



ESCUELA DE MEDICINA
FACULTAD DE MEDICINA

COLLABORATIVE INNOVATIONS IN **CANCER RESEARCH** 2025

JANUARY 15-17, 2025

Edificio Académico, *Diagonal Paraguay 362*
Facultad de Medicina
Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

DAY 1 – WEDNESDAY, JAN 15

TRANSLATIONAL CANCER RESEARCH AND EPIDEMIOLOGY

8:30 AM	Registration
9:00 AM	Opening remarks - Dean of Medicine Dr. Felipe Heusser
Block 1: Plenary Session and Presentation of the Centers Moderator: Mauricio Cuello	
9:15 AM	Hanlee Ji , Stanford University - New technologies in cancer research
9:45 AM	Andrew Quest , ACCDiS & UChile - Translational cancer research at the Advanced Center for Chronic Diseases
10:05 AM	Alexis Kalergis , IMII & PUC - Translational cancer research at the Millennium Institute on Immunology and Immunotherapy
10:25 AM	Bruno Nervi , CECAN & PUC - Translational cancer research at the Center for Cancer Prevention and Control
10:45 AM	Round table and discussion
11:00 AM	Coffee break
Block 2: Advances in Translational Cancer Research Moderator: Gareth Owen	
11:30 AM	Alejandro Corvalán , ACCDiS & PUC - Senescence in preneoplasia
11:50 AM	Kurt Buchegger , IMII & UFRO - Translational research in cancer
12:10 PM	Vicente Torres , IMII, ACCDiS & UChile – Molecular mechanisms whereby tumor-derived hypoxic extracellular vesicles promote angiogenesis
12:30 PM	Juan Carlos Roa , IMII, CECAN & PUC - Gallbladder Cancer Insights: from traditional morphology to innovative frontiers
12:50 PM	Round table and discussion
1:05 PM	Lunch
Block 3: Clinical Epidemiology in Gastric Cancer Moderators: Gonzalo Latorre and Patricio Medel	
2:35 PM	M. Constanza Camargo , NCI/NIH - Gastric cancer in Hispanic and LATAM populations
3:05 PM	Arnoldo Riquelme , CECAN & PUC – The ECHOS cohort
3:25 PM	Claudia Bambs , ACCDiS, CECAN & PUC - The MAUCO cohort
3:45 PM	Robert Huang , Stanford University – Microbiome in preneoplastic lesions from the GAPS cohort
4:15 PM	Round table and discussion
4:30 PM	Coffee break

DAY 2 – THURSDAY, JAN 16

ORGANOIDS IN CANCER RESEARCH AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

8:30 AM	Registration
9:00 AM	Opening Words: Director of Research of the School of Medicine at PUC (Dr. Elvira Balcells) and Director of the PhD Program in Medical Sciences at PUC (Dr. Jorge Carvajal)
Block 4: Plenary Session and Opening talks Moderator: Lorena Rosa	
9:15 AM	Manuel Amieva , Stanford University - Human gastroids as a platform to study the interactions of <i>Helicobacter pylori</i> with stomach stem cells and its relation to gastric cancer
9:45 AM	Carolina Serrano , PUC – Gastrointestinal organoids and derived 2D monolayers as tools for studying host-pathogen interactions
10:05 AM	Carolina Bizama , ACCDiS, CECAN & PUC - Organoids and drug screening
10:25 AM	Round table and discussion
10:40 AM	Coffee break
Block 5: In vitro models Moderator: Patricia García	
11:10 AM	Tobias Wenzel , PUC - Enhancing organoid cultivation and host-pathogen interaction analysis with microfluidic tools
11:30 AM	Daniel Hachim , PUC - Organ-on-a-chip devices as alternatives to animal and human studies
11:50 AM	Lorena Lobos , ACCDiS & UChile - Extracellular vesicles and breast cancer
12:10 PM	Round table and discussion
12:25 PM	5-min flash talks (1-4) Session 1
12:50 PM	Lunch
Block 6: Funding, Legislation and Patient Advocacy Moderator: Enrique Castellón	
2:10 PM	Sung Kim , Ministry of Health - Cancer Legislation in Chile
2:30 PM	Gareth Owen , IMII, CECAN, ACCDiS & PUC - Cancer Funding
2:50 PM	Patient Testimony
3:10 PM	Round table and discussion
3:25 PM	5-min flash talks (5-8) Session 2
3:50 PM	Coffee break
Block 7: Advanced Human Capital Development - Training Pathways for Students, Postdocs, and Faculty Moderator: Jorge Carvajal	
4:20 PM	Claudia Sáez , PUC - Erasmus Exchange Program
4:30 PM	Paul Harris , PUC - FLAS: A new funding opportunity for the training of scientists
4:40 PM	Gabrielle Trasatti , Luksic Foundation - International Fellowship Opportunities supported by the Luksic Foundation

DAY 3 – FRIDAY, JAN 17

TUMOR MICROENVIRONMENT AND BIOINFORMATICS

8:30 AM	Registration
9:00 AM	Opening words - Director of Research of the Faculty of Medicine at PUC (Dr. Alejandro Bruhn)
Block 8: Tumor Microenvironment Moderator: Viviana Montecinos	
9:15 AM	Flavio Salazar , IMII & UChile – TRIMELVax: A novel Immune-Engaging Vaccine for Malignant Melanoma Targeting Neutrophil-Driven Responses
9:35 AM	Erick Riquelme , PUC - Microbiome, Metagenomics and Cancer
9:55 AM	Mauricio Cuello , ACCDiS, CECAN & PUC - Dietary and lifestyle factors affecting the tumor microenvironment
10:15 AM	Anuja Sathe , Stanford University - Decoding the tumor microenvironment and cellular interactions in gastrointestinal cancers
10:45 AM	Round table and discussion
11:00 AM	Coffee break
11:30 AM	5-min flash talks (9-12) Session 3
Block 9: Bioinformatics Moderators: Tamara Pérez and Ignacio Wichmann	
11:55 AM	Ignacio Wichmann , Stanford University, ACCDiS & PUC – Transcriptomic determinants of high-risk gastric intestinal metaplasia
12:15 PM	Elmer Fernández , CONICET (Argentina) & Universidad Nacional de Córdoba - Translational data science and bioinformatics
12:35 PM	Lucas Vicuña , PUC – Variation in the transcriptional immune responses to infectious pathogens among Indigenous South American populations
12:55 PM	Round table and discussion
1:10 PM	Flash talk awards
1:25 PM	Alejandro Corvalán and Carolina Bizama - Recap and concluding remarks

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE



Alejandro Corvalán, MD
Full professor
 Department of Hematology and
 Oncology
 Faculty of Medicine | School of Medicine
 Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

Advanced Center for Chronic Diseases
 (ACCDiS)



Carolina Bizama, PhD
Assistant professor
 Department of Pathology
 Faculty of Medicine | School of Medicine
 Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

Advanced Center for Chronic Diseases
 (ACCDiS)
 Center for Cancer Prevention and
 Control (CECAN)



Gareth Owen, PhD
Full professor
 Faculties of Medicine and Biological
 Sciences
 Pontificia Universidad Católica de
 Chile

Millennium Institute on Immunology
 and Immunotherapy (IMI2)
 Center for Cancer Prevention and
 Control (CECAN)
 Advanced Center for Chronic
 Diseases (ACCDiS)



Ignacio Wichmann, PhD
Assistant professor
 Department of Obstetrics
 Faculty of Medicine | School of Medicine
 Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

Postdoctoral researcher
 Division of Oncology
 Hanlee Ji Research Group
 School of Medicine
 Stanford University

Advanced Center for Chronic Diseases
 (ACCDiS)



Patricia García, PhD
Assistant professor
 Department of Pathology
 Faculty of Medicine | School of Medicine
 Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

Center for Cancer Prevention and
 Control (CECAN)



Lorena Rosa, PhD
Postdoctoral researcher
 Department of Pediatrics
 Manuel Amieva Research Group
 School of Medicine
 Stanford University

ORGANIZERS – Organoids in Cancer Research

**Nicole Babbitt, MSc**

*PhD student in Biological Sciences at
Gareth Owen Lab*
Faculty of Biological Sciences
Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

Millennium Institute on Immunology and
Immunotherapy (IMI)
Center for Cancer Prevention and
Control (CECAN)

**Diego Muñoz**

*PhD student in Medical Sciences at
Carolina Bizama Lab*
Department of Pathology
Faculty of Medicine | School of Medicine
Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

**Paula Rivera**

*PhD student in Medical Sciences at
Marco Arrese Lab*
Department of Gastroenterology
Faculty of Medicine | School of Medicine
Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

**Alejandra Trujillo**

*PhD student in in Biological and Medical
Engineering at Andrea Ravasio Lab*
Institute for Biological and Medical
Engineering
Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

WELCOME ADDRESS SPEAKERS

Listed in alphabetical order

María Elvira Balcells, MD – Director of Research of the School of Medicine and Associate Professor of the Department of Adult Infectious Diseases | School of Medicine | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

Alejandro Bruhn, MD, PhD – Director of Research of the Faculty of Medicine | Chief and Full Professor of the Department of Intensive Care Medicine | Director of Health Sciences Master program | Faculty of Medicine | School of Medicine | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

Jorge Carvajal, MD, PhD – Chief and Full Professor of the Department of Obstetrics | Director of the PhD program in Medical Sciences at the School of Medicine | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

Felipe Heusser, MD – Dean of Medicine and Full professor at the School of Medicine | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

SPEAKERS

Listed in alphabetical order

Manuel Amieva, MD, PhD – Full Professor and Interim Division Chief of Pediatric Infectious Diseases | Professor of Microbiology & Immunology | School of Medicine | Stanford University | Maternal & Child Health Research Institute at Stanford University

Claudia Bambs, MD – Associate Professor and Chief of the Department of Public Health | Faculty of Medicine | School of Medicine | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile | Director of MAUCO cohort | Advanced Center for Chronic Diseases (ACCDiS) | Center for Cancer Prevention and Control (CECAN)

Carolina Bizama, PhD – Assistant Professor of the Department of Pathology | Faculty of Medicine | School of Medicine | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile | Advanced Center for Chronic Diseases (ACCDiS) | Center for Cancer Prevention and Control (CECAN)

Kurt Buchegger, PhD – Principal Investigator at the Laboratory of Integrative Biology | Universidad de La Frontera | Center for Excellence in Translational Medicine-Scientific and Technological Bioresources Nucleus (CEMT-BIOREN) | Millennium Institute on Immunology and Immunotherapy (IMI)

Constanza Camargo, PhD – Senior Investigator of the Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics | National Cancer Institute

Alejandro Corvalán, MD – Full Professor of the Department of Hematology and Oncology | Faculty of Medicine | School of Medicine | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile | Deputy Director of the Advanced Center for Chronic Diseases (ACCDiS)

Mauricio Cuello, MD – Full Professor of the Department of Obstetrics | Faculty of Medicine | School of Medicine | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile | Advanced Center for Chronic Diseases (ACCDiS) | Center for Cancer Prevention and Control (CECAN)

Elmer Fernández, PhD – Full Professor of the Faculty of Exact, Physical and Natural Sciences | Universidad Nacional de Córdoba | Fundación para el Progreso de la Medicina (CONICET)

Daniel Hachim, PhD – Assistant Professor of the Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

Paul Harris, MD – Full Professor of the Department of Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition | Faculty of Medicine | School of Medicine | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile | Co-Founder of the Foundation for Latin American Scientists (FLAS)

Robert Huang, MD – Assistant Professor of the Division of Gastroenterology | Department of Medicine | School of Medicine | Stanford University | Stanford Cancer Institute

Hanlee Ji, MD – Full Professor of the Division of Oncology | Department of Medicine | School of Medicine | Stanford University | Stanford Cancer Institute

Alexis Kalergis, PhD – Full Professor of the Faculties of Medicine and Biological Sciences | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile | Director of the Millennium Institute on Immunology and Immunotherapy (IMI)

Sung Hyuk Kim, MD - Head of the Department of Comprehensive Cancer and Other Tumor Management at the Ministry of Health of Chile

Lorena Lobos, PhD – Assistant Professor of the Institute of Biomedical Sciences and Faculty of Medicine | Universidad de Chile | Advanced Center for Chronic Diseases

Bruno Nervi, MD – Full Professor and Chair of the Department of Hematology and Oncology | Faculty of Medicine | School of Medicine | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile | Director of the Center for Cancer Prevention and Control (CECAN)

Gareth Owen, PhD – Full Professor of the Faculties of Biological Sciences and Medicine | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile | Millennium Institute on Immunology and Immunotherapy (IMI) | Center for Cancer Prevention and Control (CECAN) | Advanced Center for Chronic Diseases (ACCDiS)

Andrew Quest, PhD – Full Professor of the Institute of Biomedical Sciences, Faculty of Medicine and Faculty of Chemical and Pharmaceutical Sciences | Universidad de Chile | Advanced Center for Chronic Diseases (ACCDiS)

Arnoldo Riquelme, MD – Full Professor of the Department of Gastroenterology | Faculty of Medicine | School of Medicine | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile | Center for Cancer Prevention and Control (CECAN)

Erick Riquelme, PhD – Assistant Professor of the Department of Respiratory Diseases | Faculty of Medicine | School of Medicine | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

Juan Carlos Roa, MD – Full Professor and Chair of the Department of Pathology | Faculty of Medicine | School of Medicine | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile | Millennium Institute on Immunology and Immunotherapy (IMI) | Center for Cancer Prevention and Control (CECAN)

Claudia Sáez, PhD – Director of the Research Ethics and Safety Unit, Vicerectory of Research | Deputy Director of Research at the School of Medicine | Department of Hematology and Oncology | Faculty of Medicine | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

Flavio Salazar, PhD – Full Professor of the Institute of Biomedical Sciences and Faculty of Medicine | Universidad de Chile | Millennium Institute on Immunology and Immunotherapy (IMI)

Anuja Sathe, MD, PhD – Instructor of the Division of Oncology, Hanlee Ji Research Group | Department of Medicine | School of Medicine | Stanford University

Carolina Serrano, PhD – Adjunct Assistant Professor of the Department of Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition | Faculty of Medicine | School of Medicine | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

Vicente Torres, PhD – Associate Professor of the Faculty of Odontology | Universidad de Chile | Millennium Institute on Immunology and Immunotherapy (IMI) | Advanced Center for Chronic Diseases (ACCDiS)

Gabrielle Trasatti – Outreach coordinator of the Luksic Scholars Foundation

Lucas Vicuña, PhD – Assistant Professor of the Department of Clinical Laboratories | Faculty of Medicine | School of Medicine | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

Tobias Wenzel, PhD – Assistant Professor of Institute for Biological and Medical Engineering | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

Ignacio Wichmann, PhD – Assistant Professor of the Department of Obstetrics | Faculty of Medicine | School of Medicine | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile | Advanced Center for Chronic Diseases (ACCDiS) | Postdoctoral researcher at the Division of Oncology, Hanlee Ji Research Group | Department of Medicine | School of Medicine | Stanford University

MODERATORS

Listed in alphabetical order

Carolina Bizama, PhD – Assistant Professor of the Department of Pathology | Faculty of Medicine | School of Medicine | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile | Advanced Center for Chronic Diseases (ACCDiS) | Center for Cancer Prevention and Control (CECAN)

Jorge Carvajal, MD, PhD – Full Professor and Chair of the Department of Obstetrics | Director of the PhD program in Medical Sciences at the School of Medicine | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

Enrique Castellón, PhD – Full Professor of the Department of Basic and Clinical Oncology | Faculty of Medicine | Universidad de Chile | Deputy Director of the Center for Cancer Prevention and Control (CECAN)

Alejandro Corvalán, MD – Full Professor of the Department of Hematology and Oncology | Faculty of Medicine | School of Medicine | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile | Deputy Director of the Advanced Center for Chronic Diseases (ACCDiS)

Mauricio Cuello, MD – Full Professor of the Department of Obstetrics | Faculty of Medicine | School of Medicine | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile | Advanced Center for Chronic Diseases (ACCDiS) | Center for Cancer Prevention and Control (CECAN)

Patricia García, PhD – Assistant Professor of the Department of Pathology | Faculty of Medicine | School of Medicine | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile | Center for Cancer Prevention and Control (CECAN)

Gonzalo Latorre, MD – Adjunct Instructor of the Department of Gastroenterology | School of Medicine | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

Patricio Medel, MD – Adjunct Professor of the School of Nursing and the Program of Pharmacology and Toxicology | School of Medicine | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

Viviana Montecinos, PhD – Associate Professor of the Department of Hematology and Oncology | Faculty of Medicine | School of Medicine | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile | Center for Cancer Prevention and Control (CECAN)

Gareth Owen, PhD – Full Professor of the Faculties of Biological Sciences and Medicine | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile | Millennium Institute on Immunology and Immunotherapy (IMI) | Center for Cancer Prevention and Control (CECAN) | Advanced Center for Chronic Diseases (ACCDiS)

Tamara Pérez, MD – Adjunct Researcher at the Department of Gastroenterology | School of Medicine | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

Lorena Rosa, PhD – Postdoctoral researcher at the Department of Pediatrics, Manuel Amieva Research Group | School of Medicine | Stanford University

Ignacio Wichmann, PhD – Assistant Professor of the Department of Obstetrics | Faculty of Medicine | School of Medicine | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile | Advanced Center for Chronic Diseases (ACCDiS) | Postdoctoral researcher at the Division of Oncology, Hanlee Ji Research Group | Department of Medicine | School of Medicine | Stanford University

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