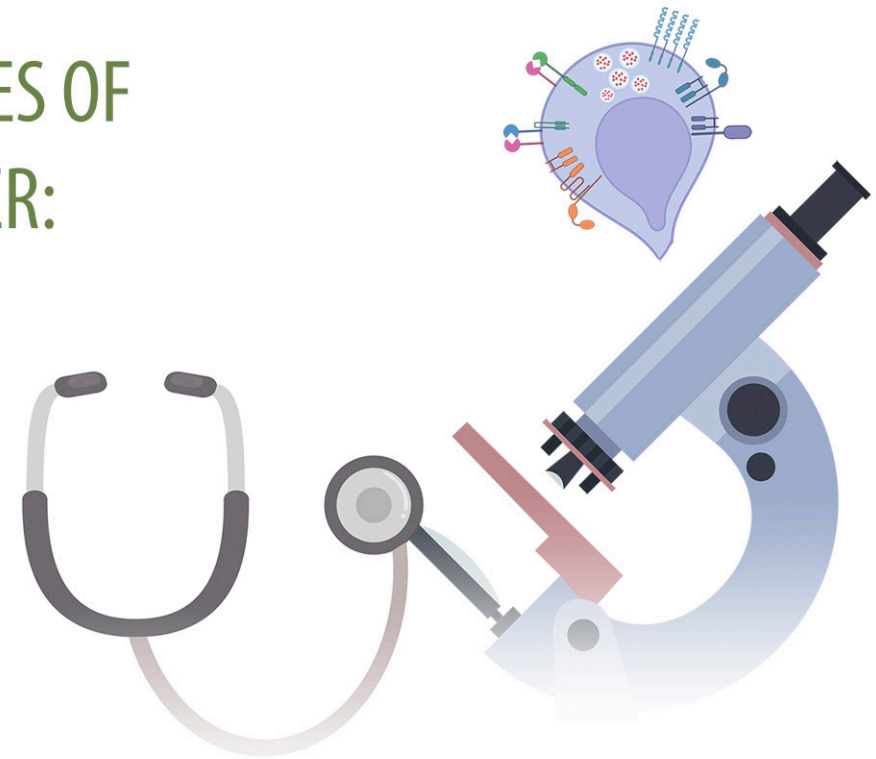


PROGRAM

MODELS, CHALLENGES AND PROMISES OF
ADVANCED THERAPIES FOR CANCER:

NK CELLS IN THE CLINIC AND INDUSTRY



INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

MADRID, 5-6 MARCH, 2026

THURSDAY, MARCH 5TH, 2026

- ▶ **08:00** Arrival / registration
- ▶ **09:00** Welcome session: About IMMUNOmodel COST action, **E. Martínez Balibrea**
Welcome to CNB, **M. Valés-Gómez**
- ▶ **09:30** **Session 1: Tumour recognition by NK cells** (Chair **M. Valés-Gómez**)
 - ~□ **Prof. David Raulet**
*University of California, Berkeley & Co-founder Dragonfly Inc. **Activation, Suppression and Regulation of Immunotherapy Responses of NK cells Against Tumors***
 - ~□ **Prof. Jordan Orange**
*Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. **Exploiting the mechanics of NK cell cytotoxicity to improve tumoricidal activity***
- ▶ **10:45** Coffee break
- ▶ **11:30** **Session 2: NK cell enhancer biomolecules** (Chair **H. T. Reyburn**)
 - ~□ **Prof. Eric Vivier**
*Aix-Marseille University. **Harnessing NK cells in cancer therapies***
 - ~□ **Prof. Luis Álvarez-Vallina**
*CNIO and Doce de Octubre Hospital. **Bridging T and NK Immunity: STAb-T Secreting NK Cell Engagers for Cancer Control***
- ▶ **12:30** Short talks from abstracts (Chair: **Margareta Correia**)
 - ~□ **Aleksandra Ilic, PhD**
*University of Belgrade. **Targeting SIRT2: novel inhibitors for improved antitumor immune response***
 - ~□ **Paula Martín Rubio, PhD student**
*IIS Aragon. **The key role of NK cells controlling lung metastasis from gastrointestinal tumors***
- ▶ **13:00** Lunch break (lunch not provided to attendees)
- ▶ **14:40** Sponsor talk:
 - ~□ **Jose Luis Mateos, PhD**
*Scientific affairs Managers, Miltenyi Biotec Spain. **Bench to bedside in NK Cellular Therapies***
- ▶ **15:00** **Session 3: Successful NK cell-based therapies in the clinics**
 - ~□ **Prof. Katy Rezvani ONLINE**
*Vice President and Melvyn N. Klein Family Endowed Director, Institute for Cell Therapy Discovery & Innovation, Sally Cooper Murray Endowed Chair in Cancer Research, Professor of Medicine, Medical Director, Stem Cell Transplant and GMP Laboratories, Houston, Texas. **Optimizing NK Cell Engineering for Therapeutic Efficacy***
 - ~□ **Dr. Dean Lee**
*Nationwide Children's Hospital and The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center. **Establishing a universal-donor manufacturing platform to enable multi-site trials of multiple NK and CAR-NK products***
- ▶ **16:30** **Round table regulatory aspects: how to understand guidelines for experimental design, how to adapt research to adapt GMP conditions, how to reach regulatory agencies** (Chair **F. Borrego**)
 - ~□ **Dr. Sol Ruiz** (*Head of Biologics, Advanced Therapies, and Biotechnology, Spanish Medicines Agency, AEMPS/EMA*). **Regulation of biologics and advanced therapies in the EU**
 - ~□ **Dr. Sheila López** (*Citospin, S.L. and CSIC*). **How to translate a basic research method into GMP**
 - ~□ **Dr. Alejandra Leivas** (*Senior Regulatory Consultant & Project Manager, Advanthera Regulatory Pathways*). **When NK Cell Research Meets GMP Scale-Up**
PANELISTS: **E. Vivier, K. Malmberg**
- ▶ **17:30** Poster walk (with snacks)

FRIDAY, MARCH 6TH, 2026

...▶ **09:00** **Session 3: Successful NK cell-based therapies in the clinics (continued)** (Chair **A. Muntasell**)

~~~~□ **Prof. Ulrike Kohl**

Director of the Fraunhofer-Institute for Cell Therapy and Immunology, Leipzig, Germany, and Director of the Institute of Clinical Immunology, University of Leipzig. + **Dr. Dominik Schmiedel**. *From CAR T to CAR NK cells: Pushing the boundaries in cancer treatment and beyond*

~~~~□ **Prof. Todd Fehniger**

Professor of Medicine, Washington University, St. Louis. *Memory-like NK cell immunobiology and therapy*

...▶ **10:30** Sponsor talk: **Leonor Asón**, *ThermoFisher*, *3D models as predictive systems in cancer immunotherapy*

...▶ **10:45** Coffee break

...▶ **11:30** Short talks from abstracts (Chair: **Margareta Correia**)

~~~~□ **María José Felgueres**, PhD

CNB-CSIC. *Toward Clinical Translation of BCG-Primed NK Cell Immunotherapy*

~~~~□ **Anamarija Habič**, PhD student

National Institute of Biology, Slovenia. *Glioblastoma spheroids uncover distinct NK cell interactions with differentiated and stem-like glioblastoma cells*

...▶ **11:50** **Round table: The clean room and therapeutics production** (Chair: **A. Perez**)

~~~~□ **Dr. Charo Sánchez Pernaute**

Instituto de Investigación Sanitaria Biobizkaia, Barakaldo. *How to create a unit for advanced therapy products in the Public System*

~~~~□ **Dr. Belén Álvarez Palomo**

Research Department, Banc de Sang i Teixits (BST), Vall d'Hebron Institute of Research (VHIR), Barcelona. *The clean room: limiting aspects and scale-up*

PANELISTS: **L. Alvarez-Vallina, R. Romee, D. Lee**

...▶ **13:00** Lunch break (lunch not provided to attendees)

...▶ **14:40** Sponsor talks: **Jaime Valentín Quiroga**, PhD
Product specialist, Palex. Jumping into high dimensional space: deep NK phenotyping with spectral flow cytometry

...▶ **15:00** Short talks from abstracts (Chair: **Margareta Correia**)

~~~~□ **Jonas Van Audenaerde**, PhD

University of Antwerp. *Development of CAR-NK cell therapies for difficult-to-treat tumours from bench to bedside*

~~~~□ **Lucía Fernández Casanova**, PhD

CNIO. *CAR T cells based on NK cell receptors exert potent anti-tumor activity against pediatric malignant CNS tumors*

...▶ **15:20** **Round table: advanced therapies from the lab to industry. Science, investment and business aspects.** (Chair: **Luis Álvarez-Vallina**)

~~~~□ **Dr. Anabel Sanz**

Director of Innovation, CRG. *Building Bridges for Impact: Knowledge Transfer as a Catalyst for Meaningful Innovation*

~~~~□ **Gemma Guinart**

Principal, Invivo partners. *Invivo: accelerating innovation in cell therapies through tech transfer from research centers*

~~~~□ **Dr. Carolina Pola**

CEO Stab therapeutics. *De-Risking Innovation in Advanced Cell Therapies: Lessons Learned from a Spin-Off Journey*  
PANELISTS: **E. Vivier, D. Raulet, T. Fehniger, U. Kohl**

...▶ **16:35** Coffee break

...▶ **17:00** **Session 4: Spotlight on future immunotherapy approaches.** (Chair: **S. López-Cobo**)

~~~~□ **17:00 Prof. K. Malmberg**

The Precision Immunotherapy Alliance, PRIMA, University of Oslo, Norway. *Guiding the innate power of natural killer cells in cancer therapy*

~~~~□ **17:30 Dr. Rizwan Romee**

Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Harvard Medical School. *Engineering Novel NK Cells and Living Immune Engagers to Enhance Cancer Immunotherapy*

...▶ **18:00** Concluding remarks and farewell