

INVITED SPEAKERS



Paolo Sassone-Corsi

Director of the Center for Epigenetics and Metabolism and Donald Bren Professor at the School of Medicine of the University of California, Irvine, USA. External Member of the Max-Planck Institute (Germany) and Director of the INSERM (France) Research Unit at UCI. During the past three decades PSC's research has focused on the molecular mechanisms of transcriptional regulation and chromatin remodeling, specifically in response to changes in signaling transduction and cellular metabolism.



Pierre Sonveaux

Associate Professor of Pharmacology at University of Louvain (UCL) Medical School, Brussels, Belgium, and Research Associate of the Belgian National Fund for Scientific Research. He heads a research team at the Pole of Pharmacology & Therapeutics of the IREC Institute of UCL. His translational research aims at understanding the influence of tumor metabolism on the malignant phenotype. A recipient of a Starting Investigator Grant of the ERC, in 2014 he received the title of Officer of the Merit Order of Wallonia.



Claudiu T. Supuran

Professor of Medicinal Chemistry at the Neurofarba Department, Section of Pharmaceutical and Nutriceutical Sciences, University of Florence, Italy. His research interests include: medicinal chemistry, enzyme inhibitors and activators, carbonic anhydrases, heterocyclic chemistry, chemistry of sulfonamides, sulfamates and sulfamides, X-ray crystallography of metallo-enzymes, biologically active organo-element derivatives, quantitative structure-activity relationship (QSAR) studies, metal-based drugs, cyclooxygenases and their inhibition, serine proteases, matrix metalloproteinases, bacterial proteases, antiviral/antitumor drugs, amino acid derivatives; targeting hypoxic tumors.



Angelo De Milito

Angelo De Milito is Associate Professor in Experimental Oncology at the Department of Oncology-Pathology, Karolinska Institute (Stockholm, Sweden). His current research focuses on the interplay between acidosis and autophagy in cancer, in terms of disease progression and sensitivity to chemotherapy, with the objective to identify mechanisms mediating cancer cell's adaptation to acidosis and compounds targeting cancer cells in acidic conditions.



Tokuhiro Chano

Associate Professor and Principal Investigator of the Department of Clinical Laboratory Medicine, Shiga University of Medical Science, Shiga, Japan. His research interests are the biological adaptations of malignancies in acidic or hypoxic environments, and the development of innovative therapeutic approaches. He has identified several targets leading novel molecular therapies. He has received the academic award for life science from the Japanese Society of Laboratory Medicine in 2011.



Olivier Feron

Olivier Feron is Professor of Translational Medicine at the University of Louvain (UCL, Brussels, Belgium) and honorary Research Director of the National Fund for Scientific Research (FNRS). He is the head of the Hypoxia and Cancer Research Laboratory at the University of Louvain. His team significantly contributed to the understanding of the phenotypic adaptation of tumor cells to cycling hypoxia and the use of lactate and glutamine as alternate energy fuels in tumors. Honors include receiving the Prize Galien and being one of the youngest scientists elected to the Royal Academy of Medicine.



Paola Chiarugi

Paola Chiarugi, a member of the Excellence and Research Centre DENOTHE, is Full Professor of Biochemistry of the University of Florence Medical School. She studies tumor microenvironment since 8 years, particularly focusing on CAF, CAM, EPC, and hypoxia, demonstrating that CAF contact promotes epithelial-mesenchymal transition and the achievement of stem traits in cancer cells. She has also investigated the role of prostate CAF in metabolic reprogramming of cancer cells, and identified a cross-talk between CAF and M2 CAM.



Robert J. Gillies

Chairman of the Department of Cancer Imaging and Metabolism, Director of the Center of Excellence in Cancer Imaging and Technology, Vice-chair for Research in the Department of Radiology, and Scientific Director of the Small Animal Imaging Lab at the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute in Tampa, FL. He has received numerous local, national, and international awards, including Researcher of the Year-2012 (Moffitt Cancer Center), the Furrow Award for Innovative Teaching (U. Arizona), the Yuhas Award for Radiation Oncology Research (U. Penn), the TEFAF professorship (U. Maastricht), and the Award for Distinguished Basic Scientist of 2009 from the Academy of Molecular Imaging. His research is focused on functional and molecular imaging of cancer, specifically with an emphasis on the use of imaging to inform evolutionary models of carcinogenesis and response to therapy.



Massimo Dominici

Associate professor of Medical Oncology and Head of the Laboratory of Cellular Therapies at University Hospital of Modena, Italy, founder of the University start-up Rigenrand, founder and scientific coordinator of the Mirandola Science & Tecnology Park. Co-founder of the Forum of Italian Researchers on MSC (FIRST), board member of JACIE, WBMT and scientific advisor for the Italian Minister of Health on stem cells. He is the current President of the International Society for Cellular Therapy.



Michael Lisanti

Professor Michael Lisanti is currently the Director of the Manchester Breakthrough Breast Cancer Research Unit and holds the Muriel Edith Rickman Chair of Breast Oncology within the Institute of Cancer Sciences. He is also Professor of Cancer Biology and the new founding Director of the Manchester Centre for Cellular Metabolism (MCCM). Prof. Lisanti holds many prestigious seats. Following his appointment to the Kimmel Cancer Center in 2006, he was selected for the leadership of the Program in Molecular Biology and Genetics of Cancer. In 2009 Prof. Lisanti became the Chair of the Department of Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine at Thomas Jefferson University. He was a member of the Executive Steering Committees of the Kimmel Cancer Center and the Department of Medical Oncology within the Center, and in 2008 was elected a member of the Royal Society of Medicine.



Christian Stock

Associate Professor at Hannover Medical School, Department of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Endocrinology. His research focuses on the role of extracellular matrix proteins and pH-regulating ion transporters in cancer cell biology, particularly melanoma cell motility.



Laure Bindels

Postdoctoral research fellow from the Fond National de la Recherche Scientifique at the Université catholique de Louvain, Belgium, where she is exploring the mechanisms linking the gut microbiota, cancer and associated cachexia and inflammation. She received the ESPEN Research Fellowships for 2015.



Laura Sciacca

Associate professor of Endocrinology and Metabolic Diseases at the University of Catania Medical School, Catania, Italy. Member of the National Council of the Italian Society of Diabetology. Her main scientific fields include basic research on insulin receptor isoforms both in cancer and in diabetes, and clinical research on diabetes in pregnancy.



Elisabeth Maher

Associate professor of internal medicine and neurology and neurotherapeutics at the university of Texas Southwestern, and member of the Harold C. Simmons Cancer Center and the Annette G. Strauss Center for Neuro-Oncology. Prof. Maher holds the Theodore H. Strauss Professorship in Neuro-Oncology. and in the Advanced Imaging Research Center. Prof. Maher focus on the metabolism of glioblastoma cells as a potential new target, and recently have discovered that brain tumors are capable of burning acetate for fuel, providing a new potential target for halting tumor growth.



Paolo Caliceti

Full Professor of Pharmaceutical Technology at the Department of Pharmaceutical and Pharmacological Sciences of the University of Padua, Italy. Scientific research fields are: 1. Nanotechnology, nanomedicine, innovative drug delivery for biotech drugs and anticancer drugs; 2. Therapeutic protein conjugation with soluble polymers (PEGylation); 3. Lipid and polymeric nano-/micro-particles for controlled drug delivery; 4. Polymer bioconjugates for tumor targeting; 5. Gold nanoparticles as drug delivery systems; 6. Stimuli sensitive colloidal systems, liposomes, micelles and polymersomes.



Michael Pollack

Professor in the Department of Oncology at McGill University in Montreal, holding the Alexander-Goldfarb Research Chair. He practices medical oncology at the Jewish General Hospital, and also carries out laboratory and population-based research. He heads the Division of Cancer Prevention at the Department of Oncology at McGill and the Stroll Cancer Prevention Centre at the Jewish General Hospital. His interests includes cancer metabolism and the roles of peptide growth factors and hormones in cancer biology. In 2012, he was awarded the Aisenstadt Award for Academic Achievement by McGill/JGH faculty and the Harold Warwick Prize by the Canadian Cancer Society Research Institute.



Angela Otto

Senior Scientist and University Lecturer (Privatdozent) at the Institute of Medical Engineering (IMETUM) at the Technical University of Munich (TUM), Germany. Since 2001 she has been cooperating with groups developing new technologies monitoring metabolic processes for diagnostic applications. This led her to reset her focus on the metabolism of cancer cells under variable in vitro conditions representing tumor microenvironment, namely acidic pH, hypoxia, and metabolites in various combinations.



Stefano Indraccolo

Stefano Indraccolo is group leader at the Istituto Oncologico Veneto - IRCCS, a comprehensive cancer center in Padua, Italy. In the last ten years, he has contributed to the field of tumor angiogenesis by understanding the mechanisms of angiogenesis-dependent tumor dormancy and uncovering the role of NOTCH signaling in the regulation of tumor dormancy and by investigating the metabolic effects of VEGF blockade in experimental tumors. His lab has recently described a stable modulation of glycolysis in tumors treated with anti-VEGF drugs and is currently investigating the possible mechanisms behind this metabolic shift and possible therapeutic implications of this observation.



Silvia Pastorekova

Head of the Department of Molecular Medicine at the Institute of Virology, Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava, Slovakia. She contributed to identification, molecular and functional characterization of carbonic anhydrase IX (CA IX). Current research of her team focuses on understanding the role of CA IX in adaptation of tumor cells to hypoxia and acidosis, and the biological/clinical significance of the cell-associated and extracellular forms of the CA IX protein in cancer progression. She is a holder of the national award "Crystal Wing" in Medicine and Science.