



37th Pezcoller Symposium

Trento, June 22–23, 2026

CANCER EVOLUTIONARY TRAJECTORIES

Emerging Principles and Therapeutic Implications

Program

“

The conversion of a normal cell to a malignant cell is the result of clonal evolution occurring over a timescale measured in years, in contrast to mammalian evolution, which occurs over millennia. The selection pressures arising from host factors (e.g. the immune system), as well as therapeutics, profoundly influence cancer evolution, which in turn influences clinical outcomes. Cancer evolution is accelerated, at least partly, by the clonal diversity created by intratumoral genetic and epigenic heterogeneity.

The 2026 Pezcoller Symposium will bring together experts who have used cutting edge technologies to measure **cancer evolution** and **tumor heterogeneity** and its biological consequences, as well as investigators who have made significant advances in our understanding of how cancer evolution is influenced by **germline genetics** and **environmental factors**.

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7:45 - **REGISTRATION**

8:30 - **OPENING REMARKS**, Enzo Galligioni

8:40 - **FOCUS & GOALS**, William G. Kaelin

8:50 - 9:30 | **CHARLES SWANTON**, *David Livingston Keynote Lecture*

The Francis Crick Institute

Targeting Environmental and Ageing-Induced Myeloid Mayhem Preventing Lung Cancer and Age-Related Pathologies?

9:30 - 9:45 Discussion

SESSION 1
G. Draetta



9:45 - **COFFEE BREAK**

10:15 - 10:40 | **COLINDA SCHEELE**

VIB-KU Leuven Center for Cancer Biology

Hormone-driven tissue remodeling as driver for breast tumor initiation?

10:40 - 10:55 Discussion

10:55 - 11:20 | **SHERENE LOI**

Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre

Rethinking immune responses in breast cancer

11:20 - 11:35 Discussion

11:35 - 12:00 | **KORNELIA POLYAK**

Dana Farber Cancer Institute; Harvard University

Drivers of breast tumor evolution

12:00 - 12:15 Discussion

SESSION 2
B. A. Schulman



12:15 - **LUNCH BREAK**

13:05 - **POSTER SESSION & NETWORKING**



13:55 - **EACR-AACR-The Mark Foundation Best Abstract Prizes and Pezcoller-Begnudelli Award**

14:00 - 14:25 | **DAN-AVI LANDAU**

Weill Cornell Medicine; New York Genome Center

Charting functional and temporal aspects of human somatic evolution

14:25 - 14:40 Discussion

14:40 - 15:05 | **JONATHAN WEISSMAN**

Whitehead Institute-MIT; Howard Hughes Medical Institute

High resolution mapping of tumor evolution in vivo with a high resolution, spatially aware lineage tracer

15:05 - 15:20 Discussion

SESSION 3
C. Ambrogio



15:20 - **COOKIE BREAK**

15:40 - 16:05 | **ANDREA SOTTORIVA**

Human Technopole

Measuring and predicting cancer evolution in patients and model systems

16:05 - 16:20 Discussion

16:20 - 16:45 | **FRANZISKA MICHOR**

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute; Harvard University

Cancer evolution in the age of AI

16:45 - 17:00 Discussion

SESSION 4
F. Demichellis

17:00 - 17:45 **CAREER DEVELOPMENT PANEL DISCUSSION**, William G. Kaelin

19:30 - **SOCIAL DINNER**

8:30 - 9:10 | **HANS CLEVERS**, *Enrico Mihich Keynote Lecture*

Utrecht University

Modeling human disease in organoids: 3D and 2D

9:10 - 9:25 Discussion

9:25 - 9:50 | **KATHLEEN BURNS**

Dana Farber Cancer Institute; Harvard University

Our mobile genome on three timescales

9:50 - 10:05 Discussion

10:05 - 10:30 | **BEATRICE BODEGA**

National Institute of Molecular Genetics (INGM)

From Jumping Genes to RNA Therapeutics: Retrotransposons in the Tumor Microenvironment

10:30 - 10:45 Discussion

SESSION 1
A. Bardelli



10:45 - **COFFEE BREAK**

11:15 - 11:40 | **SARAH-MARIA FENDT**

VIB-KU Leuven Center for Cancer Biology

Metabolic rewiring driving metastasis formation

11:40 - 11:55 Discussion

11:55 - 12:20 | **ANDREA BALLABIO**

Telethon Institute of Genetics and Medicine (TIGEM); University of Naples "Federico II"

The TFE3-mTORC1 axis in tumorigenesis

12:20 - 12:35 Discussion

SESSION 2
G. Del Sal



12:35 - **LUNCH BREAK**

13:25 - **POSTER SESSION & NETWORKING**



14:15 - **BEST POSTERS LECTURES**, Massimo Loda

15:00 - 15:25 | **SAMRA TURAJLIC**

The Francis Crick Institute

Cell of Origin as a Constraint on Cancer Evolution: Lessons from VHL Disease

15:25 - 15:40 Discussion

SESSION 3
C. Bonini



15:40 - **COOKIE BREAK**

16:00 - 16:25 | **ANDREA VENTURA**

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York

Modeling the evolution of focal oncogene amplifications in cells and in mice

16:25 - 16:40 Discussion

16:40 - 17:05 | **DANIEL SCHRAMEK**

Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum Research Institute; Mount Sinai Hospital; University of Toronto

Decoding Aneuploidies - using CRISPR technologies in mice to unravel novel cancer driver genes in recurrent CNA

17:05 - 17:20 Discussion

SESSION 4
S. Piccolo

17:20 - **EMBO POSTER PRIZE**

17:25 - **CLOSING REMARKS**, William G. Kaelin and Enzo Galligioni



The Pezcoller
Foundation

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ORGANISERS & MODERATORS

William G. Kaelin, MD - *Chairman*

Chiara Ambrogio, PhD

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