EACR Conference Series

In addition to the biennial EACR Congress we organise a series of excellent focussed cancer research conferences where the experience for each participant is our very highest priority.

When organising each meeting, we aim to balance the most recent and interesting research topics and excellent speakers with enough time for participants to interact, discuss and reflect on the information presented.

Visit the EACR website eacr.org/meetings and click on ‘EACR Conference Series’ to view the latest upcoming meetings.

Upcoming meetings in the EACR Conference Series 2015

5th EACR-OECI Joint Training Course
Molecular Pathology Approach to Cancer
11 - 13 May 2015 • Amsterdam • Netherlands

Cancer Genomics
28 June - 1 July 2015 • Churchill College, Cambridge • UK

Basic Epigenetic Mechanisms in Cancer
8 - 11 November 2015 • Harnack House, Berlin • Germany

Don’t forget: we offer EACR member discounts on all our registration fees

Members can also apply for meeting bursaries

Members can also apply for meeting bursaries

Visit the EACR website eacr.org/meetings and click on ‘EACR Conference Series’ to view the latest upcoming meetings.
EACR Conference Series 2014:
Goodbye Flat Biology
3D Models & the Tumour Microenvironment

One of the most exciting and successful of the EACR conferences in 2014 was ‘Goodbye Flat Biology: 3D Models & the Tumour Microenvironment’. The title was inspired by the editorial “Goodbye, Flat Biology?” published in Nature in 2003. The Editor wrote: “biologists ….will have to bid the Petri dish farewell in the next decade if they are to continue being taken seriously”.

Just over a decade later, this conference was designed to critically review the progress made in this exponentially growing field and to encourage investigators to explore the potential of emerging technologies to enable better understanding of solid tumours and their microenvironment.

Over 250 delegates from academia and industry attended and enjoyed inspiring talks from pioneering scientists in the field of 3D tumour models. Topics covered basic biology, physical and biochemical aspects of the tumour matrix, moving to more translational aspects and the most recent advances in tissue engineering.

The conference opened with a Keynote lecture from Mina Bissell (Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, USA) on the role of the extracellular matrix and microenvironment in metastasis and dormancy. Mina is a charismatic and highly distinguished scientist who arguably ‘opened the door’ (and our eyes) to the third dimension decades ago and rightly espouses the view that ‘context is everything’ in tumour progression. Mina continues tirelessly to educate and inspire us all and even made time for lunch with young investigators to discuss scientific career paths.

The programme continued with excellent speakers throughout the five main sessions (tumour-host interactions; stem cells; tumour microenvironment, imaging and invasion; translational aspects; tissue engineering), three Satellite Symposia highlighting recent technologies for 3D cell culture and imaging and an early bird Meet the Expert/Educational Session with Peter Friedl (MD Anderson Cancer Centre, USA/University of Nijmegen, the Netherlands). In spite of the early hour, Peter addressed a packed auditorium and engaged the audience with stunning images of ground-breaking (sometimes controversial) research on collagen and its role in tumour invasion. He illustrated from his own experience how best to deal with data that may seem to contradict others’ findings, the importance of being persistent and prepared to stand by one’s research, providing of course that the research has been rigorously conducted and is robust and reproducible.

The quality of the talks from world-class speakers, the beautiful location (Harnack House), the collegiality of the speakers and attendees and extensive interactive opportunities made the conference a real success. The feedback was extremely positive, for example: “Excellent and current hot topic, and a great opportunity to talk to experts in the field. The meeting was extremely well organised, and the atmosphere inspiring”.

Finally our thanks go to all the EACR staff as ever for their fantastic organisation and support throughout the conference. Given its success, EACR is already planning to have a similar event in 2016. We look forward to seeing you there with more exciting 3D science. - Maria Vinci (UK)

Look out for the 2nd edition of ‘3D Models & the Tumour Microenvironment’ in 2016!