Connecting Basic, Translational and Clinical Science

4th JOINT **ASTCT + EBMT**

Basic and Translational SCIENTIFIC MEETING

14-16 May 2025 • Lisbon, Portugal

Welcome

Dear Esteemed Colleagues,

We are delighted to invite you to the 4th ASTCT + EBMT Joint Scientific Meeting 2025, scheduled to take place from 14 to 16 May in Lisbon, Portugal. This mid-size event is focused on cutting-edge basic and translational biology in the field of stem cell transplantation and cellular therapy. The meeting will focus on fundamental themes and novel technologies with an emphasis on unpublished and innovative science with leaders in the field. The meeting will be limited to 150 attendees with afternoon breaks to allow for informal networking opportunities between junior and senior attendees.

Why Attend?

- Cutting-Edge Scientific Sessions.
- Endless Networking Opportunities.
- Day 1 Dive into the latest advancements in Fibrosis and Genome Editing with insights from renowned experts.
- Day 2 Explore innovative developments in Cell Engineering and the Biology of Relapse.
- Day 3 Understand the critical role of the Microbiome in transplantation with contributions from experts.

Networking Opportunities

- Participate in interactive poster sessions and meet-the-professor event, designed to foster collaboration and professional growth.
- Enjoy ample opportunities to connect with peers during lunch and evening networking sessions.
- Comprehensive Programme
- Our meticulously curated programme ensures a blend of groundbreaking research presentations, case studies, and abstract discussions, providing a holistic view of the latest trends and future directions in transplantation and cellular therapy.

This meeting is an unmissable opportunity to enhance your professional expertise, contribute to impactful discussions, and network with the best minds in the field. Join us in shaping the future of transplantation and cellular therapy.

We look forward to welcoming you to what promises to be an inspiring and enlightening conference.

Warm regards,

Organizing Committee

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Day 1: Wednesday, May 14

Morning sessions	
09:00 – 09:15 (15 mins)	**Welcome and Introduction**
Topic: Fibrosis Session Chair: Corey Cutler	
09:15 – 09:40 (25 mins)	**Kevin Hart (US)** Overview on fibrosis
09:40 – 10:05 (25 mins)	**Christian Stockmann (CH)** Immunotherapeutical Targeting of Fibrogenic Cells
10:05 – 10:30 (25 mins)	**Geoff Hill (US)** Delineating clinically tractable pathogenic pathways of chronic GVHD in patients
10:30 – 11:00 (30 mins)	Panel discussion and Q&A
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee Break
Topic: Genome Editing Session Chair: Chiara Bonini	
11:30 – 11:55 (25 mins)	**Eliana Ruggiero (IT)** TCR-engineered T cell therapy comes of age: generating safe and effective treatments for acute myeloid leukemia
11:55 – 12:20 (25 mins)	**Lukas Jeker (CH)** CD45 Gene Editing
12:20 – 12:45 (25 mins)	**William Nyberg (SE)** In vivo site-specific integrations to reprogram T cells
12:45 – 13:15 (30 mins)	Panel discussion and Q&A
Afternoon sessions	
13:15 – 17:00	Lunch and Afternoon Networking
Best Abstracts (I) Session Chair: Pavan Reddy	
16:30 – 17:00	Coffee Break
17:00 – 17:15 (12 mins + 3 mins Q&A)	**Julie Boiko (US)** High-resolution spatial transcriptomic analysis of cutaneous chronic graft-versus-host disease highlights CSF1RintLYZhi macrophage infiltration with aberrant keratinocyte and fibroblast differentiation
17:15 – 17:30 (12 mins + 3 mins Q&A)	**Mary Riwes (US)** Rational Modification of Human Gut Microbiome and Metabolites by Dietary Resistant Starch in Allogeneic Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation (allo-HCT) to mitigate acute graft versus host disease (aGVHD): A Phase II study clinical and biological correlatives update
17:30 – 17:45 (12 mins + 3 mins Q&A)	**Sangya Chatterjee (DE)** Gut-microbiota derived N,N,N-trimethyl-5-aminovaleric acid (TMAVA) is a modulator of CNS-acute GVHD
17:45 - 18:00 (12 mins + 3 mins Q&A)	**Verena Holzmüller (DE)** The anti-inflammatory peptide RLS-0071 (pegtarazimod) reduces acute graft-versus-host disease (aGVHD) by modulating immune cells and enterocytes
18:00 – 19:00 (60 mins)	**Poster Tour + Networking Hour**
19:00 – 19:45 (45 mins)	**Chiara Bonini (IT)** Harnessing the TME by genome editing of T cells
19:45 – 20:45	**Dinner**

Day 2: Thursday, May 15

Morning sessions	
Topic: T-Cell Engineering Session Chair: Stan Riddell	
09:00 – 09:25 (25 mins)	**Johannes Huppa (DE)** Understanding T-cell antigen recognition to inform designs of T-cell-based therapies - insights from molecular imaging
09:25 – 09:50 (25 mins)	**Stan Riddell (US)** Strategies for improving CAR T cell therapies for cancer
09:50 – 10:15 (25 mins)	**Yvonne Chen (US)** Engineering Multi-Pronged CAR-T Cells for Cancer Therapy
10:15 – 10:45 (30 mins)	Panel discussion and Q&A
10:45 – 11:15	Coffee Break
Topic: Biology of Relapse Session Chair: Anna Sureda	
11:15 – 11:40 (25 mins)	**Jonathan Licht (US)** The role of NSD2 in high risk t(4;14) associated multiple myeloma
11:40 – 12:05 (25 mins)	**Marieke Griffioen (NL)** T-cell responses against minor histocompatibility antigens after allogeneic stem cell transplantation
12:05 – 12:30 (25 mins)	**José Ángel Martínez Climent (ES)** T-cell immunotherapy response and resistance in mouse models of myeloma and lymphoma
12:30 – 13:00 (30 mins)	Panel discussion and Q&A
Afternoon sessions	
13:00 – 17:00	Lunch and Afternoon Networking
Best Abstracts (II) Session Chair: Nicolaus Kröger	
16:30 – 17:00	Coffee Break
17:00 – 17:15 (12 mins + 3 mins Q&A)	**Laure Maneix (US)** COPII transport controls T-cell functions by regulating SREBP-1 mediated fatty acid metabolism
17:15 – 17:30 (12 mins + 3 mins Q&A)	**Anna-Sophia Baur (DE)** Targeting miR-146a to improve CAR T cell therapy
17:30 – 17:45 (12 mins + 3 mins Q&A)	**Dhyani Shah (DE)** Microbial metabolites: Modulators of CAR T cell therapy
17:45 - 18:00 (12 mins + 3 mins Q&A)	**Omer Khalid (DE)** Timed targeting of cGAS / STING to improve tissue-regeneration and anti-tumor responses following allo-HSCT
18:00 – 19:00 (60 mins)	**Meet-the-Professor Session** Chairs: Chiara Bonini (Genome Editing), Stan Riddell (T-Cell Engineering), Ami Bhatt (Microbiome), and Leslie Kean (Fibrosis)
19:00 – 19:45 (45 mins)	**Cliona Rooney (US)** My journey developing virus-specific T-cells as Immunotherapy
19:45 – 20:45	**Dinner**

Day 3: Friday, May 16

Topic: Microbiome Session Chair: Ami Bhatt	
08:00 – 08:25 (25 mins)	**Ami Bhatt (US)** From Precise Microbial Genomics to Precision Medicine
08:25 – 08:50 (25 mins)	**Hendrik Poeck (DE)** Harnessing microbial metabolites for T cell therapies
08:50 – 09:15 (25 mins)	**Robert Jenq (US)** Microbiome and transplantation/cell therapies – the search for specific mechanisms
09:15 – 09:45 (30 mins)	Panel discussion and Q&A
Closing remarks	
09:45 – 10:00 (15 mins)	**Closing remarks**

Ami Bhatt (United States)

Ami Bhatt is a Professor at Stanford University in the Departments of Medicine (Hematology; Blood & Marrow Transplantation) and Genetics. A physician scientist with a strong interest in microbial genomics and metagenomics, she received her MD and PhD from the University of California, San Francisco (Alpha Omega Alpha), followed by residency, chief residency and fellowship training at Brigham and Women's Hospital and the Dana-Farber Cancer Center at Harvard Medical School. She joined the faculty at Stanford University in 2014 after completing a post-doctoral fellowship focused on genomics at the Broad Institute of Harvard and MIT.

Prof. Bhatt's laboratory develops and applies novel molecular and computational tools to study strain level dynamics of the human microbiome, to understand how microbial genomes change over time and predict the functional output of microbiomes. She is keenly interested to understand how microbes use microproteins to "talk" to one another and to human cells, and to leverage this understanding to improve health and treat diseases. Her work is actively being translated from bench to bedside; for example, enzymes that her lab mined from microbes are now being developed these as human genome editing/engineering tools in a start-up company that she co-founded.

She has received multiple awards including the Chen Award of Excellence from the Human Genome Organisation (HUGO), the Distinguished Investigator Award from the Paul Allen Foundation, and the Sloan Foundation Fellowship; she is also an elected member of the American Society of Clinical Investigation and the 2024 American Society of Hematology William Dameshek Prize winner. She has disseminated her distinguished research globally, delivering more than 160 invited presentations. A committed mentor, she has served as the primary research advisor to a diverse cohort of over 60 undergraduate, medical, PhD, and post-doctoral scholars.

Dr. Bhatt is also leading efforts to ensure equity and global access in research and medicine. She carries out research with the H3Africa Genomics Consortium, volunteers for the nonprofit she co-founded in 2012, Global Oncology, and serves as the Director for Global Oncology for Stanford's Center for Innovation in Global Health. She is working to improve collaboration and exchange between scholars at Stanford and those in South Asia, Africa, and beyond. She continues to practice clinical medicine, caring for patients with hematological disorders in the hospital setting.

Bruce Blazar (United States)

Dr. Bruce Blazar received a BS degree from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and MD degree from Albany Medical College following which he obtained clinical training in pediatrics and hematology/oncology/blood and marrow transplantation at the University of Minnesota. He is a Regents Professor and founding director of the Clinical and Translational Science Institute and the Center for Translational Medicine. He has directed preclinical basic and translational immunology and stem cell research and early phase clinical studies with particular emphasis in the blood and marrow transplantation immunobiology. He has published more than 854 peer-reviewed of 925 total manuscripts with an h-index of 139 (Scopus).

Chiara Bonini (Italy)

Chiara Bonini, M.D., Professor of Hematology at the University Vita-Salute, San Raffaele, Head of the Experimental Hematology Unit at IRCCS San Raffaele Scientific Institute. She was trained in Milano (Ospedale San Raffaele - OSR), New York (MSKCC) and Seattle (FHCRC). She has been a member of the Boards of ESGCT and ASGCT, chair of the EBMT CTIWP, member of the ASH Awards and Global Research Award Committees. She is currently member of the Board of ESH, member of the EHA Subcommittee on Cellular Therapy, Counselor of the Board of EHA, Member of ASGCT Program Committee, Chair of the CAR-T and Immunotherapy subcommittee of ESGCT. Her main research focus is allogeneic stem cell transplantation and the development, preclinical and clinical validation of cell and gene therapy approaches to treat cancer. Her scientific production includes > 170 papers in international scientific journals, >10 international patents. She has been Invited speaker at > 200 International Meetings, Workshops and Universities.

Yvonne Chen (United States)

Dr. Yvonne Chen is a Professor of Microbiology, Immunology, and Molecular Genetics at UCLA. She is the co-director of the Tumor Immunology program in the Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center at UCLA, and a member researcher of the Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy. The Chen Laboratory applies biomolecular engineering techniques to the development of novel mammalian-cell systems for clinical use, and Dr. Chen led the first investigator-sponsored clinical trial on CAR-T cell therapy at UCLA. The Chen Lab's work has been recognized by the NIH Director's Early Independence Award, the NSF CAREER Award, the Mark Foundation Emerging Leader Award, and the Cancer Research Institute Lloyd J. Old STAR Award, among others. Prior to joining UCLA in 2013, Yvonne was a Junior Fellow in the Harvard Society of Fellows. Yvonne received her B.S. in Chemical Engineering from Stanford University and her Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from the California Institute of Technology.

Corey Cutler (United States)

Dr. Corey S. Cutler, MD, MPH, FRCPC, is a leading hematologist-oncologist based in Boston, Massachusetts. He serves as the Medical Director of the Adult Stem Cell Transplantation Program at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and holds the position of Associate Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Cutler earned his medical degree from McGill University in Montreal, followed by a residency in Internal Medicine at Royal Victoria Hospital. He completed his fellowship in Hematology and Medical Oncology at Dana-Farber/Partners CancerCare and obtained a Master of Public Health from the Harvard School of Public Health Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Dr. Cutler is internationally recognized for his expertise in stem cell transplantation and graft-versus-host disease (GVHD). His research has significantly advanced the understanding and treatment of chronic GVHD, notably through his leadership in the ROCKstar study, which contributed to the FDA approval of belumosudil, the first drug specifically developed for chronic GVHD Dana-Farber Cancer Institute . Additionally, he directs the Stem Cell Transplantation Survivorship Program at Dana-Farber, focusing on long-term care for transplant recipients. Dr. Cutler's work continues to shape clinical practices and improve outcomes for patients with hematologic malignancies.

Marieke Griffioen (The Netherlands)

Dr. Marieke Griffioen studied Biomedical Sciences and did her PhD in the field of molecular biology by studying HLA-B gene transcription in human melanoma. After her PhD, she started to work as postdoctoral researcher in the field of immunology first at the department of Clinical Oncology and later at the department of Hematology of the Leiden University Medical Center in the Netherlands. She developed the first steps towards clinical implementation of T cell receptor (TCR) gene therapy for minor histocompatibility antigen HA-1, constructed retroviral vectors with different TCRα and β combinations and developed a protocol to transduce virus-specific T cells. In 2006, she started to work on identification of minor histocompatibility antigens. She screened cDNA libraries and developed whole genome association scanning that rapidly accelerated the discovery of minor histocompatibility antigens. Since 2016, Marieke also works on neoantigens. She identified neoantigens encoded by NPM1 and RUNX1, which are often mutated in acute myeloid leukemia. She also identified a TCR for mutant NPM1 for which a clinical trial is currently open to treat patients with acute myeloid leukemia. Today, Marieke will show her group's recent findings on T-cell responses against minor histocompatibility antigens in patients treated with allogeneic stem cell transplantation.

Kevin Hart (United States)

In December 2017, I joined Pfizer's Discovery fibrosis group in the Inflammation and Immunology Research Unit at Pfizer located in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Prior to joining Pfizer, I did my postdoctoral training in the Immunopathogenesis Section of the Laboratory of Parasitic Disease, in the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, NIH in Bethesda, MD under the mentorship of Tom Wynn. I received my Ph.D. from the Department of Medical Microbiology and Immunology at Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire. My published work has made important contributions towards understanding of the role of immune cells and cytokines in the progression and resolution of chronic inflammation and fibrosis in liver and lung diseases. At Pfizer, I have led target identification efforts and preclinical and clinical drug development for inflammatory and fibrotic diseases. I believe doing data-driven science, implementing cutting-edge technologies, and robust scientific collaboration is the best path towards delivering innovative and transformational therapeutics to patients.

Mette Hazenberg (The Netherlands)

Dr Mette Hazenberg is a Professor in Hematology and Cell Therapy at Amsterdam UMC and a clinical associate at Sanquin Research, Amsterdam. Her work as a clinical haematologist and principal investigator is focused on allogeneic hematopoietic progenitor cell transplantation, in particular graft versus host and graft versus leukemia immunity and immune reconstitution. She identified AML and ALL specific antibodies that have great potential as therapeutic antibodies, and she is working towards a better understanding of the immunological processes underlying the emergence and clinical behaviour of GvHD. She has been awarded several prestigious grants, including a Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) Clinical Fellowship, a Landsteiner (LSBR) Fellowship and NWO Talent Scheme VIDI and Aspasia grants. Hazenberg is Treasurer of the European Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation (EBMT), the chair of the Graft versus Host Centre of Expertise Amsterdam, medical director of the Stem Cell Transplantation Laboratory at Amsterdam UMC and member of the stem cell transplantation working group of HOVON (Hemato-oncology Foundation for Adults in The Netherlands). Hazenberg is also a member of the Dutch National Institute for Public Health (RIVM) working group on vaccination in patients with hematologic conditions and the RIVM working group on COVID-19 vaccination in immunocompromised patients.

Geoff Hill (United States)

Prof Geoff Hill is a medical graduate of the University of Auckland and Haematologist, training in New Zealand and The Dana Farber Cancer Institute in Boston. He was PI of an immunology laboratory in Brisbane, Australia between 2001 and 2018 which focused on the interactions between cytokines, antigen presenting cells and T cell differentiation during transplantation. His laboratory developed a number of paradigms in the field that have instructed clinical practice over this period, including identification of the pivotal IL-17/CSF-1 pathway of chronic GVHD that led to the recent Axatilimab studies and FDA approval. Prof Hill moved to The Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center in Seattle in 2018 to take up the Jose Carreras/E. Donnall Thomas Endowed Chair for Cancer Research and Director roles for Hematopoietic Stem Cell transplantation and the Immunotherapy Integrated Research Center. He is Senior Vice President and the Head of the Translational Science and Therapeutics Division at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center and now holds the Leonard and Norma Klorfine Endowed Chair for Clinical Research. Over the last 5 years his laboratory has developed new approaches to study aberrant and tumor-specific immune responses in tissue that have led to numerous NIH funded preclinical and translational clinical studies.

Johannes Huppa (Germany)

Johannes Huppa is a molecular immunologist focusing on the biophysical and cell biological mechanisms underlying sensitized T-cell antigen recognition. In 2024, he took over the Chair of the Institute of Tumor Immunology at Charité-Universitätsmedizin Berlin.

After graduating in biochemistry from Freie Universität Berlin, Dr. Huppa conducted his PhD research at MIT and Harvard Medical School, where he studied the molecular assembly and quality control of the TCR-CD3 complex in the ER. As a postdoctoral fellow at Stanford University and later as a principal investigator at Medizinische Universität Wien, he developed advanced live-cell imaging modalities to study T-cell antigen recognition. He demonstrated that continual TCR engagement is critical for maintaining immune synapse integrity and the T cells' full effector potential. His team discovered, using synthetic biology, superresolution, and single-molecule microscopy, that TCRs and pMHCs act within the immunological synapse as monomeric rather than higher-order entities, contrary to previous perceptions. Highly sensitized antigen detection was shown to be promoted through serial short-lived pMHC-TCR engagement under the influence of synaptic piconewton-scale mechanical forces acting on ligand-bound TCRs.

Dr. Huppa's most recent studies focus on human T-cell antigen recognition in settings of viral infection, autoimmunity and cancer. In Berlin, he aims to add bioinformatics and structural biology to his imaging- and bioengineering-driven experimental repertoire to delineate the molecular, cell biological, and immunological parameters defining the anti-tumor T-cell response in cancer patients. Dr. Huppa's underlying ambition is to engage in basic science to accelerate therapy development.

Lukas Jeker (Switzerland)

Prof. Dr. Lukas Jeker, Assistant Professor for Experimental Transplantation Immunology und Nephrology at the Basel University Hospital and the Department of Biomedicine of the University of Basel, Switzerland, has been engaged with projects concerning the engineering of epitopes since 2016. He was born in Roma (Lesotho), studied medicine at the Universities of Basel and of Paris, and worked as a resident in Internal Medicine in Davos and Liestal and shortly in Transplantation Immunology und Nephrology in Basel.

In 2005, Professor Jeker graduated from the Swiss MD-PhD program. After research stays in various places, including Baltimore, he worked at the University of California, San Francisco, first as a postdoc doing basic research (2007-2010), then as an Assistant Adjunct Professor (2010 – 2013). In 2014, he returned to Basel, sponsored by a Professorship of the Swiss National Science Foundation, and habilitated in 2016 in Experimental Medicine. In 2018 he was awarded an ERC consolidator grant, in 2020 he co-founded Cimeio Therapeutics AG and in 2024 he was awarded the Jonas Memorial Award for his contributions to immunology and cellular therapy.

Prof. Jeker investigates the immune system at the cellular and molecular level. His group recently developed "cell shielding" through epitope engineering as a versatile platform to address major limitations of hematopoietic stem cell transplantation. His longterm goals include translation of basic insight to the clinics including transplantation immunology.

He is married and the father of two children.

Robert Jenq (United States)

Robert R. Jenq, M.D., is director of the City of Hope Microbiome Program and a clinical professor in the Department of Hematology and Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation. Dr. Jenq earned his medical degree at Oregon Health and Sciences University, then completed a residency in internal medicine at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, and a clinical/research fellowship at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City. Prior to joining City of Hope, he was deputy chair of the Department of Genomic Medicine at MD Anderson Acute Cancer Center in Houston, Texas, where he founded and directed the Microbiome Core Facilty. As a scholar and researcher, Dr. Jenq has led or collaborated on multiple blood and bone marrow transplantation studies, developed innovative medical technologies and published on a wide range of topics, including the connection between the intestinal microbiome and the risk of graft-versus-host disease and neutropenic fever among hematopoietic stem cell transplant patients, CAR-T cell response rates, and immune checkpoint inhibitor colitis.

Nicolaus Kröger (Germany)

Dr. Nicolaus Kröger is Professor of Medicine and Medical Director of the Department of Stem Cell Transplantation at the University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf, Germany. Prof. Kröger is board certified in Hematology-Oncology and Internal Medicine. From 2018 to 2022 he was President of the European Society of Blood and Marrow Transplantation (EBMT) and from 2012 to 2018 Chairman of the Chronic Malignancy Working Party of EBMT and from 2014 to 2018 Scientific Council Chair of EBMT. He served also as chairman of the German Stem Cell Working Group (DAG-KBT) and the German Stem Cell Registry (DRST) He is Co-Editor of the EBMT Handbook and the EBMT/EHA CAR-T Cell Handbook and also member of numerous Scientific Committees such as ASH, EHA, and ESH. He has received several awards for his work to date including the prestigious EBMT van Bekkum Award in 2015 and Doctor Honoris Causa from the University Belgrade. Prof. Kröger has published extensively in his area of expertise and has contributed to more than 900 publications in peer-reviewed journals such as NEJM, Lancet, JCO, JNCI, PNAS, Blood and Leukemia.

Jonathan Licht (United States)

Jonathan D. Licht, M.D., a graduate of Columbia University College of Physician and Surgeons is director of the University of Florida Cancer Center, leading it to become the 72nd NCI center in June 2023. He was a medical oncology and postdoctoral fellow at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute and served 15 years on the faculty at Mount Sinai, rising to become Professor and Chief of Hematology/Oncology before moving to Northwestern as Chief of Hematology/Oncology and an Associate Director of the Robert H. Lurie Cancer Center. Licht's laboratory studies gene regulation as a cause of blood cancer, developing treatment strategies to reverse these processes. His research has been NCI funded for >30 years, leading a Leukemia and Lymphoma Society Specialized Center of Research on the epigenetics of hematological malignancies since 2007. He has authored >230 publications, cited ~35,000 times, trained dozens of students and fellows and received the 2021 ASH Mentor Award. Licht served as an associate editor of Oncogene, on the Editorial Board of Cancer Discovery, Cancer Cell, Blood Cancer Discovery and as founding Editor-in Chief of Blood Neoplasia. He has served in key positions in ASH (Finance, Councilor), AACR (Chair, Taskforce on Hematological Malignancies), and the LLS (Chair, Medical Scientific Board, Chair SCOR review committee). He served a 5-year term on the NCI Board of Scientific Counselors, chaired the Biochemical of the Mechanisms of Cancer Therapy study section and led the 2019 Gordon Conference on Cancer Genetics and Epigenetics. He is an elected member of the American Society for Clinical Investigation, the Association of American Physicians, the American Clinical and Climatological Association the Academy of Science Engineering and Medicine of Florida and is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

José Ángel Martínez Climent (Spain)

I am a physician scientist in the Department of Hematology at the University of Navarra in Spain, with an MD degree (1986) and a board certification (MIR) in pediatrics and pediatric hematology/oncology from La Fe University Hospital in Valencia, Spain (1992). Then I received training in cancer genetics and cell biology at the University of Chicago and University of California San Francisco USCF, earning a PhD degree in 1996. Upon my return to Spain, I was Attending Physician and Assistant Professor in the Department of Hematology/Oncology at University of Valencia Clinic Hospital (1996-2004). I moved to the University of Navarra in Pamplona in 2005 as a Ramon y Cajal investigator and Associate Professor. Since 2010, I am Professor of Medicine and Head of Preclinical Therapy Research at Center for Applied Medical Research, Clinica Universidad de Navarra Cancer Center, and School of Medicine. The goal of our research is to understand the nature of hematological cancers, exploiting scientific discoveries in the lab to advance early therapies to the clinic. My work and expertise span from basic studies on leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma biology, genomics, and immunology to the development of novel therapeutic approaches based on tumor features. To achieve our goals, we have developed genetically engineered mouse models of human-like multiple myeloma, leukemias and mature B-cell lymphomas, which are allowing us to link tumor genetic and immunological features during malignant transformation at unprecedented levels. The final goal is prioritizing which targeted and immune-based drug combinations should be clinically tested in selected disease subsets, with the aim of reaching a cure. Since 2023, I am also founder and chief scientific officer at MIMO Biosciences, a spinoff of the University of Navarra dedicated to the generation, development, and use of experimental models covering the variety of hematologic malignancies for advancing cancer immunotherapy. Through collaborations with academic scientists and pharma companies, we facilitate the translation of scientific knowledge and pre-clinical therapeutics to clinical trials.

William Nyberg (Sweden)

William Nyberg is a newly appointed principal investigator at the Karolinska Institute. Building on scientific discoveries as a postdoc in Justin Eyquem's research lab at UCSF, his lab focuses on reprogramming T cells in vivo using advanced genetical engineering for therapeutic purposes. This is done primarily with the use of chimeric antigen receptors (CAR), but we are also exploring the use of other synthetic receptors and therapeutic TCR sequences to develop new T cell therapies against cancers.

Hendrik Poeck (Germany)

Professor Dr. Hendrik Poeck is a leading German physician-scientist specialising in haematology, oncology, and tumour immunology. He serves as the Executive Senior Physician at the Department of Internal Medicine III (Hematology and Oncology) at the University Medical Center Regensburg (UKR). His research focuses on the interplay between the gut microbiome and immune responses in cancer patients, particularly in the context of allogeneic stem cell transplantation. Notably, he co-led a study that identified specific microbial metabolites and bacteriophage-bacteria consortia associated with improved outcomes in transplant patients, offering promising avenues for therapeutic interventions. His research aims to enhance the efficacy of CAR T-cell therapies by leveraging microbiota-derived metabolites to modulate immune responses. Through his interdisciplinary approach, Professor Poeck continues to advance the understanding of microbiome-immune system interactions in cancer.

Pavan Reddy (United States)

Dr Reddy is Professor of Medicine John O'Quinn Foundation Chair of Oncology and serves as the Director of Dan Dun Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Centre and Senior Associate Dean of Baylor College of Medicine. He is the Co-Organizer of the meeting and the former President of ASTCT. His research is focused on immunobiology of stem cell transplantation and its translation into proof-of-concept clinical trials.

Stan Riddell (United States)

Dr. Riddell's research focuses on the contributions of human T cell subsets to protective immunity to pathogens and tumors and on the development and clinical application of adoptive T cell therapy for cancer with T cells that are genetically modified with natural or synthetic receptors to effectively target tumors.

Cliona Rooney (United States)

Cliona Rooney, PhD, is a Professor in the Center for Cell and Gene Therapy (CAGT) and in the Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology, and Immunology at Baylor College of Medicine, and the Director of the Translational Research Laboratories (TRL) of the CAGT. Her scientific training is in viral immunology and since 1992, she has used virus-specific T-cells (VSTs) for the treatment of viral diseases and malignancies. She first used EBV-specific T-cells to prevent and treat EBV+ post-transplant lymphoma, then extended this successful therapy to other post-transplant viral infections, and to EBV+ malignancies that occur in immunocompetent individuals. She has developed and clinically evaluated clinically evaluating strategies that render T cells resistant to inhibition by the tumor microenvironment, such as a dominant-negative TGF□□receptor and a constitutively active IL-7 receptor (C7R), as well as an inducible caspase 9 suicide safety switch for gene-modified T-cells, all of which have proved successful in clinical trials. The C7R together with a chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) for GD2 is producing clinical responses in patients with GD2+ malignancies, and is being evaluated in EBV-specific T-cells (EBVSTs) for the treatment of EBV+ lymphoma. To overcome the lack of in vivo proliferation of tumor-specific T-cells, she has

evaluated VSTs as hosts for CARs, so that CAR-VST activation and expansion can be induced by endogenous viruses, viral vaccines or oncolytic viruses. She has been a principal investigator on over 20 clinical protocols involving cellular therapies, and co-investigator on over 40. She an author on over 300 peer-reviewed scientific publications and has been the primary mentor for ~57 graduate students or postdoctoral fellows, many whom have gone on to leadership position in both Academia and Industry.

Eliana Ruggiero (Italy)

Eliana obtained her PhD degree in Natural Sciences from the University of Heidelberg in 2013. Her research at the German Cancer Research Center/National Center for Tumor Diseases in the laboratory of Prof. von Kalle and Dr. Schmidt focused on utilizing sequencing technologies to characterize the T cell receptor (TCR) repertoire. She investigated the distortions in the TCR repertoire occurring upon infections and tumor development, and explored the molecular mechanisms involved in TCR generation. In 2015, she joined the Experimental Hematology Unit at Ospedale San Raffaele (OSR, Milan) as a postdoctoral researcher in Chiara Bonini's lab with the objective was to identify new tumor-specific TCRs for T cell engineering. This project led to the identification of over 61 anti-tumor specific TCRs and resulted in six patents. Her research has been supported by national and international funding sources, including DKMS, the Italian Ministry of Health, Marie Sklodowska-Curie, iCARE-AIRC and the Helmholtz Alliance Immunotherapy of Cancer, as well as through industrial collaboration with Intellia Therapeutics. She has also received several awards such as the ESGCT Young Investigator Award and the ASGCT Excellence in Research Award. Currently, she is Project Leader in the Experimental hematology unit at OSR, leading her own independent research program.

Brenda Sandmaier (United States)

Dr. Brenda Sandmaier is the Deputy Director and Professor in the Translational Science and Therapeutics Division at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center and Professor of Medicine in the Division of Medical Oncology at the University of Washington School of Medicine, in Seattle, Washington. She is the Immediate Past President of American Society for Transplantation and Cellular Therapy (ASTCT) and previously served on several committees for ASTCT, ASH and CIBMTR including serving as a Director on the ASTCT Board of Directors, Member and Chair of the ASH Scientific Committee on Transplantation Biology, and was Member and Chair of the CIBMTR Nominating Committee. Dr. Sandmaier also recently served as Chair of the Acute Leukemia Working Committee for the CIBMTR. Dr. Sandmaier's research goal is to extend the benefits of transplant immunotherapy to a broader range of patients, including hematopoietic cell transplant patients who are older or have medical comorbidities, and those who don't have fully HLA-matched donors. Translating from preclinical studies done in her laboratory, she has conducted clinical trials for GVHD prevention for different donor types. Her lab has also worked on developing less-toxic conditioning regimens which have been translated to clinical trials both for patients with hematologic malignancies and those with nonmalignant or inherited blood disorders. Dr. Sandmaier's lab investigates radiolabeled antibodies to target hematopoietic cells, including malignant, for purposes of eliminating disease and reducing relapse risk. While the first generation of radioimmunotherapy using beta-emitters are being tested in clinical trials, her lab has refined the next generation of radioimmunotherapy using alpha-emitting isotopes. First-in-human clinical trials of one such therapy, directly translated from Dr. Sandmaier's lab's work, are underway and actively treating patients with hematologic malignancies and nonmalignant disorders including sickle cell disease.

Warren Shlomchik (United States)

Warren Shlomchik received his BA from Harvard and his MD from the University of Pennsylvania. He did fellowship training in hematology/oncology at the University of Pennsylvania where he developed his interest in the biology of allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (alloSCT). He was at Yale beginning in 1999 and progressed through the ranks becoming a full professor with tenure. In 2015 he moved to the University of Pittsburgh where has been the Director of Blood and Marrow Transplantation and Cellular Therapy. Dr. Shlomchik's research has focused on the biology of alloSCT with studies on antigen presentation, the mechanisms of resistance to GVL, modes of initial T cell priming, the roles of naïve and memory T cells and most recently how progenitor-like T cells maintain GVHD and locally within tissues. He has taken 2 of his discoveries in mouse models to the clinic—depletion of naïve T cells to reduce GVHD and the use of IFN-□ to treat relapsed AML and MDS post alloSCT. A third, adoptive immunotherapy with T cells recognizing a hematopoietically-restricted alloantigen, will enter the clinic shortly sponsored by BlueSphere Bio.

Christian Stockmann (Switzerland)

Dr. Christian Stockmann is a Swiss physician-scientist and associate professor at the University of Zurich's Institute of Anatomy. He leads the Immunity, Angiogenesis, and Tissue Remodeling Group, focusing on how immune cell-driven angiogenesis affects tissue remodeling in diseases like cancer and fibrosis. He earned his medical degree from the University of Duisburg-Essen and completed a postdoc at UC San Diego before holding academic positions in Germany and France. His research uses advanced tools like single-cell omics and transgenic mouse models to develop immunotherapies aimed at enhancing tissue regeneration and resolving fibrosis. Dr. Stockmann was promoted to associate professor at UZH in 2024 in recognition of his scientific contributions.

Anna Sureda (Spain)

Anna Sureda, (MD, PhD) is nowadays the Head of the Clinical Hematology Department of Institut Català d'Oncologia – Hospitalet, Barcelona. She had previously been a Senior Consultant at Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau, Barcelona (from January 1991 to December 2010) and a Senior Consultant focused in lymphomas and hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT) at Addenbrookes–Cambridge University Hospital, UK (December 2010 – December 2012). Anna Sureda has focused her career on clinical investigations into the treatment of Hodgkin's lymphoma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and multiple myeloma patients evaluating novel therapies such as immunotherapy combined with stem-cell transplantation. Anna Sureda was appointed Chairperson of the Lymphoma Working Party (LWP) of the European Group for Blood and Marrow Transplantation (EBMT) from March 2004 to March 2010 and Secretary of the same organization from March 2010 to March 2016. She was elected co-chair of the Lymphoma Committee of the Center for International Blood and Marrow Transplant Research (CIBMTR) and has served the organization in this position from February 2015 to February 2019. She was subsequently appointed as member of a large non-US Transplant Center in the Advisory Committee of the CIBMTR (from February 2019). Anna Sureda is President of the Spanish Society of Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation and Cellular Therapy (GETH-TC) and, from March 2022, President of the EBMT. Anna Sureda is regular reviewer of several peer-reviewed journals (Blood, Annals of Oncology, Bone Marrow Transplantation, The Hematology Journal, The European Journal of Hematology y Annals of Hematology) and has co-authored more than 400 manuscripts.

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- New research is exploring the potential of precision engineering to control cellular composition.[5]

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allo-HSCT=allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplant; GvHD=graft-vs-host disease; TRM=transplant-related mortality.

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