The 3rd Tsukuba Kyoso-no-Ba Conference @SakuLab

Exploring the Frontiers of Cancer Research: Bridging Academia and Pharma

Date/Time	January 28, 2025, 16:00 – 18:00 (tentative until 20:00) JST / 7:00 – 9:00 GMT
Venue	Astellas Pharma Inc, Tsukuba Research Center
	Meeting Rooms: Session 1: Auditorium (Building A, 1st Floor) Session 2: Cafeteria (Building A, 2nd Floor)
Participation Fee	Free
Co-hosts	Eisai, Nippon Shinyaku, Ono Pharmaceutical, Taiho Pharmaceutical, University of Tsukuba Kyoso-no-Ba, Astellas (host)
Support	Tsukuba Life Science Promotion Association (TLSK)

＜Draft Agenda＞

Time (JST)	Time (GMT)	Content	Speaker (Titles omitted)
Session 1: Conference			
16:00-16:05	7:00-7:05	Opening remarks	Hiroyuki Nishiyama, University of Tsukuba
16:05-16:35	7:05-7:35	Oxford - 1: "Drivers and Effectors of Phenotype-Switching in Cancer"	Colin Goding, University of Oxford
16:35-17:05	7:35-8:05	Oxford - 2: "Advanced Human Tissue Models for Target Discovery and Validation in Myeloid Malignancies"	Bethan Psaila, University of Oxford
17:05-17:20	8:05-8:20	Pharmaceutical Company - 1: "Drug Discovery at the iLab Utilizing Spatial Omics"	Shinsuke Nakao, Astellas
17:20-17:35	8:20-8:35	Pharmaceutical Company - 2: "TBD"	Isao Miyazaki, Taiho Pharmaceutical
17:35-17:55	8:35-8:55	Panel Discussion: Frontiers of Cancer Research -Bridging Academia and Pharma-	<Panelists> Colin Goding (Oxford) Yu Kato (Eisai) Shinsuke Nakao (Astellas) Isao Miyazaki (Taiho) <Facilitator> Hiroyuki Nishiyama (Tsukuba) Akihiko Yamamoto (Eisai)
17:55-18:00	8:55-9:00	Closing remarks	Taro Masunaga, Astellas
Session 2: Networking			
18:30-20:00	-		

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Colin Goding

PROFESSOR OF ONCOLOGY

CONTACT INFORMATION

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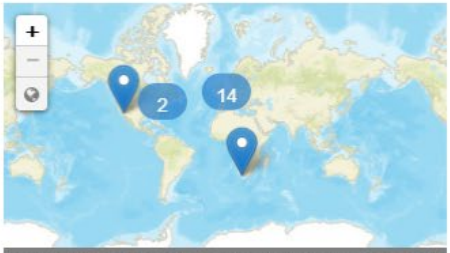
COLLABORATIONS



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Lionel Larue
Institute Curie, France

Eirkur Steingrimsson
University of Iceland, Iceland

Luisa Lanfrancone
Euorpean Instute of Oncology, Milan, Italy

Dr Irwin Davidson
IGBMC, France

I completed a PhD in virology at the National Institute for Medical Research, London, UK. I then did postdoctoral work in Pierre Chambon's lab in Strasbourg, France, where I developed an interest in transcription regulation before taking up a position at the Marie Curie Research Institute, Oxted, UK, to continue working on gene regulation, both in *S. cerevisiae*, as well as in melanocytes and melanoma. In 2008, I moved to the Ludwig Institute, where I continue to examine the role of signalling and transcription in melanoma biology, with the aim of developing novel and anti-cancer therapies that take tumour phenotypic heterogeneity into account.

Using melanoma as a model, we established the key role of the Microphthalmia-associated transcription factor (MITF) in microenvironment-driven phenotype-switching in melanoma biology: MITF-low cells are drug-resistant, slow-cycling, tumour-initiating and invasive, while MITF expression suppresses invasiveness and promotes either proliferation or differentiation. Understanding how MITF is regulated, both transcriptionally and post-translationally, and how it integrates microenvironmental signals to determine melanoma phenotype is a key aim. More broadly, we are interested in how and why invasiveness is imposed and stem cells generated in melanoma, and how similar phenotypic states are produced in non-melanoma cancers.

To explain cancer progression we recently introduced the concept of starvation and pseudo-starvation to explain why cancer cells become invasive.

Our research is therefore aimed at understanding:

- The drivers of phenotype-switching and senescence
- The role of starvation and pseudo-starvation in cancer progression
- The relationship between invasiveness and tumour initiation
- The molecular mechanisms underpinning dormancy
- The role of MITF-related factors in non-melanoma cancers

KEY PUBLICATIONS

Starvation and pseudo-starvation as drivers of cancer metastasis through translation reprogramming

Journal article

GODING C. and Garcia-Jimenez C., (2018), Cell Metabolism

BRN2 suppresses apoptosis, reprograms DNA damage repair and is associated with a high somatic mutation burden in melanoma

Journal article

GODING C. et al, (2019), Genes and Development

Targeting MC1R depalmitoylation to prevent melanomagenesis in redheads

Journal article

GODING COLIN. and Chen S., (2019), Nature Communications

A TFEB nuclear export signal integrates amino acid supply and glucose availability

Journal article

Li L. et al, (2018), Nature Communications

Translation reprogramming is an evolutionarily conserved driver of phenotypic plasticity and therapeutic resistance in melanoma

Journal article

Goding C. et al, (2016), Genes and Development

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

TPC1 regulates melanoma tumourigenesis via mTORC1 and TFEB.

Journal article

Jin X. et al, (2024), Heliyon, 10

The Lipid Droplet Protein DHRS3 Is a Regulator of Melanoma Cell State.

Journal article

Johns E. et al, (2024), Pigment Cell Melanoma Res

https://www.rdm.ox.ac.uk/people/bethan-psaila

Bethan Psaila

MA; MBBS; MRCP; FRCPath; PhD

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF HAEMATOLOGY

- Cancer Research UK Senior Fellow

Clinician Scientist and Group Leader, MRC Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine and Oxford Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research

Our research focuses on four key areas: (1) Dissecting the interactions between blood stem cells, megakaryocytes and the stroma in normal haematopoiesis and blood malignancies; (2) Development and application of human bone marrow organoids to study normal and malignant haematopoiesis and validate targets in the relevant tissue microenvironment; (3) Developing novel strategies to selectively target cancer stem cells and pathological megakaryocytes in myelofibrosis, a severe bone marrow malignancy; (4) Understanding our recent discovery that platelets contain a repertoire of DNA fragments sequestered from cell free DNA, and confirming clinical utility for cancer detection and for pre-natal diagnosis.

In the clinic, I care for patients with myeloproliferative neoplasms, leading a small portfolio of clinical trials with a focus on immunotherapies am Deputy Chair of the National Cancer Research (NCRI) Haematology-Oncology MPN Subgroup and actively contribute to local and national treatment guidelines, patient forums and priority setting workshop.

I trained at Clare College, Cambridge, Imperial College London/The Hammersmith Hospital, Cornell, New York, and the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda USA.

I am also a Senior Fellow of New College, Oxford, recruiting and overseeing clinical training of ~20-30 medical students per year.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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RESEARCH GROUPS

Psaila Group: The tumour microenvironment in blood cancers

COLLEGES

New College

COLLABORATORS

Adam Mead

Professor of Haematology

Claus Nerlov

Professor of Stem Cell Biology

Jim Hughes

Professor of Gene Regulation

KEY PUBLICATIONS

Human Bone Marrow Organoids for Disease Modeling, Discovery, and Validation of Therapeutic Targets in Hematologic Malignancies.

274

Journal article

Khan AO. et al, (2023), Cancer Discov, 13, 364 - 385

Single-Cell Analyses Reveal Megakaryocyte-Biased Hematopoiesis in Myelofibrosis and Identify Mutant Clone-Specific Targets.

56

Journal article

Psaila B. et al, (2020), Mol Cell, 78, 477 - 492.e8

Single-cell profiling of human megakaryocyte-erythroid progenitors identifies distinct megakaryocyte and erythroid differentiation pathways.

24

Journal article

Psaila B. et al, (2016), Genome Biol, 17

In utero origin of myelofibrosis presenting in adult monozygotic twins.

81

Journal article

Sousos N. et al, (2022), Nat Med, 28, 1207 - 1211

Generating human bone marrow organoids for disease modeling and drug discovery.

32

Journal article

Olijnik A-A. et al, (2024), Nat Protoc

The management of myelofibrosis: A British Society for Haematology Guideline.

102

Journal article

McLornan DP. et al, (2023), Br J Haematol