

DAY 1

16. 10. 2026

MORNING

08:30



Registration

Front desk open

10:00



Opening Remarks

Welcome by: Dirk STRUNK

10:05 - 11:20 (75 min)



Session 1

Topic: NEURAL STEM CELLS

Chairs: Christopher ESK, Nicole AMBERG

Main: Christopher ESK (UIBK): "Neural progenitors

30' adjust their cell cycle and intercellular communication to ensure normal brain development"

Talk 2: Lisa GABLER-PAMER (MUW): "Hijacked

15' developmental crosstalk: cell-cell communication networks in SHH-Medulloblastoma

Talk 3: Lidija MILOJKOVIC (IMBA): "Inhibition of

15' PPERK1/2 nuclear function is crucial for the maintenance of adult neural stem cell quiescence"

Talk 4: Ahmad SALTI (JKU Linz): "Multi-omic profiling

15' of PRPF31-mutated retinal organoids reveals early gliosis and photoreceptor degeneration

11:30 - 12:30



Keynote Lecture 1

Speaker: Ana MARTIN-VILLALBA (DKFZ)

Title: "Decoding Stemness: How the methylome defines neural stem cell identity"

12:30 - 14:00 (90 min)



Lunch

Networking

13:00 - 13:45 (45 min)



General Assembly & Elections

Chaired by: Dirk STRUNK

AFTERNOON

14:00 - 15:15 (75 min)



Session 2

Topic: STEM CELL FATE

Chairs: Georg BUSSLINGER, Martin LEEB

Main: Helmuth GEHART (ETH Zürich): "Mapping

30' metastatic co-evolution – malignant plasticity in tumor and TME"

Talk 2: Michael OBERHUEMER (MPL): "Mapping

15' genetic dependencies in human naive pluripotency"

Talk 3: Mattia PITASI (MPL): "Mapping the synergism

15' network in the exit from naive pluripotency"

Talk 4: Martin WOLF (PMU): "Heparin augments

15' extracellular vesicle yield by inhibiting reuptake in donor cells during cell propagation"

15:15 - 15:45



Coffee Break

Networking

15:45 - 17:00 (75 min)



Session 3

Topic: PHENOTYPE & DIFFERENTIATION

Chairs: Kristina STAPORNWONGKUL, Dirk STRUNK

Main: Boryana PETROVA (MUW): "Quantifying

45' Metabolic Phenotypes from Cells to Complex Systems"

Talk 2: Sigmar STRICKER (KLU): "A novel

15' aorta-associated developmental source of brown adipose tissue"

Talk 3: Sarah HOCHMANN (PMU): "Cell origin shapes

15' skeletal stem cell potential"

17:00 - 18:00 (60 min)



Poster Viewing

Session open for discussion

18:00 - 22:00



Magic Social Event

Dinner / Networking reception

DAY 2

17. 10. 2026

MORNING

09:00



Light Breakfast

09:30 - 10:15 (45 min)



Round Table

Topic: THE FUTURE OF STEM CELL RESEARCH

Moderator: Nicole AMBERG

Established (x3): Elly TANAKA, Jürgen KNOBLICH, Markus HENGSTSCHLÄGER

Young experts (x3): Kristina STAPORNWONGKUL, Anne MILLER, Christopher ESK

Students (x3): Katharina WIENER, Sebastian BÖHM, +1 tbd

10:15 - 10:45



Coffee Break

Networking

10:45 - 11:45



Keynote Lecture 2

Speaker: WOLFRAM-HUBERTUS ZIMMERMANN

Title: "Tissue engineered heart repair from bench to bedside"

12:30 - 13:30



Lunch Break

Networking

AFTERNOON

13:30 - 15:00 (90 min)



Session 4

Topic: DATA SCIENCE

Chairs: Xinyi ZHANG, Christoph BOCK

Main: Xinyi ZHANG (AITHYRA): tbd!

30'

Talk 2: Luis MONTANO (MUW): "Directing stem cell differentiation by chromatin state approximation"

Talk 3: Rodolphe POUPARDIN (PMU): EV-Zone:

15' AI-powered open tools for EV-checklist transparent reporting and literature mining in extracellular vesicle research"

Talk 4: Itxasne ANTUNEZ (PMU): "Single-cell profiling identifies inflammatory kinase drivers of an osteoarthritis-like chondrocyte phenotype"

15:00 - 16:00 (60 min)



Session 5

Topic: STEM CELLS & CANCER

Chairs: Florian HALBRITTER, Sasha MENDJAN

Main: Florian HALBRITTER (CCRI): "Stem cell models for pediatric cancers"

Talk 2: Manon RESSAIRE (CCRI): "3D modelling of fusion-driven sarcomagenesis"

Talk 3: Martha ZYLKA (CCRI): "Patient-derived organoid model of lung colonization reveals epithelial niche reprogramming by infiltrating bone sarcoma cells"

16:00 - 16:30



Poster Awards & Farewell

Closing remarks by: Dirk Strunk

POSTERS

BRAIN

1. Nicole AMBERG (MUW): "Human brainstem organoids with pontine and medullary identity recapitulate the tempo and cell-type diversity of brainstem development in vitro"
2. Sebastian BÖHM (IMBA): "Towards Axolotl pluripotency: Optimizing reprogramming and culture conditions for adult neural stem cells"
3. Sara CAMPAGNOL (UIBK): "Stem cell-based disease modeling of calcium channelopathies using iPSC-derived 2D and 3D neural models"
4. Osvaldo A. MIRANDA ROMERO (ISTA): "Temporal uncoupling of radial glia lineage progression in cortical organoids"
5. Fabrizia PIPICELLI (ISTA): "Role of cell lineage in generating cell-type diversity in the developing neocortex"
6. Irene VARELA-MARTINEZ (ISTA): "Early fate diversification of radial glial progenitors during corticogenesis"
7. Ana VILLALBA REQUENA (ISTA): "Rptor/m TORC1 globally prevents cortical microcephaly and cell-autonomously promotes postnatal neuron survival in a cell type"

CANCER

1. Hana BERNHARDOVA (CCRI): "When fusion oncogenes meet the right cell: defining the developmental origins of Ewing sarcoma"
2. Lara DRAGOSLAVIC (CCRI): "Engineering cell-type-specific reporters for the human sympathoadrenal lineage"
3. Thomas ECKHARDT (CCRI): "Modelling Neuroblastoma initiation in human sympathoadrenal lineage organoids"
4. Lea ERJAVC (MUW): "NTRK3 as a mediator of neuronal differentiation in sonic hedgehog pathway-activated Medulloblastoma"
5. Johanna HALBERTSCHLAGER (CCRI): "Patient-derived iPSCs as an in vitro model for Wilms Tumor predisposition"
6. Timur KHUSYAINOV (MUW): "HPSC-derived skin organoids as a human model of melanoma progression"
7. Beate KRATSCHMANN (CCRI): "Dissecting pediatric cancer initiation mechanisms driven by germline mutations"
8. Katharina WIENER (CCRI): "Kidney organoid modelling of Wilms Tumor development"

STROMAL CELLS

1. Isabella FISCHER (IMC Krems): "Investigating the impact of TLR10 overexpression in ASC/TER1 cells under 2D and 3D conditions"
2. Vasileios GERAKOPOULOS (IMBA): "Mechanisms of early human limb development"
3. Michelle HUTH (MPL): "Gene cooperativity in the exit from naive pluripotency"
4. Christina KARNER (MUG): "Patient-matched tumour and iPSC models bridge anti-cancer efficacy and individual toxicity assessment"
5. Katarina LAZIC (PMU): "Maintenance of sirolimus levels after allogeneic stem cell transplantation in adults: a retrospective analysis of influencing factors"
6. Marjolein VAN WOLFSWINKEL (IMBA): "PEA15-mediated PPERK1/2 nuclear exclusion: a potential mechanism for maintaining neural stem cell quiescence"
7. Moritz BECKER (MPL): "A genome-wide CRISPR screen identifies regulators of human naive-to-formative pluripotency progression"

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