

An AACR Special Conference in Cancer Research

Innovations in Kidney Cancer Research: From Molecular Insights to Therapeutic Breakthroughs

March 13-16, 2026 | W Philadelphia | Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Conference Cochairs:

Eric Jonasch, UT MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas

M. Celeste Simon, Abramson Family Cancer Research Institute, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Samra Turajlic, The Francis Crick Institute, London, United Kingdom

Qing Zhang, UT Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, Texas

Friday, March 13

Registration

3–9 p.m. | Great Room Pre-Function Area

Welcome and Keynote Lectures

5:30-7:30 p.m. | Great Room

5:30-5:35 p.m.	Welcome and Keynote Speaker Introduction
5:35-6:20 p.m.	No kidneying around: Strategies to adapt CAR T-cells for solid tumors Carl H. June, Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
6:20-6:30 p.m.	Discussion/Q&A
6:30-6:35 p.m.	Keynote Speaker Introduction
6:35-7:20 p.m.	Getting to kidney cancer cures: Lessons from von Hippel-Lindau disease and other cancers William G. Kaelin, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, Massachusetts
7:20-7:30 p.m.	Discussion/Q&A

Opening Reception

7:30-9 p.m. | Industry

Saturday, March 14

Continental Breakfast

7-8 a.m. | Studio 2-3

Plenary Session 1: Immunotherapy in Kidney Cancer

8-10 a.m. | Great Room

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Session Chairs:

David A. Braun, Yale School of Medicine, New Haven, Connecticut

Kathleen Mahoney, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, Massachusetts

8-8:20 a.m.	Metabolic mechanisms controlling T cell immunity to kidney cancer Haydn Kissick, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia
8:20-8:30 a.m.	Discussion/Q&A
8:30-8:50 a.m.	Defining the determinants of anti-tumor immunity in renal cell carcinoma David A. Braun, Yale School of Medicine, New Haven, Connecticut
8:50-9 a.m.	Discussion/Q&A
9-9:20 a.m.	ERVs, epigenetics, and the stromal code: Unraveling predictors of immune checkpoint blockade in renal cell carcinoma Gabriel G. Malouf, IGBMC, Strasbourg, France
9:20-9:30 a.m.	Discussion/Q&A
9:30-9:40 a.m.	Exploiting HIF-driven endogenous retroviral neoantigens to advance kidney cancer immunotherapy* Qinqin Jiang, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, Massachusetts
9:40-9:45 a.m.	Discussion/Q&A
9:45-9:55 a.m.	Design of dual-targeted fine-tuned immune restoring (DFIR) CAR-T cell therapy to treat advanced renal cell carcinoma (RCC)* Yufei Wang, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, Massachusetts
9:55-10 a.m.	Discussion/Q&A

Coffee Break

10:00-10:30 a.m. | Foyer

Plenary Session 2: Targeting Tumor Metabolism in Kidney Cancer

10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. | Great Room

Session Chairs:

Mei Y. Koh, The University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah

M. Celeste Simon, Abramson Family Cancer Research Institute, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

10:30-10:50 a.m.	Harnessing lipid metabolism to treat kidney cancer M. Celeste Simon, Abramson Family Cancer Research Institute, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
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10:50-11 a.m.	Discussion/Q&A
11-11:20 a.m.	Computational strategies to interrogate kidney cancer metabolism Ed Resnik, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, New York
11:20-11:30 a.m.	Discussion/Q&A
11:30-11:50 a.m.	Metabolic determinants of cancer metastasis W. Kimryn Rathmell, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio
11:50 a.m.-12 p.m.	Discussion/Q&A
12-12:10 p.m.	Ferritin-dependent iron storage and ferritinophagy impact ferroptosis resistance in chromophobe renal cell carcinoma* Wafaa Bzeih, Department of Medicine, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts
12:10-12:15 p.m.	Discussion/Q&A
12:15-12:25 p.m.	Lipid auxotrophy underlies ferroptosis sensitivity in clear cell renal cell carcinoma* Ji-Young Kim, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York City, New York
12:25-12:30 p.m.	Discussion/Q&A

Lunch on Own / Free Time

12:30-2:30 p.m.

Plenary Session 3: New Paradigms in Kidney Cancer Treatments

2:30-4:30 p.m. | Great Room

Session Chairs:

Scott Haake, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, Tennessee

Eric Jonasch, UT MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas

2:30-2:50 p.m.	Implementing pragmatic biomarker into clinical trial in RCC Laurence Albiges, Gustave Roussy, Villejuif, France
2:50-3 p.m.	Discussion/Q&A
3-3:20 p.m.	Characterizing and targeting a DNA repair defect in clear cell renal cell carcinoma Eric Jonasch, UT MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas
3:20-3:30 p.m.	Discussion/Q&A

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- 3:30-3:50 p.m. **Translating insights from the TME into novel therapies for kidney cancer**
David F. McDermott, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, Massachusetts
- 3:50-4 p.m. Discussion/Q&A
- 4-4:10 p.m. **APOE-mediated immune-metabolic reprogramming of macrophages drives lipid delivery to tumor cells in clear-cell renal cell carcinoma***
Tien Hsu, China Medical University Yingcai Campus, Taichung City, Taiwan
- 4:10-4:15 p.m. Discussion/Q&A
- 4:15-4:25 p.m. **Evidence for the involvement of HIF-2 α biology in the clinical efficacy of casdatifan, a novel HIF-2 α inhibitor, in clear cell renal cell carcinoma (ccRCC)***
Jonathan Yingling, Arcus Biosciences Inc, Hayward, California
- 4:25-4:30 p.m. Discussion/Q&A

Break

4:30-4:45

Spotlight Session 1: Proffered Talks from Highly Rated Abstracts

4:45-5:45 p.m. | Great Room

Session Chairs:

Ruhee Dere, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas

Pengda Liu, UNC School of Medicine, Chapel Hill, North Carolina

- 4:45-4:55 p.m. **Chronic cGAS activation drives immunosuppressive remodeling and resistance to antiangiogenic tyrosine kinase inhibitors in ccRCC***
Hongchao He, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas
- 4:55-5 p.m. Discussion/Q&A

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5-5:10 p.m.	Single cell transcriptomic investigation of tumor-infiltrating CD8+ T cells in renal cell carcinoma (RCC) resistant to immune checkpoint inhibition (ICI)* Rishabh Rout, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut
5:10-5:15 p.m.	Discussion/Q&A
5:15-5:25 p.m.	Spatial single-cell transcriptomics reveal targetable macrophage subsets associated with antiangiogenic therapy resistance in renal cell carcinoma* Xiande Liu, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas
5:25-5:30 p.m.	Discussion/Q&A
5:30-5:40 p.m.	Deciphering the mechanistic basis of HIFα paralog target selectivity in kidney cancer* Nitin H. Shirole, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, Massachusetts
5:40-5:45 p.m.	Discussion/Q&A

Poster Session A / Reception

5:45-7:15 p.m. | Industry

Evening off / Dinner on Own

7:15 p.m.-

Sunday, March 15

Continental Breakfast

7-8 a.m. | Studio 2-3

Plenary Session 4: Modeling Kidney Cancer

8-10 a.m. | Great Room

Session Chairs:

Kathryn Beckermann, Tennessee Oncology, Franklin, Tennessee

James Brugarolas, UT Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, Texas

8-8:20 a.m.	James Brugarolas, UT Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, Texas
8:20-8:30 a.m.	Discussion/Q&A

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- 8:30-8:50 a.m. **Modeling and modulating antitumor immunity in human cancer tissues**
Daniela Thommen, Netherlands Cancer Institute, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 8:50-9 a.m. Discussion/Q&A
- 9-9:20 a.m. **Modeling rare kidney cancers: Elucidating pathogenesis and uncovering therapeutic vulnerabilities**
Pavlos Msaouel, UT MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas
- 9:20-9:30 a.m. Discussion/Q&A
- 9:30-9:40 a.m. **Breakage of chromosome 3p initiates clear cell renal cell carcinoma evolution***
Rashmi Dahiya, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, Texas
- 9:40-9:45 a.m. Discussion/Q&A
- 9:45-9:55 a.m. **Co-operation of vhl and pbrm1 in early ccRCC morphogenesis***
Samvid Kurlekar, University of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom
- 9:55-10 a.m. Discussion/Q&A

Coffee Break

10:00-10:30 a.m. | Foyer

Plenary Session 5: Tumor Evolutions, Chromosomal Instability and Metastatic Tissue Tropism in Kidney Cancer

10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. | Great Room

Session Chairs:

Srinivas Malladi, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, Texas

Samra Turajlic, The Francis Crick Institute, London, United Kingdom

- 10:30-10:50 a.m. Samra Turajlic, The Francis Crick Institute, London, United Kingdom
- 10:50-11 a.m. Discussion/Q&A
- 11-11:20 a.m. **Integrated modeling of bone metastasis to dissect and overcome cancer therapy failure**
Eleonora Dondossola, UT MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas
- 11:20-11:30 a.m. Discussion/Q&A

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| 11:30-11:50 a.m. | Mapping metabolic vulnerabilities in metastatic ccRCC using patient-derived organoids
Srinivas Malladi, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, Texas |
| 11:50 a.m.-12 p.m. | Discussion/Q&A |
| 12-12:10 p.m. | Genetic evolution of sarcomatoid/rhabdoid de-differentiation in renal cancers*
Natalie R. Abuelsamen, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada |
| 12:10-12:15 p.m. | Discussion/Q&A |
| 12:15-12:25 p.m. | Shared germline architecture across renal cell carcinoma, coronary artery disease, and clonal hematopoiesis implicates a regulatory haplotype at the TERT promoter*
Maxine Sun, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, Massachusetts |
| 12:25-12:30 p.m. | Discussion/Q&A |

Lunch on Own / Free Time

12:30-2:30 p.m.

Plenary Session 6: Advances in Studying Oncogenes and Tumor Suppressors in Kidney Cancer

2:30-4:30 p.m. | Great Room

Session Chairs:

Qing Zhang, UT Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, Texas

James Nathan, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, United Kingdom

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| 2:30-2:50 p.m. | The role of hypoxia pathways in kidney cancer
David Mole, University of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom |
| 2:50-3 p.m. | Discussion/Q&A |
| 3-3:20 p.m. | An enhancer-activated PLXNA1 program sustains ccRCC tumor growth
Qing Zhang, UT Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, Texas |
| 3:20-3:30 p.m. | Discussion/Q&A |
| 3:30-3:50 p.m. | Genetic approaches to target vulnerabilities in kidney cancer
James Nathan, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, United Kingdom |
| 3:50-4 p.m. | Discussion/Q&A |

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4-4:20 p.m.

Chromophobe RCC: Therapeutic targeting of ferroptosis

Elizabeth P. Henske, Harvard Medical School/Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts

4:20-4:30 p.m.

Discussion/Q&A

Break

4:30-4:45 p.m.

Spotlight Session 2: Proffered Talks from Highly Rated Abstracts

4:45-5:45 p.m. | Great Room

Session Chairs:

Thomas Carroll, UT Southwestern, Dallas, Texas

Abhishek A. Chakraborty, Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, Ohio

4:45-4:55 p.m.

Epigenetic dysfunction promotes dependence on the NF- κ B transcription factor in kidney cancer*

Abhishek A. Chakraborty, Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, Ohio

4:55-5 p.m.

Discussion/Q&A

5-5:10 p.m.

Functional loss of actin-regulatory protein Profilin1 in vascular endothelial cells promotes a T-cell supportive chemical milieu in kidney cancer in a TRIM24-dependent manner*

Sudeep Kumar Maurya, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

5:10-5:15 p.m.

Discussion/Q&A

5:15-5:25 p.m.

Exploiting CDK4/6-mTORC1 dependency reveals synergistic therapeutic potential in translocation renal cell carcinoma*

Shikha Gupta, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, Massachusetts

5:25-5:30 p.m.

Discussion/Q&A

5:30-5:40 p.m.

Activity-based network analysis identifies NEK5 as a PROTAC-targetable vulnerability in ccRCC*

Cheng Zhang, UT Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, Texas

5:40-5:45 p.m.

Discussion/Q&A

Poster Session B / Reception

5:45-7:15 p.m. | Industry

Evening off / Dinner on Own

7:15 p.m.-

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Monday, March 16

Continental Breakfast

7-8 a.m. | Studio 2-3

Plenary Session 7: Subtypes of Kidney Cancer and Therapeutic Implications

8-10 a.m. | Great Room

Session Chairs:

Elizabeth P. Henske, Harvard Medical School/Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts

Srinivas R. Viswanathan, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, Massachusetts

8-8:20 a.m.	Non-canonical functions of epigenetic targets in RCC Cheryl L. Walker, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas
8:20-8:30 a.m.	Discussion/Q&A
8:30-8:50 a.m.	Targeting purine salvage dependence in FH-deficient kidney cancer Heather R. Christofk, UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine, Los Angeles, California
8:50-9 a.m.	Discussion/Q&A
9-9:20 a.m.	Decoding the molecular logic of TFE3 fusions Srinivas R. Viswanathan, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, Massachusetts
9:20-9:30 a.m.	Discussion/Q&A
9:30-9:40 a.m.	Integrative multi-omic profiling reveals immune microenvironment subtypes in renal cell carcinoma* Keith Lawson, University Health Network, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
9:40-9:45 a.m.	Discussion/Q&A
9:45-9:55 a.m.	Cell surface targeting of translocation renal cell carcinoma* Prateek Khanna, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, Massachusetts
9:55-10 a.m.	Discussion/Q&A

Break

10-10:30 a.m. | Foyer

Plenary Session 8: Targeting Epigenetics in Kidney Cancer

10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. | Great Room

Session Chairs:

Katherine Alexander, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, New York

10:30-10:50 a.m.	Nuclear speckles in ccRCC
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10:50-11 a.m.	Katherine Alexander, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, New York Discussion/Q&A
11-11:20 a.m.	Targeting protein phosphatase 5 to overcome drug resistance in ccRCC Mehdi Mollapour, SUNY Upstate Medical University, Syracuse, New York
11:20-11:30 a.m.	Discussion/Q&A
11:30-11:50 a.m.	Transcriptional control of renal carcinogenesis Sakari Vanharanta, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland
11:50 a.m.-12 p.m.	Discussion/Q&A
12-12:20 p.m.	PBRM1-deficient PBAF complexes target aberrant genomic loci to activate the NF-κB pathway in clear cell renal cell carcinoma Bin T. Teh, National Cancer Centre Singapore, Singapore, Singapore
12:20-12:30 p.m.	Discussion/Q&A

Closing Remarks

12:30 p.m. | Great Room

Eric Jonasch, UT MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas
M. Celeste Simon, Abramson Family Cancer Research Institute, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Qing Zhang, UT Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, Texas