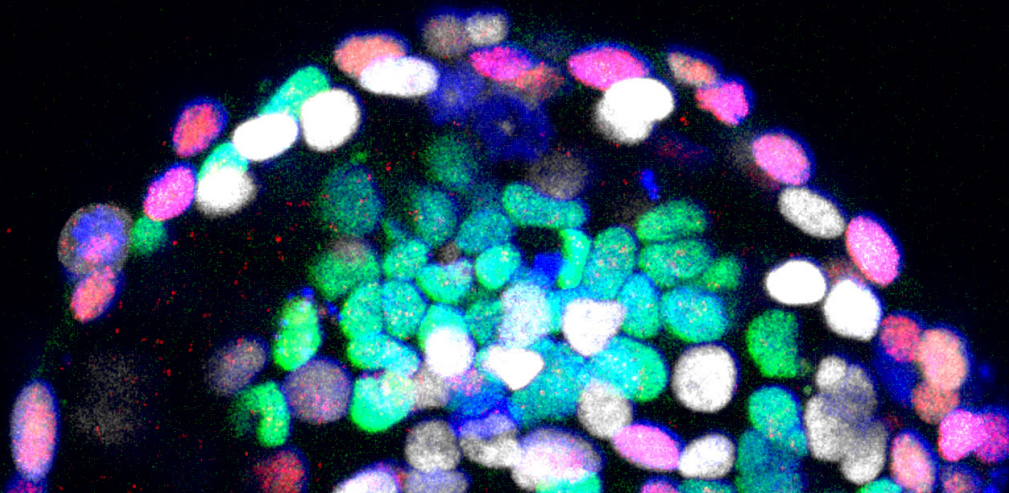


Annual Retreat & Symposium Programme

2026



Thursday 4 & Friday 5 June

Cancer Research UK - Cambridge Institute,
Jeffrey Cheah Biomedical Centre & Garden



Practical Information

Registration

On Thursday, please register in the reception area of CRUK-CI. Please note that your name badge will get you access to lunch and the social as well as the scientific sessions.

Speakers

All speakers should bring their presentations on USB to be given to the tech team at the back of the lecture theatre. Please ensure your presentation is loaded and checked during the break prior to your talk. Speakers in each session are encouraged to sit in the front row.

Poster Presenters

The poster session will take place on Thursday 4 June at 16:30 at the JCBC Exhibition space. Please set up your posters upon registration on Thursday morning and take it down before the end of the retreat on Friday. Please note your poster number and display your poster on the correct board. Velcro will be provided.

Closed Meeting

The Annual Retreat is a closed meeting. Please do not share any talk or poster content on any social media channels or by other means outside this event.

Evening Social

On Thursday evening there will be a social event with food and drinks supplied by Boxed Events. There will also be a chance to win prizes at Jeffrey Cheah Bingo Chaos!

Prizes

On Friday at 12:30 we will be awarding prizes for posters, talks, Public Engagement and Research Culture and Integrity. **Please watch this session as you may be a winner!** After this session, lunch will be provided in the marquee on the JCBC / CRUK Lawn.

Health & Safety

Seating is limited to 200 in the theatre - no sitting in the aisles is permitted at any time due to fire code. If the theatre is full, the sessions will be streamed in the JCBC theatre.

Wifi

There is Eduroam, UniofCam, and UniofCam-Guest wifi access in the CRUK lecture theatre and surrounding areas.

Programme

Please find the programme details below, which will continue to be updated on the [webpage here](#) or via the QR code.





Programme

Thursday 4 June

10:00	Registration opens	CRUK-CI lobby
10:30	Session 1 Chair: Prof Nicola Wilson	
10:30	Welcome & Annual Review	Prof Bertie Göttgens
10:50	PI Talk	Dr Maria Alcolea <i>Epithelial cell fate plasticity; an oesophageal tale</i>
11:10	Postgrad & Postdoc Talks	Enric Cata Socias (PhD student, Duque-Correa Group) <i>Analyzing transcriptomic development of whipworm <i>Trichuris muris</i> in mouse models and in-vitro caecaloids</i>
		Dr An Truong (Postdoc, Bulstrode Group) <i>Activation of STING pathway for repolarisation of tumour-associated macrophages in high-grade glioma</i>
11:30	PI Talk	Prof Sanjay Sinha <i>A cardiac instruction manual: using human development to transform in vitro modelling</i>
11:50	MPhil Update	Prof Elisa Laurenti
11:55	PPIE Update	Helen Reynolds
12:00	Lunch	JCBC Lawn & Marquee <i>'Table Topics' - find topics on your table to explore with your colleagues over lunch!</i>
13:00	Session 2 - Sponsored by  Chair: Prof Thóra Káradóttir	
13:00	Intro to Novogene	Joseph Yeoh
13:05	PI Talk	Dr Chiara Herzog <i>What the epigenome remembers: past, present, and future disease risk</i>

13:25 **Postgrad & Postdoc Talks**

Licyel Paulas Condori (PhD student, Göttgens Group)
Decoding human haematopoiesis across scales using a haematopoiesis-in-a-dish system

Dr Ana Raffaelli
 (Postdoc, Paluch Group)
Basement membrane mechanics drives patterned response to developmental signalling

13:45 **PI Talk**

Prof Dan Hodson
Single cell profiling of perturbed human B cells to decipher the secrets of lymphoma genetics

14:05 **Break**

CRUK-CI Lobby & Atrium (past barrier)
Don't forget to chat with our sponsors and collect a stamp for your prize draw card!

14:30 **Session 3 - Special Session**
 Chair: Dr Mekayla Storer

'The Fabric of Life: Built by Cells, Shaped by Matrix'

Division of Cell Matrix Biology & Regenerative Medicine, Manchester

- **Prof Rachel Lennon** - *Reprogramming extracellular matrix / Living matrix models*
- **Prof Clair Baldock** - *Structure tells a fibrillin-integrin story*
- **Dr Richard Collins** - *Matrix technologies*
- **Dr Sarah Woolner** - *Developing novel mechanosensors for matrix biology*

Dr Greta Skrupskelyte (Alcolea Group) - *Precancerous niche remodelling dictates early tumour persistence*

Prof Melinda Duer (Yusuf Hamied Department of Chemistry) - *How does the extracellular matrix communicate with cells? A biophysics perspective*

Panel Session & Q&A

16:30 **Poster Session* & Drinks Reception**

JCBC Exhibition Space, Lecture Theatre, & Cafe

Dinner & Social

18:00 - Dinner
 19:00 - Bingo!

JCBC Lawn & Marquee

20:00 **Day 1 Concludes**

* See poster session details on pages 8-10

Friday 5 June

09:00 Welcome Coffee CRUK Lobby
Don't forget to chat with our sponsors and collect a stamp for your prize draw card!

09:40 Session 4
Chair: Dr Thorsten Boroviak

09:40 **PI Talk** **Dr Harry Bulstrode**
Engineering brain stem cells and their microenvironment for clinical delivery

10:00 **Postgrad & Postdoc Talks** **Sabrina Ghosh**
(PhD student, Káradóttir Group)
Chronic White Matter Demyelination Drives Grey Matter Neuroinflammation and Neurodegenerative Signatures

Dr Jaana Bagri
(Postdoc, Huntly Group)
PU.1: A master regulator with contrasting roles in Normal Haematopoietic and Acute Myeloid Leukaemia (AML) Stem cells

10:20 **Affiliate PI Talk** **Prof Kathy Niakan**
Molecular mechanisms that regulate the first cell fate decisions in human development

10:40 **Break** CRUK Lobby
Don't forget to chat with our sponsors and collect a stamp for your prize draw card!

11:10 Session 5
Chair: Dr Maite Bejar

11:10 **PI Talk** **Dr Maria Duque-Correa**
Talking Cells: How the Intestinal Stem Cell Niche Fights Whipworms and Heals Tissue

11:30 **Postgrad & Postdoc Talks**

Katy Bradley
(PhD Student, Khaled Group)
From structure to function: bridging imaging and transcriptomics to study breast tumour initiation at tissue scale

Dr Stephen Loughran
(Postdoc, Nangalia Group)
The Landscape of Somatic Retrotransposon Mutations in HSCs, and a novel JAK2 Signalling Pathway to HNRNPA1 that protects the HSC genome from retrotransposons

11:50 **PI Talk**

Prof George Vassiliou
The Curious Incident of the Driverless Clones

12:10 **SCI-TIF / Knowledge Exchange Update**

Dr Alice Sorrell

12:15 **Research Culture & Integrity and Equity Diversity & Integrity Update**

Prof Nicola Wilson

12:25 **Research Image Competition**

12:30 **Video Competition**

12:40 **Prizes & Closing Remarks**

Prof Bertie Göttgens

13:00 **Lunch & End of Retreat**

JCBC Lawn & Marquee



Poster Session

Poster Session Thursday 4 June 16:30

1	Eliza Yankova Postdoc Tzelepis Group	Pharmacological inhibition of METTL1 as a novel anti-cancer strategy
2	Violeta García-Hernández Postdoc Bray Group	SMARCA4 mutations promote chemotherapy resistance in T-acute lymphoblastic leukemia through altered chromatin remodeling
3	Weizhong Zheng Postdoc Göttgens Group	ClonalFlow: clone-resolved biophysical rates of single-cell dynamics from joint RNA and ATAC profiling
4	Nieves Garcia Gisbert Postdoc Laurenti Group	Defining the Impact of Ageing on Haematopoiesis through Integrated Molecular and Functional Single-Cell Analyses
5	Desislava Staneva Postdoc Niakan Group	Uncovering the role of histone modifications in early human development
6	David Lando Postdoc Philpott Group	To be or not to be (a neuron)-that is the question
7	Julian Gonzalez Rubio Postdoc Sinha Group	Organoid vascularization using organ-on-chip technology
8	Laura Nicastro Postdoc Sinha Group	Harnessing Living Myocardial Slices for Precise Mechanical Modulation of Talin 2 Dynamics
9	Camille Dumas Postdoc Storer Group	Regenerative exhaustion of the mouse digit tip: three times is not the charm
10	Rachel Barnes Genomics Technologist NGS Facility	Cambridge Stem Cell Institute Genomics Facility
11	Maria Eleftheriou Postdoc Tzelepis Group	Mapping csNPM1 presentation in healthy haematopoietic stem, progenitors and mature cells
12	Leonid Olender Postdoc Wilkinson Group	In vivo CRISPR screening identifies SAGA complex members as key regulators of hematopoiesis
13	Yael Lupu Haber Imaging Assistant Advanced Imaging Facility	Spatial Proteomics for Stem Cell Research: PhenoCycler-Fusion and MACSima in the Advanced Imaging Core
14	Ben Topham Postdoc Tzelepis Group	Investigating the Impact of m7G RNA Methylation on the Cellular Status of Progenitor and Stem Cells
15	Helena Schwärzler Postgrad Student Teichmann Group	Decoding gene regulatory networks of innate lymphocytes across tissue microenvironment

Poster Session Thursday 4 June 16:30

16	Evangelia Stamou Technician Tzelepis Group	The development of photoswitchable drugs for the study of m6A RNA methylation in stem cell biology
17	Yujun Wang Research Assistant Bulstrode Group	HIF pathway activation to Enhance Cell Replacement Graft Survival at Transplant in Parkinson's Disease
18	Denise Tran MPhil Student (Thesis) Duque-Correa Group	Recapitulating whipworm development in vitro using caecaloids
19	Apapist Panichewa Postgrad Student Wilkinson Group	Rejuvenation of aged haematopoietic stem cells by reactivation of Lin28b during ex vivo culture
20	Alexander Atkin Postgrad Student Philpott Group	Repressive transcription factor MYT1 activates a neuronal fate programme across mesoderm and endoderm
21	Rebeca Olvera León Postgrad Student Tzelepis Group	Functional mapping of paralog synthetic lethal domains using base editing: Bridging mammalian gene functions with therapeutic discovery
22	Undine-Sophie Deumer Postgrad Student Alcolea Group	Ability of committed progenitor cells to rewire their fate under homeostatic conditions
23	Olivia Hidajat Postgrad Student Göttgens Group	Integrative Immunophenotypic and Transcriptomic Profiling Reveals Temporal Decoupling of mRNA-Protein Expression in Ex Vivo Haematopoiesis
24	Júlia Viladevall Postgrad Student Laurenti Group	Clonally-resolved dynamics of human haematopoietic in vitro differentiation across ontogeny
25	Zoe Colucci Postgrad Student Tyser Group	Connexin 43: Bridging the gap between form and function
26	Bea Waller Postgrad Student Sinha Group	Chamber-specific cardiac niches in human cardiac organoids: modelling cardiomyocyte-endothelial crosstalk and divergent endothelial fates
27	Jia Hua Want Postgrad Student Storer Group	Rewiring the Matrix: Therapeutic Opportunities in Fibrosis
28	Madelyn Moy Postgrad Student Teichmann Group	Early-Life Gut Atlas Reveals Microbial Influences on Gut Maturation

MPhil (Taught) Poster Session

Thursday 4 June 16:30

29M	Asja Čampara MPhil Student (Taught) Alcolea Group	Mechanomodulation of mutant clonal competition; relevance for early tumour formation.
30M	Kelvin Karanja MPhil Student (Taught) Duque-Correa Group	Dynamics of alveolar regeneration upon lung damage by hookworm infection
31M	Makenzie Graham MPhil Student (Taught) Göttgens Group	Mechanistic understanding of blood stem cell fitness
32M	Zhimeng Wu MPhil Student (Taught) Göttgens Group	Blood stem cell functional decline in age and disease - tracking the impact of wear and tear on stem cell clones
33M	Barbora Bucinskaite MPhil Student (Taught) Göttgens Group	Characterizing stem cell population dynamics for multi-branch developmental landscapes (Computational)
34M	Madeleine Brown MPhil Student (Taught) Hodson Group	Mechanisms of cross regulation in sex-specific RNA helicases
35M	Meiqi Cheng MPhil Student (Taught) Káradóttir Group	Studying the effect of Myrf knock-out across and beyond glia cells
36M	Yurui Sun MPhil Student (Taught) Laurenti Group	Controlling metabolic adaptation to improve human haematopoietic stem cells function ex vivo in Gene therapy
37M	Yiran Cao MPhil Student (Taught) Laurenti Group	Regulation of haematopoietic stem cells by RNA processing
38M	Xining Wang MPhil Student (Taught) Méndez-Ferrer Group	Cell intrusion: investigating the functional consequences of megakaryocyte emperipolesis of neutrophils
39M	Chris Tung MPhil Student (Taught) Sinha Group	High throughput manipulation of splicing networks to modulate vascular smooth muscle phenotype and function.
40M	Isabella Mattimore MPhil Student (Taught) Storer Group	In vivo fabrication of pro-regenerative hyaluronic acid networks accelerates digit tip regeneration.
41M	Allison Cheung MPhil Student (Taught) Teichmann Group	Reconstructing innate lymphocyte development for engineering next generation cell therapies
42M	Kaitlyn Fitzgerald MPhil Student (Taught) Tyser Group	Define mechanisms regulating development of the mammalian heart
43M	Jingyi Zhang MPhil Student (Taught) Tzelepis Group	Identification of pathways regulating the presentation of csRBP-glycoRNA clusters on the surface of mammalian cells



Thank you for joining!