



ESCUELA DE MEDICINA  
FACULTAD DE MEDICINA

# COLLABORATIVE INNOVATIONS IN **CANCER RESEARCH** 2025

JANUARY 15-17, 2025

Edificio Académico, *Diagonal Paraguay 362*  
Facultad de Medicina  
Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

## DAY 1 – WEDNESDAY, JAN 15

### TRANSLATIONAL CANCER RESEARCH AND EPIDEMIOLOGY

|                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8:30 AM                                                                                                          | <b>Registration</b>                                                                                                                            |
| 9:00 AM                                                                                                          | <b>Opening remarks - Dean of Medicine Dr. Felipe Heusser</b>                                                                                   |
| <b>Block 1: Plenary Session and Presentation of the Centers</b><br><b>Moderator: Mauricio Cuello</b>             |                                                                                                                                                |
| 9:15 AM                                                                                                          | <b>Hanlee Ji</b> , Stanford University - New technologies in cancer research                                                                   |
| 9:45 AM                                                                                                          | <b>Andrew Quest</b> , ACCDiS & UChile - Translational cancer research at the Advanced Center for Chronic Diseases                              |
| 10:05 AM                                                                                                         | <b>Alexis Kalergis</b> , IMII & PUC - Translational cancer research at the Millennium Institute on Immunology and Immunotherapy                |
| 10:25 AM                                                                                                         | <b>Bruno Nervi</b> , CECAN & PUC - Translational cancer research at the Center for Cancer Prevention and Control                               |
| 10:45 AM                                                                                                         | Round table and discussion                                                                                                                     |
| 11:00 AM                                                                                                         | Coffee break                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Block 2: Advances in Translational Cancer Research</b><br><b>Moderator: Gareth Owen</b>                       |                                                                                                                                                |
| 11:30 AM                                                                                                         | <b>Alejandro Corvalán</b> , ACCDiS & PUC - Senescence in preneoplasia                                                                          |
| 11:50 AM                                                                                                         | <b>Kurt Buchegger</b> , IMII & UFRO - Translational research in cancer                                                                         |
| 12:10 PM                                                                                                         | <b>Vicente Torres</b> , IMII, ACCDiS & UChile – Molecular mechanisms whereby tumor-derived hypoxic extracellular vesicles promote angiogenesis |
| 12:30 PM                                                                                                         | <b>Juan Carlos Roa</b> , IMII, CECAN & PUC - Gallbladder Cancer Insights: from traditional morphology to innovative frontiers                  |
| 12:50 PM                                                                                                         | Round table and discussion                                                                                                                     |
| 1:05 PM                                                                                                          | Lunch                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Block 3: Clinical Epidemiology in Gastric Cancer</b><br><b>Moderators: Gonzalo Latorre and Patricio Medel</b> |                                                                                                                                                |
| 2:35 PM                                                                                                          | <b>M. Constanza Camargo</b> , NCI/NIH - Gastric cancer in Hispanic and LATAM populations                                                       |
| 3:05 PM                                                                                                          | <b>Arnoldo Riquelme</b> , CECAN & PUC – The ECHOS cohort                                                                                       |
| 3:25 PM                                                                                                          | <b>Claudia Bambs</b> , ACCDiS, CECAN & PUC - The MAUCO cohort                                                                                  |
| 3:45 PM                                                                                                          | <b>Robert Huang</b> , Stanford University – Autoimmune gastritis and Neoplasia Risk: Pathogenesis, Epidemiology, and Management                |
| 4:15 PM                                                                                                          | Round table and discussion                                                                                                                     |
| 4:30 PM                                                                                                          | Coffee break                                                                                                                                   |

## DAY 2 – THURSDAY, JAN 16

### ORGANOIDS IN CANCER RESEARCH AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

|                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8:30 AM                                                                                                                                        | <b>Registration</b>                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 9:00 AM                                                                                                                                        | <b>Opening Words: Director of Research of the School of Medicine at PUC (Dr. Elvira Balcells) and Director of the PhD Program in Medical Sciences at PUC (Dr. Jorge Carvajal)</b>             |
| <b>Block 4: Plenary Session and Opening talks</b><br><b>Moderator: Lorena Rosa</b>                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 9:15 AM                                                                                                                                        | <b>Manuel Amieva</b> , Stanford University - Human gastroids as a platform to study the interactions of <i>Helicobacter pylori</i> with stomach stem cells and its relation to gastric cancer |
| 9:45 AM                                                                                                                                        | <b>Carolina Serrano</b> , PUC – Gastrointestinal organoids and derived 2D monolayers as tools for studying host-pathogen interactions                                                         |
| 10:05 AM                                                                                                                                       | <b>Carolina Bizama</b> , ACCDiS, CECAN & PUC - Organoids and drug screening                                                                                                                   |
| 10:25 AM                                                                                                                                       | Round table and discussion                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 10:40 AM                                                                                                                                       | Coffee break                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Block 5: In vitro models</b><br><b>Moderator: Patricia García</b>                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 11:10 AM                                                                                                                                       | <b>Tobias Wenzel</b> , PUC - Enhancing organoid cultivation and host-pathogen interaction analysis with microfluidic tools                                                                    |
| 11:30 AM                                                                                                                                       | <b>Daniel Hachim</b> , PUC - Organ-on-a-chip devices as alternatives to animal and human studies                                                                                              |
| 11:50 AM                                                                                                                                       | <b>Lorena Lobos</b> , ACCDiS & UChile - Extracellular vesicles and breast cancer                                                                                                              |
| 12:10 PM                                                                                                                                       | Round table and discussion                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 12:25 PM                                                                                                                                       | 5-min flash talks (1-4) Session 1                                                                                                                                                             |
| 12:50 PM                                                                                                                                       | Lunch                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Block 6: Funding, Legislation and Patient Advocacy</b><br><b>Moderator: Enrique Castellón</b>                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 2:10 PM                                                                                                                                        | <b>Sung Kim</b> , Ministry of Health - Cancer Legislation in Chile                                                                                                                            |
| 2:30 PM                                                                                                                                        | <b>Gareth Owen</b> , IMII, CECAN, ACCDiS & PUC - Cancer Funding                                                                                                                               |
| 2:50 PM                                                                                                                                        | <b>Jorge Fernández Sarpi</b> , Fundación Vi-Da & Asociación Chilena de Agrupaciones Oncológicas (ACHAGO) - Papel del paciente en la política del cáncer.                                      |
| 3:10 PM                                                                                                                                        | Round table and discussion                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 3:25 PM                                                                                                                                        | 5-min flash talks (5-8) Session 2                                                                                                                                                             |
| 3:50 PM                                                                                                                                        | Coffee break                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Block 7: Advanced Human Capital Development - Training Pathways for Students, Postdocs, and Faculty</b><br><b>Moderator: Jorge Carvajal</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 4:20 PM                                                                                                                                        | <b>Claudia Sáez</b> , PUC - Erasmus Exchange Program                                                                                                                                          |
| 4:30 PM                                                                                                                                        | <b>Paul Harris</b> , PUC - FLAS: A new funding opportunity for the training of scientists                                                                                                     |
| 4:40 PM                                                                                                                                        | <b>Gabrielle Trasatti</b> , Luksic Foundation - International Fellowship Opportunities supported by the Luksic Foundation                                                                     |

## DAY 3 – FRIDAY, JAN 17

### TUMOR MICROENVIRONMENT AND BIOINFORMATICS

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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8:30 AM                                                                                | <b>Registration</b>                                                                                                                               |
| 9:00 AM                                                                                | <b>Opening words - Director of Research of the Faculty of Medicine at PUC (Dr. Alejandro Bruhn)</b>                                               |
| <b>Block 8: Tumor Microenvironment</b><br><b>Moderator: Viviana Montecinos</b>         |                                                                                                                                                   |
| 9:15 AM                                                                                | <b>Flavio Salazar</b> , IMII & UChile – TRIMELVax: A novel Immune-Engaging Vaccine for Malignant Melanoma Targeting Neutrophil-Driven Responses   |
| 9:35 AM                                                                                | <b>Erick Riquelme</b> , PUC - Microbiome, Metagenomics and Cancer                                                                                 |
| 9:55 AM                                                                                | <b>Mauricio Cuello</b> , ACCDiS, CECAN & PUC - Dietary and lifestyle factors affecting the tumor microenvironment                                 |
| 10:15 AM                                                                               | <b>Anuja Sathe</b> , Stanford University - Decoding the tumor microenvironment and cellular interactions in gastrointestinal cancers              |
| 10:45 AM                                                                               | Round table and discussion                                                                                                                        |
| 11:00 AM                                                                               | Coffee break                                                                                                                                      |
| 11:30 AM                                                                               | 5-min flash talks (9-12) Session 3                                                                                                                |
| <b>Block 9: Bioinformatics</b><br><b>Moderators: Tamara Pérez and Ignacio Wichmann</b> |                                                                                                                                                   |
| 11:55 AM                                                                               | <b>Ignacio Wichmann</b> , Stanford University, ACCDiS & PUC – Transcriptomic determinants of high-risk gastric intestinal metaplasia              |
| 12:15 PM                                                                               | <b>Elmer Fernández</b> , CONICET (Argentina) & Universidad Nacional de Córdoba - Translational data science and bioinformatics                    |
| 12:35 PM                                                                               | <b>Lucas Vicuña</b> , PUC – Variation in the transcriptional immune responses to infectious pathogens among Indigenous South American populations |
| 12:55 PM                                                                               | Round table and discussion                                                                                                                        |
| 1:10 PM                                                                                | Flash talk awards                                                                                                                                 |
| 1:25 PM                                                                                | <b>Alejandro Corvalán and Carolina Bizama - Recap and concluding remarks</b>                                                                      |

## ORGANIZING COMMITTEE



### Alejandro Corvalán, MD

*Full professor*

Department of Hematology and  
Oncology  
Faculty of Medicine | School of Medicine  
Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

Advanced Center for Chronic Diseases  
(ACCDiS)



### Carolina Bizama, PhD

*Assistant professor*

Department of Pathology  
Faculty of Medicine | School of Medicine  
Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

Advanced Center for Chronic Diseases  
(ACCDiS)  
Center for Cancer Prevention and  
Control (CECAN)



### Gareth Owen, PhD

*Full professor*

Faculties of Medicine and Biological  
Sciences  
Pontificia Universidad Católica de  
Chile

Millennium Institute on Immunology  
and Immunotherapy (IMI)  
Center for Cancer Prevention and  
Control (CECAN)  
Advanced Center for Chronic  
Diseases (ACCDiS)



### Ignacio Wichmann, PhD

*Assistant professor*

Department of Obstetrics  
Faculty of Medicine | School of Medicine  
Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

*Postdoctoral researcher*  
Division of Oncology  
Hanlee Ji Research Group  
School of Medicine  
Stanford University

Advanced Center for Chronic Diseases  
(ACCDiS)



### Patricia García, PhD

*Assistant professor*

Department of Pathology  
Faculty of Medicine | School of Medicine  
Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

Center for Cancer Prevention and  
Control (CECAN)



### Lorena Rosa, PhD

*Postdoctoral researcher*

Department of Pediatrics  
Manuel Amieva Research Group  
School of Medicine  
Stanford University

## ORGANIZERS – Organoids in Cancer Research

**Nicole Babbitt, MSc**

*PhD student in Biological Sciences at  
Gareth Owen Lab*  
Faculty of Biological Sciences  
Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

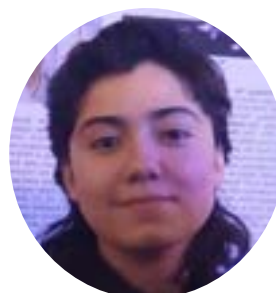
Millennium Institute on Immunology and  
Immunotherapy (IMI)  
Center for Cancer Prevention and  
Control (CECAN)

**Diego Muñoz**

*PhD student in Medical Sciences at  
Carolina Bizama Lab*  
Department of Pathology  
Faculty of Medicine | School of Medicine  
Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

**Paula Rivera**

*PhD student in Medical Sciences at  
Marco Arrese Lab*  
Department of Gastroenterology  
Faculty of Medicine | School of Medicine  
Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

**Alejandra Trujillo**

*PhD student in in Biological and Medical  
Engineering at Andrea Ravasio Lab*  
Institute for Biological and Medical  
Engineering  
Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

## WELCOME ADDRESS SPEAKERS

Listed in alphabetical order

**María Elvira Balcells, MD** – Director of Research of the School of Medicine and Associate Professor of the Department of Adult Infectious Diseases | School of Medicine | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

**Alejandro Bruhn, MD, PhD** – Director of Research of the Faculty of Medicine | Chief and Full Professor of the Department of Intensive Care Medicine | Director of Health Sciences Master program | Faculty of Medicine | School of Medicine | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

**Jorge Carvajal, MD, PhD** – Chief and Full Professor of the Department of Obstetrics | Director of the PhD program in Medical Sciences at the School of Medicine | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

**Felipe Heusser, MD** – Dean of Medicine and Full professor at the School of Medicine | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

## SPEAKERS

Listed in alphabetical order

**Manuel Amieva, MD, PhD** – Full Professor and Interim Division Chief of Pediatric Infectious Diseases | Professor of Microbiology & Immunology | School of Medicine | Stanford University | Maternal & Child Health Research Institute at Stanford University

**Claudia Bambs, MD** – Associate Professor and Chief of the Department of Public Health | Faculty of Medicine | School of Medicine | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile | Director of MAUCO cohort | Advanced Center for Chronic Diseases (ACCDiS) | Center for Cancer Prevention and Control (CECAN)

**Carolina Bizama, PhD** – Assistant Professor of the Department of Pathology | Faculty of Medicine | School of Medicine | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile | Advanced Center for Chronic Diseases (ACCDiS) | Center for Cancer Prevention and Control (CECAN)

**Kurt Buchegger, PhD** – Principal Investigator at the Laboratory of Integrative Biology | Universidad de La Frontera | Center for Excellence in Translational Medicine-Scientific and Technological Bioresources Nucleus (CEMT-BIOREN) | Millennium Institute on Immunology and Immunotherapy (IMI)

**Constanza Camargo, PhD** – Senior Investigator of the Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics | National Cancer Institute

**Alejandro Corvalán, MD** – Full Professor of the Department of Hematology and Oncology | Faculty of Medicine | School of Medicine | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile | Deputy Director of the Advanced Center for Chronic Diseases (ACCDiS)

**Mauricio Cuello, MD** – Full Professor of the Department of Obstetrics | Faculty of Medicine | School of Medicine | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile | Advanced Center for Chronic Diseases (ACCDiS) | Center for Cancer Prevention and Control (CECAN)

**Elmer Fernández, PhD** – Full Professor of the Faculty of Exact, Physical and Natural Sciences | Universidad Nacional de Córdoba | Fundación para el Progreso de la Medicina (CONICET)

**Jorge Fernández** – Vice-President of the Asociación Chilena de Agrupaciones Oncológicas (ACHAGO) and Deputy Director of Fundación de ayuda a personas con cáncer Vi-Da

**Daniel Hachim, PhD** – Assistant Professor of the Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

**Paul Harris, MD** – Full Professor of the Department of Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition | Faculty of Medicine | School of Medicine | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile | Co-Founder of the Foundation for Latin American Scientists (FLAS)

**Robert Huang, MD** – Assistant Professor of the Division of Gastroenterology | Department of Medicine | School of Medicine | Stanford University | Stanford Cancer Institute

**Hanlee Ji, MD** – Full Professor of the Division of Oncology | Department of Medicine | School of Medicine | Stanford University | Stanford Cancer Institute

**Alexis Kalergis, PhD** – Full Professor of the Faculties of Medicine and Biological Sciences | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile | Director of the Millennium Institute on Immunology and Immunotherapy (IMI)

**Sung Hyuk Kim, MD** – Head of the Department of Comprehensive Cancer and Other Tumor Management at the Ministry of Health of Chile

**Lorena Lobos, PhD** – Assistant Professor of the Institute of Biomedical Sciences and Faculty of Medicine | Universidad de Chile | Advanced Center for Chronic Diseases

**Bruno Nervi, MD** – Full Professor and Chair of the Department of Hematology and Oncology | Faculty of Medicine | School of Medicine | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile | Director of the Center for Cancer Prevention and Control (CECAN)

**Gareth Owen, PhD** – Full Professor of the Faculties of Biological Sciences and Medicine | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile | Millennium Institute on Immunology and Immunotherapy (IMI) | Center for Cancer Prevention and Control (CECAN) | Advanced Center for Chronic Diseases (ACCDiS)

**Andrew Quest, PhD** – Full Professor of the Institute of Biomedical Sciences, Faculty of Medicine and Faculty of Chemical and Pharmaceutical Sciences | Universidad de Chile | Advanced Center for Chronic Diseases (ACCDiS)

**Arnoldo Riquelme, MD** – Full Professor of the Department of Gastroenterology | Faculty of Medicine | School of Medicine | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile | Center for Cancer Prevention and Control (CECAN)

**Erick Riquelme, PhD** – Assistant Professor of the Department of Respiratory Diseases | Faculty of Medicine | School of Medicine | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

**Juan Carlos Roa, MD** – Full Professor and Chair of the Department of Pathology | Faculty of Medicine | School of Medicine | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile | Millennium Institute on Immunology and Immunotherapy (IMI) | Center for Cancer Prevention and Control (CECAN)

**Claudia Sáez, PhD** – Director of the Research Ethics and Safety Unit, Vicerectory of Research | Deputy Director of Research at the School of Medicine | Department of Hematology and Oncology | Faculty of Medicine | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

**Flavio Salazar, PhD** – Full Professor of the Institute of Biomedical Sciences and Faculty of Medicine | Universidad de Chile | Millennium Institute on Immunology and Immunotherapy (IMI)

**Anuja Sathe, MD, PhD** – Instructor of the Division of Oncology, Hanlee Ji Research Group | Department of Medicine | School of Medicine | Stanford University

**Carolina Serrano, PhD** – Adjunct Assistant Professor of the Department of Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition | Faculty of Medicine | School of Medicine | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

**Vicente Torres, PhD** – Associate Professor of the Faculty of Odontology | Universidad de Chile | Millennium Institute on Immunology and Immunotherapy (IMI) | Advanced Center for Chronic Diseases (ACCDiS)

**Gabrielle Trasatti** – Outreach coordinator of the Luksic Scholars Foundation

**Lucas Vicuña, PhD** – Assistant Professor of the Department of Clinical Laboratories | Faculty of Medicine | School of Medicine | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

**Tobias Wenzel, PhD** – Assistant Professor of Institute for Biological and Medical Engineering | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

**Ignacio Wichmann, PhD** – Assistant Professor of the Department of Obstetrics | Faculty of Medicine | School of Medicine | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile | Advanced Center for Chronic Diseases (ACCDiS) | Postdoctoral researcher at the Division of Oncology, Hanlee Ji Research Group | Department of Medicine | School of Medicine | Stanford University

## MODERATORS

Listed in alphabetical order

**Carolina Bizama, PhD** – Assistant Professor of the Department of Pathology | Faculty of Medicine | School of Medicine | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile | Advanced Center for Chronic Diseases (ACCDiS) | Center for Cancer Prevention and Control (CECAN)

**Jorge Carvajal, MD, PhD** – Full Professor and Chair of the Department of Obstetrics | Director of the PhD program in Medical Sciences at the School of Medicine | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

**Enrique Castellón, PhD** – Full Professor of the Department of Basic and Clinical Oncology | Faculty of Medicine | Universidad de Chile | Deputy Director of the Center for Cancer Prevention and Control (CECAN)

**Alejandro Corvalán, MD** – Full Professor of the Department of Hematology and Oncology | Faculty of Medicine | School of Medicine | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile | Deputy Director of the Advanced Center for Chronic Diseases (ACCDiS)

**Mauricio Cuello, MD** – Full Professor of the Department of Obstetrics | Faculty of Medicine | School of Medicine | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile | Advanced Center for Chronic Diseases (ACCDiS) | Center for Cancer Prevention and Control (CECAN)

**Patricia García, PhD** – Assistant Professor of the Department of Pathology | Faculty of Medicine | School of Medicine | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile | Center for Cancer Prevention and Control (CECAN)

**Gonzalo Latorre, MD** – Adjunct Instructor of the Department of Gastroenterology | School of Medicine | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

**Patricio Medel, MD** – Adjunct Professor of the School of Nursing and the Program of Pharmacology and Toxicology | School of Medicine | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

**Viviana Montecinos, PhD** – Associate Professor of the Department of Hematology and Oncology | Faculty of Medicine | School of Medicine | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile | Center for Cancer Prevention and Control (CECAN)

**Gareth Owen, PhD** – Full Professor of the Faculties of Biological Sciences and Medicine | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile | Millennium Institute on Immunology and Immunotherapy (IMI) | Center for Cancer Prevention and Control (CECAN) | Advanced Center for Chronic Diseases (ACCDiS)

**Tamara Pérez, MD** – Adjunct Researcher at the Department of Gastroenterology | School of Medicine | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

**Lorena Rosa, PhD** – Postdoctoral researcher at the Department of Pediatrics, Manuel Amieva Research Group | School of Medicine | Stanford University

**Ignacio Wichmann, PhD** – Assistant Professor of the Department of Obstetrics | Faculty of Medicine | School of Medicine | Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile | Advanced Center for Chronic Diseases (ACCDiS) | Postdoctoral researcher at the Division of Oncology, Hanlee Ji Research Group | Department of Medicine | School of Medicine | Stanford University

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