Innovative Preclinical Models for Pediatric Cancer Research

Nationwide Children's Hospital, Columbus, Ohio, USA
13 – 15 October 2026

Programme

Day 1: Tuesday 13 October 2026

12:00 – 12:30	**Registration opens**
12:30 – 14:00	**Lunch**
14:00 – 14:15	**Welcome**
14:15 – 15:00	**Martine Roussel** St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, USA Developing pre-clinical models of high-risk pediatric embryonal brain tumors to facilitate clinical trials
15:00 – 15:30	**Marc Zuckermann** Hopp Children's Cancer Center Heidelberg (KiTZ), Germany Using autochthonous mouse models of pHGG to understand tumorigenesis and explore multimodal therapies
15:30 – 16:00	**Morning break**
16:00 – 16:30	**Lena Kutscher** Hopp Children's Cancer Center Heidelberg (KiTZ), Germany 2D and 3D models of embryonal brain tumor initiation
16:30 – 17:00	**JP Martinez-Barbera** University College London, UK Cellular senescence as a driver of paediatric brain tumours: Lessons from mouse models
17:00 – 17:15	**Selected speaker 1**
17:15 – 17:30	**Selected speaker 2**
17:30 – 17:45	**Poster flash talks**
17:45 – 19:15	**Poster session**

Day 2: Wednesday 14 October 2026

09:00 – 09:30	**Alice Soragni** University of California, Los Angeles, USA Title TBD
09:30 – 10:00	**Eleni Tomazou** St. Anna Children's Cancer Research Institute, Austria A build-to-understand approach to fusion oncogene-driven sarcomas
10:00 – 10:15	**Selected speaker 3**
10:15 – 10:30	**Selected speaker 4**
10:30 – 11:00	**Morning break**
11:00 – 11:30	**Genevieve Kendall** Nationwide Children's Hospital, USA Comprehensive *in vivo* phenotyping of fusion-driven pediatric sarcomas
11:30 – 12:00	**Kevin Jones** The University of Utah, USA Modeling translocation fusion oncoprotein-driven sarcomagenesis in the mouse
12:00 – 12:15	**Selected speaker 5**
12:15 – 12:30	**Selected speaker 6**
12:30 – 14:00	**Lunch**
14:00 – 14:30	**Michael Underhill** University of British Columbia, Canada Modelling synovial sarcoma in the mouse – insights into a potential cell of origin and tumorigenic trajectories
14:30 – 15:00	**Deliliah Hendriks** Princess Máxima Center, The Netherlands Advanced human organoid models to unravel early events of tumorigenesis
15:00 – 15:15	**Selected speaker 7**
15:15 – 15:30	**Selected speaker 8**
15:30 – 16:00	**Afternoon break**
16:00 – 16:30	**Verena Korber** University of Oxford, UK Progenitor cell-driven development of T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia upon thymus autonomy in mice
16:30 – 17:00	**James Amatruda** Children's Hospital Los Angeles, USA Title TBD
17:00 – 17:15	**Selected speaker 9**
17:15 – 17:30	**Selected speaker 10**
17:30 – 17:45	**Poster flash talks**
17:45 – 19:15	**Poster session**
19:30	**Dinner – The Elevator**

Day 3: Thursday 15 October 2026

09:00 – 09:30	**Ana Banito** German Cancer Research Center, Germany Somatic gene delivery for flexible *in vivo* modeling of pediatric sarcoma
09:30 – 10:00	**Caroline Hutter** St. Anna Children's Cancer Research Institute, Austria An iPSC-derived model of langerhans cell histiocytosis as a preclinical platform to test new treatment regimens
10:00 – 10:15	**Selected speaker 11**
10:15 – 10:45	**Morning break**
10:45 – 11:15	**Mimi Bandopadhayay** Harvard Medical School, USA Anti-transformation screens identify mediators of oncogenic transformation as novel therapeutic targets for pediatric brain tumors
11:15 – 11:45	**Timothy Phoenix** University of Cincinnati, USA Modeling CNS tumors to advanced basic and translational discoveries
11:45 – 12:00	**Selected speaker 12**
12:00 – 12:15	**Selected speaker 13**
12:15 – 13:45	**Lunch**
13:45 – 14:15	**Claudia Kleinman** McGill University, Canada From robust cell fates to plastic states: Lineage constraints in pedi brain tumors
14:15 – 14:45	**Michelle Wedemeyer** Nationwide Children's Hospital, USA Of mice and men: Illuminating the blind spots in preclinical models of pediatric gliomas
14:45 – 15:00	**Selected speaker 14**
15:00 – 15:30	**Afternoon break**
15:30 – 16:00	**Joelle Straehla** Seattle Children's, USA Microvascular models of glioma recapitulate human disease
16:00 – 16:45	TBD
16:45 – 17:00	**Closing remarks**
17:00	**End**