

Persister Cells: from Bacteria to Cancer Programme

Lyon, France

18 - 20 March 2025



Scientific Programme

Tuesday 18th March 2025

Listed times are in Central European Time (CET)

- 11:30 REGISTRATION & WELCOME LUNCH
- 13:00 CONFERENCE WELCOME
- 13:10 PERSISTERS: WHERE ARE WE NOW... AND WHERE ARE WE GOING?
Is it really possible to give a definition of persister cells? Our Scientific Programme Committee comes together to discuss the aims of the meeting and the key questions in the field.
- SESSION 1: NOVEL METHODOLOGIES FOR STUDYING PERSISTER CELLS
- 13:55 **Jan Michiels**
VIB-KU Leuven Center for Microbiology, Belgium
"How bacteria survive antibiotics: genotypic landscape of persistence and the evolution of persistence and resistance"
Q&A: 14:15 - 14:25
- 14:25 **Proffered Paper 1**
Q&A: 14:35 - 14:40
- 14:40 EXHIBITOR INTRODUCTIONS
- 14:50 COFFEE BREAK, EXHIBITION & SOLO TRAVELLER MEET-UP
- 15:20 **Yaara Oren**
Tel Aviv University, Israel
Q&A: 15:40 - 15:50
- 15:50 **Direna Alonso-Curbelo**
IRB Barcelona, Spain
Q&A: 16:10 - 16:20
- 16:20 POSTER SPOTLIGHTS 1
- 16:30 INDUSTRY SYMPOSIUM
- 17:00 **Cedric Blanpain**
Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium
Q&A: 17:20 - 17:30
- 17:30 WELCOME RECEPTION
- 18:15 POSTER DISCUSSION SESSION 1

Wednesday 19th March 2025

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- 08:15 EARLY POSTER VIEWING
- 08:45 INDUSTRY SPOTLIGHT
- SESSION 2: DECIPHERING THE PERSISTER CODE: MOLECULAR MECHANISMS
- 09:00 **Susan Rosenberg**
Baylor College of Medicine, USA
"Accelerated Evolution in Persisters via Stress-induced Mutability"
Q&A: 09:20 - 09:30
- 09:30 **Proffered Paper 2**
Q&A: 09:40 - 09:45
- 09:45 **Mariangela Russo**
University of Torino, Italy
Q&A: 10:05 - 10:15
- 10:15 **Chris Marine**
VIB - KU Leuven Center for Cancer Biology, Belgium
Q&A: 10:35 - 10:45
- 10:45 COFFEE BREAK & EXHIBITION
- 11:15 **Aaron Hata**
Massachusetts General Hospital, USA
"Understanding tumor cell adaptation and evolution in lung cancers treated with targeted therapies"
Q&A: 11:35 - 11:45
- 11:45 **Proffered Paper 3**
Q&A: 11:55 - 12:00
- 12:00 POSTER SPOTLIGHTS 2
- 12:10 INDUSTRY SYMPOSIUM
- 12:40 LUNCH
- 13:40 POSTER DISCUSSION SESSION 2
- SESSION 3: EMERGING VULNERABILITIES: TARGETING PERSISTER CELLS
- 15:10 **Ultan McDermot**
AstraZeneca, UK
Q&A: 15:30 - 15:40
- 15:40 **Proffered Paper 4**
Q&A: 15:50 - 15:55
- 15:55 **Proffered Paper 5**
Q&A: 16:05 - 16:10
- 16:10 **Eduard Batlle**
IRB Barcelona, Spain
Q&A: 16:30 - 16:40

- 16:40 COFFEE BREAK & EXHIBITION
- 17:10 **Johannes Zuber**
IMP - Institute of Molecular Pathology, Austria
"Unveiling persister cell vulnerabilities through in-vivo CRISPR screens"
Q&A: 17:30 - 17:40
- 17:40 **René Bernards**
Netherlands Cancer Institute, Netherlands
"Vulnerabilities of drug tolerant persister cells identified through functional genetics"
Q&A: 18:00 - 18:10
- 18:10 EARLY CAREER ADVICE: MANAGING THE WORK LIFE BALANCE
- 19:30 CONFERENCE DINNER

Thursday 20th March 2025

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- 08:15 EARLY POSTER VIEWING
- 08:45 INDUSTRY SPOTLIGHT
- SESSION 4: PERSISTER CELLS IN THE CLINIC
- 09:00 **Wendy Mok**
UConn Health, USA
"Targeting Metabolism and Defenses to Eradicate Bacterial Persisters"
Q&A: 09:20 - 09:30
- 09:30 **Shruti Bhatt**
National University of Singapore, Singapore
"Clonal Evolution of Drug-Tolerant Leukemia Cells: Implications for Treatment Resistance"
Q&A: 09:50 - 10:00
- 10:00 **Proffered Paper 6**
Q&A: 10:10 - 10:15
- 10:15 COFFEE BREAK & EXHIBITION
- 10:45 **Caroline Robert**
Gustave Roussy, France
Q&A: 11:05 - 11:15
- 11:15 **Trever Bivona**
UCSF, USA
Q&A: 11:35 - 11:45
- 11:45 SUMMARY & CLOSE
- 12:00 DEPART