, Harvard University, US

Principal Investigator: Jason Buenrostro

Scientific focus: epigenetics in cancer development

Main techniques: single-cell genomics, spatial transcriptomics and mouse modelling

Spare time activities: spending time with family, weightlifting and American football

Van Nguyen *(Postdoctoral Researcher)*

SPECIFICANCER, The Institute of Cancer Research, UK

Principal Investigator: Kristian Helin

Scientific focus: DLBCL, epigenetic drugs, bioinformatics, cancer treatment, epigenetics and cancer

Main techniques: CRISPR screen, cut and tag, ChiP-seq, RNA-seq, cut and run

Spare time activities: running and travelling

Joy Ogunmuyiwa *(Resident Physician)*

SAMBAI, New York Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital, US

Principal Investigator: Melissa Davis

Scientific focus: breast, pancreatic and prostate cancer

Main techniques: biobanking

Spare time activities: tennis and photography

Future Leaders' Conference

Barcelona, Spain
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Attendees

Chima Onwuka Kalu *(PhD Student)*

SAMBAI, Ebonyi State University, NG

Principal Investigator: Melissa Davis

Scientific focus: cancers, immunotherapy, genetic ancestry and genomics in disease diagnosis

Main techniques: genomics, sequencing and immunophenotyping

Spare time activities: flow cytometry, reading and social networking

Edisa Parani *(Postdoctoral Researcher)*

CANCAN, Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey, US

Principal Investigator: Eileen White

Scientific focus: cancer, immunotherapy, cancer metabolism, amino acid dysregulation and tumour microenvironment

Main techniques: liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry (LC-MS) and isotope tracing with 13C- and 15N-labeled amino acid

Spare time activities: travelling

Jessica Petrick *(Junior Group Leader)*

PROSPECT, Boston University, US

Scientific focus: colorectal cancer, gastrointestinal cancer, nutritional epidemiology and molecular epidemiology

Main techniques: epidemiological methods

Spare time activities: reading, cooking and adventure

Gianmarco Piccinno *(PhD Student)*

PROSPECT, University of Trento, IT

Principal Investigator: Nicola Segata

Scientific focus: microbiome, colorectal cancer, melanoma, immunotherapy and bioinformatics

Main techniques: shotgun metagenomics, machine learning and statistical approaches

Spare time activities: walking, swimming and reading

Future Leaders' Conference

Barcelona, Spain
13 - 15 November 2024

Attendees

Sara Placke *(PhD Student)*

PROTECT, Hopp Children's Cancer Center Heidelberg (KiTZ), DE

Principal Investigator: Ana Banito

Scientific focus: soft tissue sarcoma, therapy resistance, tumour heterogeneity and targeted protein degradation

Main techniques: western blot, RNA analysis and EPO-GEMMs

Spare time activities: hiking, reading and playing video games

Tally Portnoi *(PhD Student)*

MATCHMAKERS, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, US

Principal Investigator: Regina Barzillay

Scientific focus: machine learning and immunology

Main techniques: machine learning

Spare time activities: running, reading and dance

Noor Radde *(PhD Student)*

PROTECT, Massachusetts University Hospital, US

Principal Investigator: Max Jan

Scientific focus: immunotherapy and T cells

Main techniques: flow cytometry and perturb-seq

Spare time activities: creative hobbies and swimming

Future Leaders' Conference

Barcelona, Spain
13 - 15 November 2024

Attendees

Rahsmi Rai *(Junior Group Leader)*

PROSPECT, Balco Medical Centre, IN

Principal Investigator: Bhawana Sirohi

Scientific focus: oral oncosurgery, community-based trials, immuno oncology of oral cancer and preventative oncology

Main techniques: survey methodology, qualitative and quantitative analysis and prospective studies

Spare time activities: learning newer surgical skills, cancer awareness activities and tobacco cessation

Welles Robinson *(Postdoctoral Researcher)*

MATCHMAKERS, University College London, UK

Principal Investigator: Sergio Quezada

Scientific focus: lung cancer, neo-antigen recognition, immunotherapies, TCR, scRNA and TCR-seq

Main techniques: computer science and flow cytometry

Spare time activities: running, hiking and biking

Yara Rodriguez Zabala *(Postdoctoral Researcher)*

PROTECT, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, US

Principal Investigator: Kimberly Stegmaier

Scientific focus: acute myeloid leukaemia

Main techniques: CRISPR-Cas9 screes, proliferation assays and FACS

Spare time activities: I like to do yoga and take long walks

Axel Rosendahl Huber *(Postdoctoral Researcher)*

PROMINENT, Institute for Research In Biomedicine Barcelona, ES

Principal Investigator: Nuria Lopez-Bigas

Scientific focus: cancer genomics, mutational processes and signatures and cancer development

Main techniques: data analysis, machine learning and mutational signature analysis

Spare time activities: cycling, padel and hiking

Future Leaders' Conference

Barcelona, Spain
13 - 15 November 2024

Attendees

Timothy Russell *(Postdoctoral Researcher)*

KOODAC, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, US

Principal Investigator: Seychelles Vos

Scientific focus: transcription, chromatin, CHD proteins and MYC

Main techniques: long read DNA sequencing and DNA methyltransferase footprinting and Pol II transcription

Spare time activities: bird watching

Alba Santiago *(Postdoctoral Researcher)*

OPTIMISTICC, Vall d'Hebron Institute of Oncology, ES

Principal Investigator: Paolo Nuciforo

Scientific focus: microbiome, in vitro model and in vivo model

Main techniques: qPCR, shotgun and 16S sequencing

Ditsa Sarkar *(Postdoctoral Researcher)*

PROTECT, Harvard Medical School/Massachusetts General Hospital, US

Principal Investigator: Max Jan

Scientific focus: biochemistry, blood cancer, cell therapy, synthetic biology and biophysics

Main techniques: flow cytometry, CAR T-cell production and in vivo bioluminescent imaging

Spare time activities: walking, baking and painting

Alan Scaramangas *(Postdoctoral Researcher)*

eDyNAmiC, Queen Mary University of London, UK

Principal Investigator: Weini Huang

Scientific focus: mathematical biology, ecDNA, pre-cancer and early-stage diagnosis

Main techniques: mathematical biology, stochastic analysis, probability, moran process and Gillespie algorithm

Spare time activities: dancing, poetry and friends

Future Leaders' Conference

Barcelona, Spain
13 - 15 November 2024

Attendees

Emily Schneider *(PhD Student)*

PROTECT, Massachusetts General Hospital, US

Principal Investigator: Max Jan

Scientific focus: CAR-T cell therapy

Main techniques: CRISPR interference, flow cytometry and in vivo studies

Spare time activities: cooking, running, hiking and spending time outside

Signe Schultz Pedersen *(Postdoctoral Researcher)*

PROSPECT, Harvard University, US

Principal Investigator: Emily Balskus

Scientific focus: early-onset colorectal cancer, environmental exposure and microbiota-derived metabolites

Main techniques: tissue explants, organoids and Luminex technology

Spare time activities: hiking, biking and badminton

Natasha Sharma *(Postdoctoral Researcher)*

eDyNAmiC, University College London, UK

Principal Investigator: Mariam Jamal Hanjani/Nnenaya Kanu

Scientific focus: lung cancer, hypoxia and ecDNA bioinformatics

Main techniques: bioinformatics

Spare time activities: reading

Joanne Shen *(Postdoctoral Researcher)*

CANCAN, University of Cambridge, UK

Principal Investigator: Tony Coll/Stephen O'Rahilly

Scientific focus: metabolism, physiology, cachexia, adipose biology and bioengineering

Main techniques: transcriptomics, mouse models and 3D cell models

Spare time activities: organ typing human multi-tissue models, microfluidics and assay development

Future Leaders' Conference

Barcelona, Spain
13 - 15 November 2024

Attendees

Mahsa Shirani *(Postdoctoral Researcher)*

KOODAC, Rockefeller University, US

Principal Investigator: Sanford Simon

Scientific focus: paediatric liver cancer and PKA and degrader

Main techniques: cell culture, SPR and working with mouse

Spare time activities: running

Afroditi Sotiriou *(PhD Student)*

PROTECT, DKFZ - German Cancer Research Centre, DE

Principal Investigator: Ana Banito

Scientific focus: epigenetics, sarcomas, transcription regulation, protein degradation and proteomics

Main techniques: CRISPR-Cas9, cell viability assays, transcriptomics, proteomics and phosphoproteomics

Spare time activities: omics data analysis, ATAC-seq, PRO-seq and machine learning

Timothy Spear *(Postdoctoral Researcher)*

NexTGen, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, US

Principal Investigator: John Maris

Scientific focus: immuno-oncology, CAR-T cells, cancer vaccines, paediatric cancer and neuroblastoma

Main techniques: viral transduction, mRNA-LNP and flow cytometry

Spare time activities: travel, food and scuba diving

Adrian Straub *(Postdoctoral Researcher)*

MATCHMAKERS, Technical University of Munich, DE

Principal Investigator: Dirk H Busch

Scientific focus: TCR discovery, T-cell engineering and bioinformatics

Main techniques: single-cell sequencing, flow cytometry, mouse studies and Crispr-Cas9

Spare time activities: climbing, hiking, biking, drinking lots of coffee and hanging out with friends

Future Leaders' Conference

Barcelona, Spain
13 - 15 November 2024

Attendees

Kentaro Suina *(Postdoctoral Researcher)*

eDyNAmiC, Yale University, US

Principal Investigator: Roel Verhaak

Scientific focus: cancer biology, genetics, tumour heterogeneity and extrachromosomal DNA

Main techniques: high-throughput screening and image analysis

Spare time activities: playing piano and music

Kathryn Taylor *(Postdoctoral Researcher)*

eDyNAmiC, Stanford University, US

Principal Investigator: Michelle Monje

Scientific focus: glioma, paediatric brain tumours and neuroscience

Main techniques: optogenetics, electrophysiology and calcium imaging

Spare time activities: looking after my son, barre class and snowboarding

Alina Teuber *(Postdoctoral Researcher)*

KOODAC, Children's Cancer Therapy Development Institute, US

Principal Investigator: Charles Keller

Scientific focus: alveolar rhabdomyosarcoma

Main techniques: cell culture, mouse models, biochemical assays and structural biology

Spare time activities: soccer, meeting friends, cooking and music

Michael Tomasini *(Postdoctoral Researcher)*

KOODAC, Rockefeller University, US

Principal Investigator: Sanford Simon

Scientific focus: computational biology, drug discovery and liver cancer

Main techniques: molecular dynamics, computational docking and surface plasmon resonance

Spare time activities: reading and exercise

Future Leaders' Conference

Barcelona, Spain
13 - 15 November 2024

Attendees

Laura Torrens *(Postdoctoral Researcher)*

PROMINENT, International Agency for Research on Cancer, FR

Principal Investigator: Sandra Perdomo

Scientific focus: oesophageal cancer, head and neck cancer, cancer promotion, genomics and bioinformatics

Main techniques: whole genome sequencing, mutational signatures and epidemiology

Spare time activities: hiking, running, reading and paddle surfing

Fengyu Tu *(PhD Student)*

eDyNAmiC, Barts Cancer Institute, Queen Mary University of London, UK

Principal Investigator: Benjamin Werner and Weini Huang

Scientific focus: cancer evolution

Main techniques: computational model

Spare time activities: hiking

Ronja van Berkum *(PhD Student)*

PROTECT, Prinses Maxima Centrum, NL

Principal Investigator: Judith Wienke

Scientific focus: CAR T cell therapies, paediatric cancers, protein degrader technologies and patient derived organoids

Main techniques: flow cytometry, high-throughput screening, co-cultures and killing assays

Spare time activities: photography, art and travelling

Pooja Vikram *(PhD Student)*

SPECIFICANCER, New York University Langone School of Medicine, US

Principal Investigator: Teresa Davoli and Liam Holt

Scientific focus: genome instability, mechanobiology, pancreatic cancer and melanoma

Main techniques: microscopy, flow cytometry, 3D cell culture and hydrogels and cloning

Spare time activities: bouldering, guitar and reading

Future Leaders' Conference

Barcelona, Spain
13 - 15 November 2024

Attendees

Alice Wang *(PhD Student)*

CANCAN, Stony Brook University, US

Principal Investigator: Tobias Janowitz

Scientific focus: cancer cachexia, recovery and interorgan interaction during recovery

Main techniques: mouse models, cell lines, computational analysis and metabolic analysis

Spare time activities: reading, running and hiking

Jake Ward *(Postdoctoral Researcher)*

PROTECT, Institute for Research in Biomedicine Barcelona, ES

Principal Investigator: Cristina Mayor Ruiz

Scientific focus: targeted protein degradation, degraders, drug resistance and cancer

Main techniques: CRISPR-Cas9, drug and genetic screening

Spare time activities: running, swimming and cooking

Adam Wolpaw *(Junior Group Leader)*

KOODAC, Children's Hospital Philadelphia, US

Scientific focus: neuroblastoma, immunobiology and tumour heterogeneity

Main techniques: mouse models, 2D and 3D cell culture models and transcriptomics/epigenomics

Spare time activities: spending time with family, playing basketball and eating good food

Qiming Zhang *(Postdoctoral Researcher)*

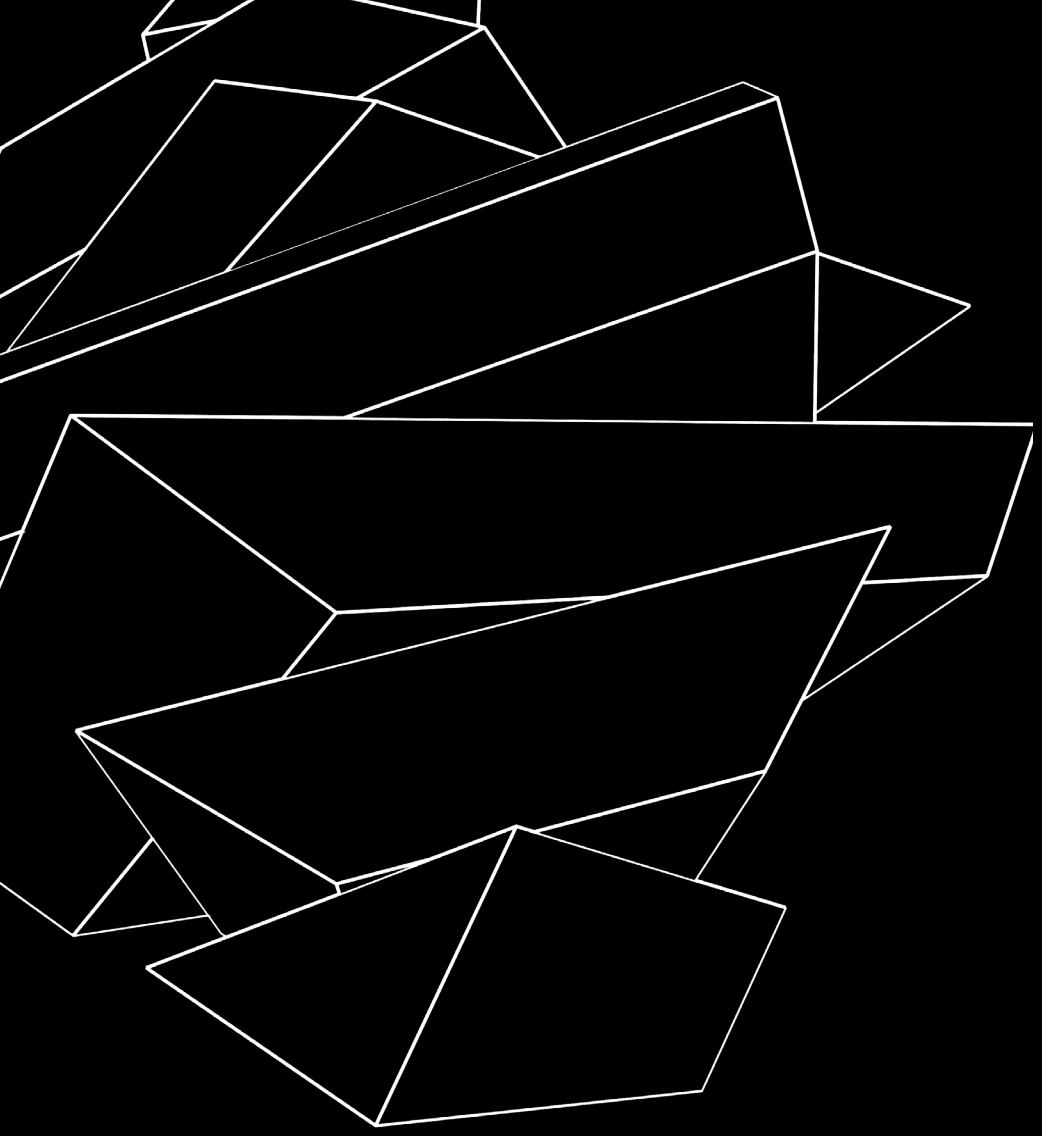
PROSPECT, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, US

Principal Investigator: Omer Yilmaz

Scientific focus: colon cancer, bioinformatics and mouse models

Main techniques: flow cytometry, histology and single-cell techniques

Spare time activities: spatial transcriptomics and CRISPR-editing



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