

Scientific Program for the 5th FORTRESS meeting

13th & 14th of February 2025 in Essen, Germany

at

OKTOGON

Gelsenkirchener Str. 181, 45309 Essen
world heritage industrial site Zeche Zollverein

Organizing committee

Sebastian Bauer / Uta Dirksen
Patrick Schöffski / Agnieszka Wozniak

Meeting Coordinator

Julia Ketzner

Day 1

Thursday, Feb 13th 2025

08:30 Registration and coffee

10:00 Session 0 – Welcome address and introduction to formats and program

Sebastian Bauer / Uta Dirksen / Patrick Schöffski / Agnieszka Wozniak

10:15 Session 1 – FORTRESS BreakOuts

Matchmaker: Sebastian Bauer

10:15	BO 1	Single cell RNA sequencing of sarcomas <i>Best practices in experimental protocol design</i> Barbara Betz / Johanna Wagner
10:20	BO 2	Translational research on immunotherapy-treated patients <i>Strategies to promote translation by international collaboration</i> Noel de Miranda / Alessandra Merlini
10:25	BO 3	Tackling tumor heterogeneity and chemoresistance <i>in Ewing sarcoma and fusion-positive RMS</i> Thomas Grünewald
10:30	BO 4	The novel fusions club Karoly Szuhai
10:35	BO 5	Supermodels in 3D Lore de Cock / Sanne Venneker
10:40	BO 6	HUSARC.org-Initiative Susanne Grunewald / Agnieszka Wozniak / Sebastian Bauer
10:45	BO7	Rare cancers harboring EWSR1 fusions – a novel initiative George Demetri
10:50		Recap of previous BOs and ongoing collaborations Clear cell sarcomas / FORTRESS-Experiment / GISTT-Summit / Solitary fibrous tumors,

11:00 Session 2 – When the structure crumbles - complex karyotype sarcomas

Matchmakers: Priya Chudasama & Benjamin Nacev - Coordinator: Agnieszka Wozniak

FORTRESS spotlight

Priya Chudasama Chromosomal instability – cellular history or ongoing event?

11:10	Josephine Dermawan	Defining cellular lineage in leiomyosarcoma subtypes - relevance for drug translation?
11:25	Joanna Przybyl	Intra-tumoral heterogeneity of benign smooth muscle tumors - wolf in a sheep-skin?
11:40	Alessandra Merlini	Wholesome characterization of an immunocompetent leiomyosarcoma mouse model
11:55	Simon Linder	Non-coding sequences - finding hidden (target) gems in complex sarcoma genomes
PP	Jef Baelen	Optical genome mapping for comprehensive cytogenetic analysis of sarcomas
PP	Nicole Solimini	Update from the David Liposarcoma Research Initiative

12:15 Coffee break

12:30 Session 3 – The toughest nuts to crack

Matchmakers: Judith Boveé / Livia Garzia – Coordinator: Patrick Schöffski

12:30	Anna Czarnecka	Immune and molecular profiling of chondrosarcoma
12:45	Sanne Venneker	Lessons learned from modelling the IDH mutation in chondrosarcoma
13:00	Zeynep Erdem	Genomic profiling of chordomas: discovering biomarkers for prognosis & treatment
13:15	Stefan Fröhling	Building a multidisciplinary chordoma research program
PP	Sam Umbaugh	Targeting chordoma with TBXT-directed DARPins
PP	Sara Cardoso	CHROME: predicting chondrosarcoma risk outcome from methylation

13:35 Lunch break

14:30 BreakOuts A

BO 1	Single cell RNA sequencing of sarcomas	gallery room A
BO 2	Transl. research on immunotherapy-treated patients	gallery room B
BO 3	Tackling tumorheterogeneity and chemoresistance	gallery room C
BO 7	Rare cancers harboring EWSR1 fusions – a novel initiative	main room

15:30 POSTER Session – with coffee & pastries

16:30 Session 4 - Omics and chemo - two worlds that gotta meet

Matchmakers: Paul Huang / Silvia Stacchiotti - Coordinator: Sebastian Bauer

FORTRESS spotlight

Sebastian Bauer Biomarker-based drugs as chemopartners – the look beyond our horizon

16:40	Benjamin Nacev	Sarcoma epigenomics: the time is now - to translate into therapeutic concepts
16:55	Lorenzo D'Ambrosio	TOMAS 2 - Combination of chemotherapy and PARP inhibitors in advanced sarcomas
17:10	Shireen Ganapathi	Investigating the chromatin damaging properties of anthracyclines in Ewing sarcoma

17:25 Science Speed dating – with THE Toastmaster

18:15 End of day 1

We are offering a bus transfer service to the evening event

19:00 Evening event – Food, Drinks, Talk... Karaoke?

Hudson's Bar & Dining - Girardet Straße 2 45131 Essen

Day 2

Friday, Feb 14th 2025

08:30 We are ready for you ...and so is the coffee

09:00 Session 5 – (Con)fusions in sarcomas - turning mechanisms into treatments

Matchmakers: Thomas Grünewald / Charles Keller - Coordinator: Uta Dirksen

09:00	Ana Banito	PRC1 complexes fine-tune SS18-SSX oncogenic activity to sustain synovial sarcoma
09:15	Shunya Ohmura	Targeting mitotic checkpoint induces SASP-like features in Ewing sarcoma
09:30	Maximilian Kerkhoff	New cell lines expanding the diversity of Ewing sarcoma models
09:45	Alina Teuber	Targeting protein-protein interactions of sarcoma oncoproteins
10:00	Julien Vibert	Novel genes in fusion-driven sarcomas
PP	Constance Pirson	Impact of SRF transcription factor fusions in pediatric tumors
PP	Anna Kuntze	What makes the difference between genotype and phenotype in synovial sarcoma?

10:20 BreakOuts Round 2

BO 4	The novel fusions club	gallery room A
BO 5	Supermodels in 3D	gallery room B
BO 6	HUSARC.org-Initiative	gallery room C

11:20 POSTER Session – with coffee & breakfast foods

FORTRESS Posterwalk - Supermodels on the catwalk

12:15 Session 6 – FORTRESS – Still immune to therapy?

Matchmakers: Johanna Falkenhorst / Antoine Italiano – Coordinator: Sebastian Bauer

FORTRESS spotlight

Antoine Italiano CONDOR – Take aways from the Immune-Sarcoma meeting

12:25	Alessandra Merlini	Anti B7-H3 CAR-Killer lymphocytes against chemoresistant sarcomas
12:40	Yvonne Versleijen-Jonkers	Predicting the response of secondary angiosarcomas to cemiplimab
12:55	Tom Wei-Wu Chen	How to modulate the MHC complex of sarcoma cell lines
13:10	Noel de Miranda	From carcinomas to sarcomas: bridging the immunology gap
PP	Carine Dufau	Discovery of sarcoma-reactive T cells and predictive biomarkers in clinical samples

13:30 Lunch break

14:15 Session 7 – When being single is great on Valentine´s day

Matchmakers: Poul Sorensen & Isabelle Vanden Bempt - Coordinator: Agnieszka Wozniak

14:15	Sarah Watson	From sc-RNA seq to a clinical rationale - TGFB in dedifferentiated liposarcomas
14:30	Anand Patel	Beyond single-cell atlasing: identifying diversity regulators in rhabdomyosarcomas
14:45	Nishalan Pillay	Clear sight in clear cells? Ongoing lessons from single cell analyses

15:05 Session 8 – FORTRESS' novel targets and experimental therapeutics

Matchmakers: Michael C. Heinrich / Clémence Hernon – Coordinator: Patrick Schöffski

15:05	Michael C. Heinrich	The next generation of super inhibitors in GIST - in vitro validation of IDRX42
15:20	Torsten Nielsen	CBL mutations in tenosynovial giant cell tumor
15:35	Harri Sitho	Healing with glue - targeting "sleeping" fusions in soft tissue sarcomas
15:50	Rainer Hamacher	Theranostics in sarcomas - lessons from FAPi and how to capitalize on that
16:05	Poul Sorensen	Targeting the surfaceome in high-risk childhood bone cancers

16:20 Coffee break

16:40 BreakOuts A reports

16:55 BreakOuts B reports

17:10 Session 9 - Looking around the tumor! - TME, the uncharted therapeutic territory

Matchmakers: Matt van de Rijn & Zoë Walters - Coordinator: Uta Dirksen

17:10	Leonardo Meza-Zepeda	GIST cells are not alone - insights from spatial transcriptomics
17:25	Johanna Wagner	Sarcoma eco-systems - the sky is the technological limit
17:40	Siddh van Oost	Myxofibrosarcoma and UPS – are immune phenotypes any helpful?

17:55 Closing resume and Announcement FORTRESS2026 Leuven, Belgium

Sebastian Bauer / Uta Dirksen / Patrick Schöffski / Agnieszka Wozniak

18:10 End of day 2

GIST – Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumors
UPS - Undifferentiated pleomorphic sarcoma
RMS – Rhabdomyosarcoma

PP – Powerpitch - 100sec short pitch of poster presentations