

Advancements in Cancer Research and Therapeutics

March 25–27, 2026

📍 DoubleTree Suites by Hilton Boston Cambridge
400 Soldiers Field Road, Allston, MA, 02134

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DAY-1

Wednesday, March 25, 2026

Charles River Ballroom

7:30-8:15 On-site Registration / Badge Pickup @Atrium Foyer
8:15-8:30 Introduction & Welcome Remarks

Plenary Session



Moderator

William Gmeiner, Wake Forest University School of Medicine, NC



8:30-9:10
Rakesh K Jain, Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital, MA
Improving Immunotherapy of Glioblastoma by Reprogramming the Tumor Microenvironment: Emerging Insights and Strategies



9:10-9:50
Tyler Jacks, MIT, MA
Probing Tumor-Immune Interactions using Genetically Engineered Mouse Models

9:50-10:10 Break and Networking @Atrium Foyer



10:10-10:50
John Quackenbush, Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health, MA
Network Transitions as Drivers of Disease



10:50-11:30
Khalid Shah, Harvard Medical School, MA
The Concept of Innovation and Orchestration: Translating Cell Based Immunotherapies from Bench to Bedside



11:30-12:10
Douglas Green, St Jude Children's Research Hospital, TN
Paradigm Shifts in Cell Death Research



12:10-12:50
Ellen Pure, University of Pennsylvania, PA
Strategies to Overcoming Multiple Challenges to CAR T Cell Therapy for the Treatment of Desmoplastic Tumors

12:50-13:50 Group Picture | Lunch & Networking @Roosevelt Room

Session I Cancer Immunology and Immunotherapy

Chairs



Geeta Upadhyay
Uniformed Services
University, MD



Lucas Ferrari de Andrade
Icahn School of Medicine at
Mount Sinai, NY



13:50-14:30 **Plenary**
Kai Wucherpfennig, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Harvard Medical School, MA
Therapeutic Targeting of the Cancer – Immunity Cycle



14:30-15:00 **Keynote**
Xingxing Zang, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, NY
New Immune Pathways: from Fundamental Discoveries to Novel Drugs to New Clinical Trials



15:00-15:20

Alexander Barrow, Doherty Institute, Australia
NK Cell Receptor Signaling in Cancer Immunotherapy: Mechanistic Insights and Therapeutic Potential



15:20-15:40

Lucas Ferrari de Andrade, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, NY
Selective Inhibition of Fc Receptor Shedding to Promote Antibody-Dependent Cellular Cytotoxicity against Tumors

15:40-15:50

Break and Networking

@Atrium Foyer



15:50-16:10

Rizwan Romee, Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, MA
Novel NK Cell Immunotherapeutic Approaches to Cancer



16:10-16:30

Jessica Thaxton, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, NC
Manipulating the Integrated Stress Response to Fuel Tumor Immunotherapy



16:30-16:50

Geeta Upadhyay, Uniformed Services University, MD
Emerging Biomarkers for Solid Cancer- Immunotherapies



16:50-17:10

Megan L. Burger, Knight Cancer Institute, OR
Therapeutic Vaccination to Remodel Antigen Hierarchies



17:10-17:30

Yina H Huang, Geisel School of Medicine, NH
Contrasting CAR T and Nanoparticle Delivery of Cytokine Immunotherapies



17:30-17:50

Scott H Olejniczak, Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, NY
CD28 Drives CAR T-Cell Responses in Myeloma and Lymphoma Models



17:50-18:10

Liya Ding, Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, NY
Preclinical Models and Therapeutic Approaches Targeting Tumor Cells and Immune Suppression in Prostate Cancer



18:10-18:30

Yufei Wang, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, MA
Engineering the Next Generation of CAR T-Cells for Solid Tumors



18:30-18:50 **Virtual**

TAY Rong En, Singapore Immunology Network, Singapore
Serotonin Receptor 5-HT_{2A} as a Potential Target for HCC Immunotherapy

18:45-19:45

Networking & Drinks

@Atrium Foyer

Session II

Metastasis and Tumor Progression

Chairs



William Gmeiner
Wake Forest University
School of Medicine, NC



Kaifu Chen
Harvard Medical School, MA



8:30-9:10 **Plenary**
Channing J Der, UNC School of Medicine, NC
Targeting KRAS for Cancer Treatment



9:10-9:50 **Plenary**
A Thomas Look, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Harvard Medical School, MA
KAT6A/B Inhibitor Enhances GD2-Immunotherapy in High-Risk Neuroblastoma



9:50-10:20 **Keynote**
Joyce Slingerland, Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center, DC
High Local Estrone Impairs Antitumor Immunity to Drive Obesity-Associated Breast Cancer Progression

10:20 -10:30

Break and Networking

@Atrium Foyer



10:30-10:50
Rizwan Haq, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, MA
New Models of Metastatic Uveal Melanoma to Uncover Therapeutic Targets



10:50-11:10
Blake R. Wilde, Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, NY
Metabolic Determinants of Kidney Cancer Initiation



11:10-11:30
Hyungshin Yim, Hanyang University, South Korea
PLK1 Signaling Network as a Driver of Metastasis in NSCLC



11:30-11:50
Christina M. Ferrer, University of Maryland Marlene & Stewart Greenebaum
Comprehensive Cancer Center, MD
Slow-Cycling, Glutathione-Sensing GSTT1⁺ Cells Mediate Therapy Resistance
and Metastasis in Pancreatic Cancer



11:50-12:10
William Gmeiner, Wake Forest University School of Medicine, NC
Improving Efficacy and Overcoming Resistance in Treatment of Liver-Metastatic
Colorectal Cancer with CF10



12:10-12:30
Angus Gordon, Imperial College Healthcare Trust, London, UK
Tumor Volume Analysis Applied to Breast Cancer



12:30-12:50
Kaifu Chen, Harvard Medical School, MA
Nanopore Sequencing Reveals Alternative Polyadenylation Regulated by RNA
Modification in Prostate Cancer



12:50-13:10
Oliver Bogler, Coaching and Consulting, VT
NIH Grants Update and How to Compete in 2026?

13:10–14:00

Lunch & Networking

@Roosevelt Room

Session III

Drug Discovery and Novel Therapeutics

Chairs



Lee Graves
University of North
Carolina, NC



Hernando Lopez Bertoni
Johns Hopkins School of Medicine
MD



14:00–14:20

Lee Graves, University of North Carolina, NC
Application of Novel ClpP Agonists for Cancer Treatment



14:20–14:40

Deepak Veeregowda, QT Sense, Netherlands
Real-Time Measurements of Free Radicals in Living Cancer Cells and Mitochondria



14:40–15:00

Richard Kolesnick, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, NY
ENT1 Dimerization in a Ceramide-Rich Platform Enhances Gemcitabine Uptake
Improving Sarcoma Patient Response Rate



15:00–15:20

Hernando Lopez Bertoni, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, MD
Resistance is Futile: Collapsing Networks to Outmaneuver GBM



15:20–15:40

Anthony Faber, VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center, VA
Subasumstat Reverses SS18–SSX–Driven BAF Changes to Shrink Human and Mouse
Synovial Sarcoma Tumors

15:40–15:50

Break and Networking

@Atrium Foyer



15:50–16:10

Grant Fischer, UNC School of Medicine, NC
Integrative Bioinformatics and Experimental Insights into Melanoma Pathology



16:10–16:30

Gamze Ayaz, NIDDK/NIH, MD
Thyclotide–Peptide Conjugates Enable Efficient Cellular Delivery and Reactivate
p53 by Disrupting MDM2 Interaction in Cancer Cells



16:30–16:50

Morgan M. Eikanger, University of South Dakota, SD
Veratridine Suppresses the Rictor–mTORC2 Signaling Pathway to Inhibit
Metastatic Colon Cancer



16:50–17:10

Zeinaf Muradova, Brigham and Women's Hospital and Dana–Farber Cancer
Institute, MA
Gadolinium–Based Theranostic Nanoparticles as Immunomodulators in
Cancer Models



17:10–17:30

Audrey Van Heest, Boston University, MA
Engineering Protease–Responsive Biosensors for Precision Oncology

Session IV Cancer Biology, Targeted Therapies & Tumor Microenvironment

Chair



Blake R. Wilde
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, NY



8:00-8:30 **Keynote**
Peter Caravan, Massachusetts General Hospital, MA
Non-Invasive Imaging of the Tumor Microenvironment to Monitor Treatment Response



8:30-8:50
J. Javier Bravo-Cordero, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, NY
The Textures of the Tumor Microenvironment: An Integrated Imaging Perspective



8:50-9:10
Asaf Rotem, AstraZeneca, MA
Multimodality of Single Cell Analysis in Clinical Settings



9:10-9:30
Yunqing Li, Hugo W. Moser Research Institute at Kennedy Krieger, MD
Targeting Tumor Cell Intrinsic Epigenetic Determinants in Brain Tumors



9:30-9:50
Carrie D. House, San Diego State University, CA
Chemotherapy-Induced NF- κ B Activation Drives Stress Tolerance and Relapse in Ovarian Cancer

9:50-10:00

Break and Networking

@Atrium Foyer



10:00-10:20
Jennifer M Binning, Moffit Cancer Center, FL
Engineering Targeted Degradors of the HPV Oncoprotein E6



10:20-10:40
Mutlay Sayan, Harvard Medical School, MA
Defining the Role of Whole-Pelvis Radiotherapy in Modern Prostate Cancer Care



10:40-11:00
Allison Fitzgerald, Dana Farber Cancer Institute, MA
Strategies to Enhance Cell Therapy Infiltration into Solid Tumors



11:00-11:20
Analisa DiFeo, University of Michigan, MI
Therapeutic Inhibition of Oncogenic miR-181a Processing for Cancer Therapy



11:20-11:40
Allegra A. Petti, Massachusetts General Hospital, MA
Integrating Spatial and Single-Cell Transcriptomics to Resolve the Spatial Organization of Glioblastoma



11:40-12:00

Louise Treanor, Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research, MA
How DLBCL Outsmarts CD19 CAR T Cells: Cross-Antigen Escape, Resistance, and the Gene Signature Predictive of Clinical CAR T-cells Response



12:00-12:25 **Keynote**

David Liu, Dana Farber Cancer Institute, MA
Clinical and Genomic Correlates of Organotropism in Metastatic Melanoma



12:25-12:40

Mohammad Nikmaneshi, Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital, MA
Mathematical Modeling of Cancer-T Cell Interactions to Boost Anti-Cancer Immunity

12:40-13:40

Lunch

@Roosevelt Room

Virtual Session

Chair



Stefanie Galban
University of Michigan, MI



13:00-13:20

Stefanie Galban, University of Michigan, MI
Identification of Tumor Microenvironment-Dependent Resistance and Emergence of Persister Cells to KRAS Inhibition in Lung Cancer



13:20-13:40

Victor Peperzak, University Medical Center Utrecht, The Netherlands
Enhancing CAR T-Cell Cytotoxicity Against Multiple Myeloma Through Targeted Cargo Delivery



13:40-14:00

John Bridgeman, Immunokey Ltd, UK
CARKey™ - A Multi-Specific CAR T-Cell Platform to Overcome Solid Tumor Antigen Heterogeneity



14:00-14:20

Minji Jung, Stanford University, CA
Bidirectional Links Between Kidney Cancer and Cardiovascular Disease: Emerging Epidemiologic Insights



14:20-14:40

Mostafa Ibrahim, University of Michigan, MI
Inducible and Reversible H3K27M Models to Define Oncohistone-Driven Epigenome and Tumor Microenvironment (TME) Remodeling in Diffuse Midline Glioma



14:40-15:00

Krinio Giannikou, Harvard Medical School, MA
Multi-Omics Characterization of Germ Cell Tumor Biology and Therapeutic Vulnerabilities

Closing Remarks of Conference and Announcement of 2027 Edition

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