

# Paediatric Cancer: Mechanisms, Therapies and Beyond

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 Bandopadhyay** 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**