

Translational Research Cancer Centers Consortium
TRCCC 2024 Annual Meeting

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2024 (DAY 1)

2:00 – 6:00 PM *Registration and Poster Setup*

1:00 – 3:00 PM Spatial Transcriptomics Workshop*

This special pre-conference workshop will feature technical presentations on current spatial transcriptomics platforms and data analysis, research presentations on how to best use this emerging technology, and a discussion on the strengths and considerations of using this technology for your research.

**Full agenda and location for workshop at the end of this document*

3:15 PM Meeting kickoff

Daniel Powell, PhD, Professor, University of Pennsylvania, Outgoing TRCCC President

3:30-4:30 PM Keynote Speaker 1

Robert Ferris, MD, PhD, FACS, Director, UPMC Hillman Cancer Center

“Unexpected changes in the microenvironment of immunotherapy-treated head and neck cancer patients”

4:30-6:30 PM Symposium 1: The Impact of the tumor microenvironment on anti-tumor immunity

Moderators: Dario Vignali, PhD and Heather Gibson, PhD

Kyoung Eun Lee, PhD, Assistant Professor, University of Michigan

“Reprogramming of pancreatic cancer stroma by hypoxia”

Hasan Korkaya, PhD, Co-leader of Tumor Biology, Karmanos Cancer Institute

“Immune regulation of disseminated tumor cells”

Abby Overacre, PhD, Assistant Professor, University of Pittsburgh/UPMC Hillman Cancer Center

“Microbial drivers of immunotherapy response”

Tracy Liu, PhD, Assistant Professor, West Virginia University

“Targeting the tumor microenvironment using innate and adaptive immune cell modulation strategies for therapeutic gain”

Julie Stein Deutsch, MD, Assistant Professor, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine

“H&E-omics: Pathologic response assessment in patients treated with neoadjuvant immunotherapy”

Melanie Rutkowski, PhD, Associate Professor, University of Virginia

“Cancer microbiome and TLR5 signaling in immune therapy”

6:30-7:00 PM Black Diamond Sponsor Presentation—Charlie Garnett-Benson, PhD, Bristol Myers Squibb, LAG-3 Translational Medicine Team Lead

“Translational research in immuno-oncology at BMS: What’s new for the 3rd checkpoint inhibitor?”

7:00– 9:00 PM Welcome Reception – Poster session #1 and begin scavenger hunt with sponsors!

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2024 (DAY 2)

7:00 – 8:30 AM *Breakfast with Vendors*

8:30 – 10:00 AM Concurrent Trainee Sessions 1-6/~10 presentations each

*Each presentation is 5 minutes with 2 minutes of questions

*Breakdown and location of sessions 1A-1F are within the packet for concurrent sessions

10:00 – 10:30 AM *Browse posters and sponsor exhibits*

10:30 – 12:30 PM Symposium 2: Novel targeting of the immune response in cancer

Moderators: Natalie Silver, MD and Thomas Mace, PhD

Adham Bear, MD, PhD, Instructor, University of Pennsylvania

“Immunotherapeutic targeting of mutant KRAS neoantigens”

Andreas Weiland, PhD, Assistant Professor, The Ohio State University

“More than just T cells: adaptive immune responses in HPV+ head and neck cancer”

Liya Ding, PhD, Assistant Professor, Roswell Park

“Harnessing the immune system to improve the efficacy of PARP inhibitors in ovarian cancer”

Wei Li, PhD, Associate Professor, Penn State University

“Neutrophils and Necrosis: The Tango Fueling Glioblastoma Progression”

Juyeun Lee, PhD, Assistant Professor, Cleveland Clinic

“Sex biased T cell exhaustion drives differential immune responses in glioblastoma”

Anthony Rullo, PhD, Associate Professor, McMaster University

“Leveraging covalent approaches for proximity induction in immunotherapy”

12:30-12:50 PM Platinum Sponsor Presentation—Christopher Chuckran, PhD, Immudex

“Sensitive antigen-specific immune cell characterization by flow cytometry and beyond.”

1:00 – 1:45 PM Advocate Lunch

2:00 – 3:30 PM Concurrent Trainee Sessions 7-12/~10 presentations each

*Each presentation is 5 minutes with 2 minutes of questions

*Breakdown and location of sessions 2A-2F are within the packet for concurrent sessions

3:30 – 3:45 PM *Break*

3:45 – 4:30 PM Plenary Speaker 1

Greg Delgoffe, PhD, University of Pittsburgh/UPMC Hillman Cancer Center

“Leveraging immunometabolism to improve cancer immunity”

4:30 – 5:30 PM Free time

5.30 – 9:00 PM Dinner and Poster Session #2

Even numbered posters from 6:00 – 7:00, Odd numbered posters from 7:00 – 8:00

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2024 (DAY 3)

7:30 – 8:45 AM Breakfast

8:45 – 9:30 AM Plenary Speaker 2

Janis Taube, MD, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine

“Next Generation pathology: predicting and evaluating Response to PD-1/L1 checkpoint blockade”

9:30 – 10:00 AM Break and check out of rooms

10:00 – 11:00 AM SITC Sponsored Session on Gender in Science and Academia

Tullia C. Bruno, PhD, Chair, UPMC Women’s Initiatives Taskforce, SITC WIN Faculty

Ellen Ormond, PhD, SITC-associated WIN Faculty

This session will focus on advancements in gender balance in academia and training opportunities for men and women. Further, there will be a presentation on practical strategies for increasing emotional wellness in academia, followed by an interactive panel discussion which will explore the perspectives of women and men as they work to live meaningful personal and professional lives.

Panel members: Drs. Tullia Bruno (UPMC/Pitt), Tony Cillo (UPMC/Pitt), and Elizabeth Repasky (Roswell)

11:00 – 12:30 PM SITC sponsored postdoc symposium

Moderators: Wei-Zen Wei, PhD and Emilio Pistilli, PhD

Renee Anderko, PhD, UPMC Hillman Cancer Center, University of Pittsburgh

Autophagy inhibition enhances maturation and activity of tertiary lymphoid structures in pancreatic cancer patients

Kunho Chung, PhD, Cleveland Clinic Cancer Center

Signaling role of viral protein motif and its application in CAR T cell therapy

Priyanka Rana, PhD, Case Comprehensive Cancer Center

Immunoproteasome activation expands the MHC class I antigenic landscape, unmasks neoantigen presentation, and reduces tumor growth

Saeed Daneshmandi, PhD, Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

Exportin 1 shapes tumor myeloid derived suppressor cell phenotypes and function

*Dr. Tyler Miller was selected but unavailable for the symposium. He will present Thursday in a short talk.

12:30-12:50 PM Platinum Sponsor Presentation—Jacob Norley, M.Sc., Beckman Coulter

“High Parameter Data Analysis—I’m a Biologist, not a Programmer!”

1:00 – 2:00 PM Keynote Speaker 2

*Sit down lunch will be served during the presentation

Ana Anderson, PhD, Harvard University

“Understanding the role of TCF1 in immunotherapy response”

2:00 PM Final Announcements, AAI and SITC-sponsored awards, close meeting

FULL AGENDA:

SPATIAL TRANSCRIPTOMICS WORKSHOP

**Lunch during the workshop is sponsored by Nanostring*

Location: Grand Ballroom

1:00-2:00 PM Goals and drawbacks of sequencing based vs. in situ based spatial transcriptomics

Amanda Poholek, PhD, Director, Health Sciences Sequencing Core, UPMC Children's

Tullia Bruno, PhD, Cytometry Facility, UPMC Hillman Cancer Center

2:00-2:30 PM Computational solutions for spatial transcriptomics: from data to biological insight

Riyue Bao, PhD, Director of Bioinformatics, UPMC Hillman Cancer Center

2:30-2:45 PM Trainee short talk 1

Arun Das, PhD, Postdoctoral Associate, UPMC Hillman Cancer Center

Revealing cellular signatures and pathological trajectories of fatal SARS-CoV-2 lung infection using data-driven single cell spatial transcriptomics analysis

2:45-3:00 PM Trainee short talk 2

Ian MacFawn, PhD, Postdoctoral Associate, UPMC Hillman Cancer Center, University of Pittsburgh

Applying spatial transcriptomics to reveal the biology of tertiary lymphoid structures in ovarian cancer