

Hinterzartener Kreis der DFG für Krebsforschung
Lake Como Cancer Meeting

From Molecular Mechanisms to Cancer Therapy
May 7 – May 10, 2026, Villa La Collina
Cadenabbia (Co), Italy



Program Committee

Christian Reinhardt, Essen (Chair)

Claudia Baldus, Kiel

Marcus Conrad, Neuherberg/Munich

Michaela Frye, Heidelberg

Hubert Serve, Frankfurt

Thursday, May 7, 2026

Arrival until 2:30 p.m. in Cadenabbia, Italy

3:30 – 3:45 **Welcome and Introduction**
Christian Reinhardt, Chair of the Program Committee
Stefan Thiel, German Research Foundation

Session I: Systemic Regulation of Cancer Progression and Metastasis

Chair: Michaela Frye

3:45 – 4:00 **Michaela Frye**
German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ), Heidelberg, Germany
Introduction

4:00 – 4:30 **David Ruggero**
University of California, San Francisco
**A Targetable Calcium-Driven Translational Switch Initiates Early
Cancer Drug Resistance and Metastasis**

4:30 – 5:00 **Lydia Finley**
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York
Decoding metabolic signals during cell fate transitions

5:00 – 5:30 **Coffee break**

5:30 – 6:00 **Luca Gattinoni**
Leibniz Institute for Immunotherapy, Regensburg, Germany
**From Tumor Driver to Therapeutic Tool: Intercellular Mitochondrial
Transfer in Cancer Immunotherapy**

6:00 – 6:30

Ana Cvejic

Trisomy 18 and 21 disrupt lineage-specific regulatory networks in foetal haematopoiesis

Cancer genetic predepositions

7:00

Dinner

Friday, May 8, 2026

Session II: On the Origins of Cancer

Chair: Marcus Conrad

9:00 – 9:15

C Marcus Conrad

Helmholtz University Hospital, Munich, Germany

Introduction

9:15 – 9:45

Tyler E. Jacks

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Probing Tumor-Immune Interactions Using Genetically Engineered Mouse Models

9:45 – 10:15

Inigo Martincorena

Welcome Sanger Institute, Hinxton, UK

Somatic mutations in ageing and disease

10:15 – 10:45

Coffee break

10:45 – 11:15

Karen Vousden

The Francis-Crick-Institute, UK

Metabolic Control of Cancer Progression

11:15 – 11:45

Andreas Mackensen

University Hospital Erlangen, Germany

CAR-T cell therapy for solid tumors: current challenges and future directions

12:00 – 1:00

Lunch break

1:00 – 4:00

Free time, Individual Sightseeing

Sightseeing suggestions:

Villa Carlotta - <https://www.villacarlotta.it/en/>

Bellagio - <https://lakecomotravel.com/bellagio>

San Martino –

<http://www.cadenabbiadigriante.com/inglese/itinerari/09.asp>

Session III: Cancer Evolution and Cellular Plasticity

Chair: Claudia Baldus

- 4:00 – 4:15** **Claudia Baldus**
University Hospital Schleswig-Holstein, Kiel, Germany
Introduction
- 4:15 – 4:45** **Kanuna Ganesh**
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
Dissecting and Targeting Cancer Plasticity
- 4:45 – 5:15** **Verena Körber**
University of Oxford
**Quantifying selection dynamics across stem and progenitor cells
in myelodysplastic syndrome and acute myeloid leukemia**
- 5:15 – 5:45** **Coffee break**
- 5:45 – 6:15** **Lorenz Bastian**
University Hospital Schleswig-Holstein, Kiel, Germany
**Decoding molecular heterogeneity in acute lymphoblastic
leukemia through transcriptome profiling**
- 6:15 – 6:45** **Itai Yanai**
New York University Grossman School of Medicine
A mechanism for adaptive genome regulation
- 06:45 – 07:15** **Vivek Natarajan**
Google DeepMind
Advancing science and medicine with collaborative AI agents
- 7:45** **Dinner**

Saturday, May 09, 2026

Session IV: Artificial Intelligence in Cancer Diagnostics and Therapy

Chair: Christian Reinhardt

- 9:00 – 9:15** **Christian Reinhardt**
University Hospital Essen, Germany
Introduction
- 9:15 – 9:45** **Mingyao Li**
University of Pennsylvania
Digital Tissue Twins: Turning Histology into Spatial Omics at Population Scale
- 9:45 – 10:15** **Jakob Kather**
TUD Dresden University of Technology
Towards Autonomous Biomedical AI
- 10:15 – 10:45** **Coffee break**
- 10:45 – 11:15** **Kun-Hsing Yu**
Harvard Medical School, Boston
Toward Trustworthy AI in High-Stakes Pathology Evaluation
- 11.15 – 1:45** **Lunch break (12.00 pm lunch)**

Session V: Gene Regulation and Metabolism

Chair: Hubert Serve

- 1:45 – 2:00** **Hubert Serve**
University Hospital Frankfurt, Germany
Introduction
- 2:00 – 2:30** **Chuna Ram Choudhary**
University of Copenhagen, Denmark
The logic of acetylation-dependent gene expression control
- 2:30 – 3:00** **Ari Melnick**
Josep Carreras Leukaemia Research Institute
Malignant Transformation of the Immune System and Precision Immunotherapy
- 3:00 – 3:30** **Coffee break**
- 3:30 – 4:00** **Sarah-Maria Fendt**
KU Leuven, Belgium
Metabolic rewiring Driving Metastasis Formation
- 4:00 – 4:30** **Christoph Plass**
German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ), Heidelberg, Germany
Deletions in AML and single-cell epigenetic heterogeneity as drivers of therapy resistance
- 5:00 – 6:30** **Meeting of the Program Committee**
- 06.30** **Aperitif**
- 7:00** **Dinner at the Villa**

Sunday, May 10, 2026

Departure after breakfast and light snack for lunch

Additional information

Venue of the Meeting:

Villa La Collina

Via Roma 11

22011 Cadenabbia (Co)

Italy

Tel.: +39-344 441 11

www.villalacollina.info

Contact Information of the organizing committee:

Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft e.V.

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