AACR American Association for Cancer Research On Campus

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

UNIVERSIDAD EL BOSQUE

UNIVERSIDAD DEL NORTE

Vigiladas Mineducación

Welcome Message

Welcome to **AACR on Campus Colombia (Bogotá and Barranquilla)**. The **American Association for Cancer Research (AACR)**, in partnership with **Universidad El Bosque (UEB)** and **Universidad del Norte (UN),** is pleased to bring together early career investigators, clinicians, students, and trainees from Colombia and across Latin America and the Caribbean for an engaging program dedicated to advancing cancer research, education, and collaboration.

Founded in 1907, AACR is the world's first and largest professional organization dedicated to advancing cancer research and accelerating progress toward the prevention and cure of cancer. With more than 65,000 members across 143 countries, AACR hosts over 30 scientific meetings and educational workshops each year, including the AACR Annual Meeting. AACR on Campus (AACRoC) extends AACR's educational mission directly to institutions and regions where supporting early-career investigators and expanding research capacity are priorities. AACRoC Colombia (Bogotá and Barranquilla) reflects AACR's commitment to fostering local talent, strengthening international collaboration, and supporting sustainable growth in cancer research and innovation.

Across this 1.5-day program at each host institution, participants will explore emerging advances in cancer science through sessions **on Integrating Molecular Epidemiology and Health Data to Advance Cancer Prevention and Equity, Cancer Genomics in Admixed Populations, Immunogenomics and the Tumor Microenvironment: Personalizing Immunotherapy, and Artificial Intelligence for Cancer Equity in Low-Resource Settings.** The scientific program is complemented by career development workshops covering **Leveraging AACR Project GENIE for Collaborative Precision Oncology** and **Emerging Applications of Artificial Intelligence in Cancer Science.** To recognize outstanding scientific contributions, one Best Poster Prize recipient from each location will receive a **USD $2,500** travel award to attend the **2027 AACR Annual Meeting.**

We hope this program serves not only as a forum for learning but also as an opportunity to exchange ideas, establish meaningful collaborations, and build lasting professional connections. By bringing together experts and emerging leaders from across the region, AACR on Campus Colombia (Bogotá and Barranquilla) seeks to strengthen a vibrant community of cancer researchers committed to improving cancer prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and patient outcomes throughout Colombia and the broader Latin American and Caribbean region.

AACR on Campus Colombia (Bogotá)
Program

Universidad El Bosque
Avenida Carrera 9 No. 131A-02 - Auditorio Principal
Bogotá, D.C., Colombia.
October 26-27, 2026

Advancing Cancer Science and Equity through Genomics, AI, and Global Collaboration

Day 1: Monday, October 26, 2026

OPENING

8:30 – 9:30 **Registration and Coffee Reception**

9:30 – 9:40 **Chairs' Welcome**

Event Host: Angela Beltrán, PhD – School of Medicine, Universidad El Bosque

9:40 – 9:50 **Opening Remarks: AACR on Campus Colombia: Advancing Cancer Science and Equity Through Genomics, AI, and Global Collaboration**
Carolina Vizcaino, PhD, Vice Rector for Research – Universidad El Bosque

Session 1: Immunogenomics and the Tumor Microenvironment: Personalizing Immunotherapy

This session will examine how the integration of immunogenomics and tumor microenvironment profiling is reshaping the future of personalized cancer immunotherapy. It will highlight current scientific advances and their application to real-world treatment strategies, particularly in underrepresented populations such as those in Latin America. Special attention will be given to the genetic and immunological diversity within the region and its implications for therapeutic response. The session also aims to address access and equity challenges, promoting inclusive research and expanding the reach of life-saving immunotherapies.

9:50 – 10:10 **Tumor Microenvironment and Immune Modulation: Translating Immunobiology into Cancer Therapy**
Jairo Zuluaga, MD, Clinical Oncologist, Luis Carlos Sarmiento Angulo Center for Cancer Treatment and Research (CTIC).

10:10 – 10:50 **From Tumor Genomics to Immune Resistance: Expanding the success of Immunotherapy**
Jennifer Guerriero, PhD, Brigham and Women's Hospital/Harvard Cancer Center, Boston, Massachusetts

10:50 – 11:10 **Questions and Answers**

11:10 – 11:30 **Coffee Break and Poster Exhibition**

Session 2: Cancer Genomics in Admixed Populations

This session will explore the unique genomic landscape of admixed populations in Latin America, with a focus on Colombia, where Indigenous, African, and European ancestries converge. Despite their diversity, these populations remain underrepresented in global cancer genomics research. The session will emphasize the need to generate and analyze local genomic data to identify population-specific cancer risk variants and treatment responses. By addressing this gap, the session supports the advancement of equitable precision oncology and promotes the inclusion of diverse populations in the global cancer research agenda.

11:30 – 11:50 **Cancer ancestry among Hispanics.**
Jairo Zuluaga, MD, Clinical Oncologist, Luis Carlos Sarmiento Angulo Center for Cancer Treatment and Research (CTIC).

11:50 - 12:30 **Understanding Breast Cancer Genomics in Latino Populations: From Ancestry and Risk to Precision Medicine.**
Laura Fejerman, MSc, PhD, UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center, Sacramento, California

12:30 – 12:40 **Questions and Answers**

12:40 – 14:00 **Lunch & "Meet the Experts"**

Session 3: Integrating Molecular Epidemiology and Health Data to Advance Cancer Prevention and Equity

This session will explore how combining molecular epidemiology with routinely collected health and environmental data can drive targeted cancer prevention and early detection strategies, particularly in underserved populations. With a focus on identifying high-risk groups and molecular subtypes, the discussion will highlight how integrated, community-engaged research approaches can inform equitable public health interventions. The session will also emphasize

the importance of cross-disciplinary collaboration and scalable solutions to reduce disparities and improve cancer outcomes in both local and global contexts.

14:00 – 14:20 **Oncology Equity: Global Data, Omics Technologies, and AI**
Joaquín Guerra Villamizar, MD, Head of Oncology, Los Cobos Medical Center, Bogotá, Colombia

14:20 – 15:00 **From Data to Action: Integrating Biology, Behavior, and Community Advance Cancer Prevention and Equity.**
Brian M. Rivers, MPH, PhD, Morehouse School of Medicine, Atlanta, Georgia

15:00 – 15:10 **Questions and Answers**

15:10 – 15:30 **Coffee Break and Poster Exhibition**

Session 4: **Artificial Intelligence for Cancer Equity in Low-Resource Settings**
This session will explore the transformative potential of artificial intelligence (AI) to improve cancer care in resource-limited settings by enhancing diagnostic accuracy, treatment decisions, and healthcare efficiency. Emphasizing ethical and equitable implementation, the session will examine real-world applications, the development of context-specific algorithms, and the importance of inclusive data to ensure AI serves diverse populations. Participants will gain insight into how AI can be used not only as a technological tool, but as a catalyst for reducing disparities and promoting equity in global oncology.

15:30 – 15:50 **Artificial Intelligence in Cancer Care in Colombia: Current Applications and Future Opportunities**
Andrés Felipe Cardona Mendoza, MSc, Researcher in Artificial Intelligence Applied to Oncology, INMUBO & SavIA Lab, Universidad El Bosque.

15:50 – 16:30 **From Multimodal Real-World Data to Precision Oncology for All: Opportunities for Equitable AI.**
Francisco Sanchez Vega, PhD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, New York

16:30 – 17:00 **Closing Remarks for Day 1**

Event Host: Angela Beltrán, PhD – School of Medicine, Universidad El Bosque

Day 2: Tuesday, October 27, 2026

8:30 – 8:40 **Check-In and Coffee Reception**

8:40 – 9:00 **Welcome Remarks and Opening of Day 2**

Event Host: Angela Beltrán, PhD – School of Medicine, Universidad El Bosque

9:00 – 10:00 **Workshop: Leveraging AACR Project GENIE for Collaborative Precision Oncology**

This session will introduce participants to the AACR Project GENIE, a global data-sharing initiative that links genomic and clinical data to advance precision cancer medicine. Through practical examples, attendees will learn how collaborative data collection and analysis can inform biomarker-driven research, support high-impact publications and grant proposals, and improve patient care. The workshop will highlight key skills in data integration, ethical sharing, and cross-disciplinary collaboration essential for bridging basic, translational, and clinical cancer research.

Kelli M. Rasmussen, MS, Associate Director, Project GENIE, American Association for Cancer Research, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

10:00 – 10:50 **Panel Session: Emerging Applications of Artificial Intelligence in Cancer Science**

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming cancer research and clinical care, from early detection and diagnostics to personalized treatment and drug discovery. This session will introduce participants to cutting-edge AI applications and explore how these tools can be integrated into cancer research within Colombia's unique healthcare and data infrastructure. With the country's growing interest in digital health and innovation, this topic is highly relevant and forward-looking, offering participants the opportunity to engage with global trends while identifying local applications of AI that could improve outcomes and equity in cancer care.
Moderator: Carolina Sotelo Rodríguez M.D., MSc. Instituto Nacional De Cancerología.

International panelists:
Francisco Sanchez-Vega, PhD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, New York.
Jennifer Guerriero, PhD, Brigham and Women's Hospital/Harvard Cancer Center, Boston, Massachusetts

Colombian panelists
Andrés Felipe Cardona Mendoza, MSc, *Researcher in Artificial Intelligence Applied to Oncology, INMUBO & SavIA Lab, Universidad El Bosque.*
Dr. Sandra Janneth Perdomo Lara, PhD, *Cancer Researcher, INMUBO & SavIA-Lab, Universidad El Bosque.*

10:50 – 11:10 **Coffee Break / Networking**

11:10 – 12:00 **Panel Session: From Genomics to Algorithms: Bridging Innovation and Equity in Latin American Cancer Care**

Advances in cancer genomics, data science, and artificial intelligence are transforming cancer research and opening new possibilities for prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and precision oncology. Translating these advances into meaningful clinical impact, however, requires representative data, research and clinical capacity, appropriate infrastructure, and strong collaboration.

This panel will explore how innovation can move from genomics and algorithms to clinical practice, while ensuring that emerging technologies address the needs of diverse populations and contribute to more equitable cancer care across Latin America. The discussion will conclude by identifying priorities and concrete opportunities for strengthening cancer research and innovation in Colombia.
Moderator: Carolina Sotelo Rodríguez M.D., MSc. Instituto Nacional De Cancerología.

International panelists:
Laura Fejerman, MSc, PhD, UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center, Sacramento, CA
Kelli M. Rasmussen, MS, Associate Director, Project GENIE, American Association for Cancer Research, Philadelphia, PA
Brian M. Rivers, PhD, MPH, Morehouse School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA.

Colombian panelist:
Dr. Jairo Zuluaga, Clinical Oncologist, Luis Carlos Sarmiento Angulo Center for Cancer Treatment and Research (CTIC).

12:00-12:30 **Award Ceremony and Final Remarks**

Event Host: Angela Beltrán, PhD – School of Medicine, Universidad El Bosque

AACR Distinguished Speakers



Jennifer Guerriero, PhD

Dr. Guerriero is a PhD immunologist and runs an R01/R37/DOD funded independent laboratory at Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH) / Harvard Cancer Center (HCC) that focuses on developing novel strategies to modulate tumor associated macrophages (TAMs). The Guerriero laboratory works on unraveling the complexity of TAM biology, ontogeny and metabolic regulation with the goal of developing clinically effective strategies to target TAMs to promote T-cell activation and weaken the immune-suppressive TME to improve immunotherapy response rates. As a faculty member of the Breast Oncology Program at DFCI Dr. Guerriero leads and supports translational research to investigate innovative methods to modulate the immune response in breast cancer as well as to better understand the mechanistic basis for sensitivity and resistance to currently available immunotherapies. Dr. Guerriero received a BS in biochemistry from Northeastern University while on a Division I pole vault scholarship. She received a PhD in molecular and cellular biology and immunology and pathology from Stony Brook University. She completed her postdoctoral fellowship at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and joined the faculty in 2017 as an Instructor, before joining Brigham and Women's Hospital as an independent investigator in 2020. Dr. Guerriero has served as an elected Director At-Large for the Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer (SITC) and currently serves on the Executive Council. She also serves on the AACR Cancer Immunology Working Group Steering Committee. She is an Associate Editor for the Journal for ImmunoTherapy of Cancer (JITC). Dr. Guerriero is also co-founder of The Myeloid Network, a monthly international seminar series aimed to connect researchers worldwide to promote communication and advancement in the field of myeloid cell biology.



Laura Fejerman, MSc, PhD

Dr. Fejerman is the Placer Breast Cancer Endowed Chair and Professor in the Department of Public Health Sciences, School of Medicine at the University of California Davis. She is the Associate Director for Community Outreach and Engagement and the Director of the Women's Cancer Care and Research Program (WeCARE) at the UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center. She completed her undergraduate degree in Social Anthropology at the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina and earned her PhD in Biological Anthropology and MSc in Human Biology at the University of Oxford, England. Dr. Fejerman's research focuses on the discovery of genetic and non-genetic factors that contribute to breast cancer risk and prognosis. She built the Peruvian Genetics/Genomics of Breast Cancer (PEGEN-BC) Study collaborating with the Instituto Nacional de Enfermedades Neoplasicas, Lima, Peru, which includes ~3,300 women with breast cancer. She also leads the Latin America Genetics and Genomics of

Breast Cancer Consortium (LAGENO-BC) which brings together researchers from the U.S. and Latin American countries to study the genetics of breast cancer in individuals of Latin American heritage. Dr. Fejerman is passionate about cancer prevention and control and dedicates part of her time to the development and implementation of cancer education and navigation programs tailored to underserved and under resourced communities in California.



Brian M. Rivers, MPH, PhD

Dr. Brian Rivers is a Professor and Director of the Cancer Health Equity Institute at Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM). Dr. Rivers is nationally and internationally recognized as a leader in health disparities research and a retired member of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) National Advisory Council on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NACMHD). Dr. Rivers is an active member in the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) community and serves in several ledership capacities. Dr. Rivers is a behavioral scientist with a broad background in implementation science and public health, with specific training and expertise in methodologies commonly used to addressing health disparitiesTo date, Dr. Rivers has secured more than $30 million in extramural funding through NIH. The goal of Dr. Rivers program of research is to contribute to advancing cancer health equity. More specifically, Dr. Rivers research portfolio has endeavored to expand the application of population-based intervention science to understand how to address cancer health disparities in clinical and community-based settings, using multi-level approaches, such as medical mobile apps and/or Community Health Workers/Patient Navigators. Currently, Dr. Rivers is leading several large randomized controlled trials, funded by Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) and NIH National Institute on Minority Health and Health (NIMHD R01, to evaluate and characterize app usage and acceptability for education and care coordination among African American men diagnosed with prostate cancer. Dr. Rivers is a Multiple-Principal Investigator for the NIH National Cancer Institute (NCI) funded PACHE U54 Cancer Research Partnership between MSM, Tuskegee University, and the University of Alabama-Birmingham O'Neil Comprehensive Cancer Center (UAB CCC). Dr. Rivers also serves as the Director of the Integrating Special Populations Core of the NIH National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) funded Georgia Clinical and Translational Science Alliance. Dr. Rivers has over 350 scientific communications and his work has been presented in a diverse settings including the First Congress on Oncolgy Clinical Trials (Lagos, Nigeria), Movember International Prostate Cancer Consortium (Queensland, Australia), The Atlantic Magazine, The People vs Cancer, South by Southwest (SXSW) conferences, and the National Press Foundation.



Francisco Sanchez Vega, PhD,
Dr. Francisco Sánchez-Vega is an Associate Attending in the Computational Oncology Service within the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSK) in New York, with a secondary appointment in the Colorectal Service of the Department of Surgery. He also serves as Head of Real-World Data Analysis at the Halvorsen Center for Computational Oncology. Dr. Sánchez-Vega earned his PhD in Applied Mathematics and Statistics, specializing in Computational Medicine, from The Johns Hopkins University, followed by postdoctoral training at the National Human Genome Research Institute. Over the past decade, Dr. Sánchez-Vega has led influential pan-cancer studies integrating clinical, genomic, and molecular data to characterize oncogenic processes and disease trajectories. His current research combines computational genomics, machine learning, and mathematical methods for multimodal integration of real-world data to enhance diagnostic accuracy, refine risk stratification, and support personalized treatment decisions across a broad range of tumor types. His group works closely with pathology, surgery, and medical oncology teams at MSK to translate data-driven insights into clinically meaningful advances for cancer care.



Kelli M. Rasmussen, MS
Kelli Rasmussen is the Associate Director of AACR's Project GENIE, where she brings over a decade of expertise in cancer epidemiology, data science, and strategic communication to drive advancements in precision medicine. She is instrumental in managing the day-to-day operations of the Project GENIE Coordinating Center, overseeing collaborative efforts across international institutions, and ensuring the integration of real-world data to enhance clinical decision-making. Prior to joining the AACR, Kelli served as a senior data scientist at the University of Utah's Division of Epidemiology, where she spearheaded innovative projects like the VetConnect Cancer Navigator within the Veterans Health Administration (VHA). Her work has significantly improved cancer care coordination and the use of advanced computational techniques for oncology research. Kelli holds a Master of Science degree in sociology with an emphasis on population health sciences from the University of Utah. Her passion for improving patient outcomes through data-driven insights and fostering multidisciplinary collaboration continues to drive her work at the forefront of oncology research and precision medicine.

UEB Distinguished Speakers



Jairo Zuluaga, MD, MSc

Dr. Zuluaga is an Internal Medicine physician and Clinical Oncologist based in Bogotá, Colombia, and a member of the Thoracic Oncology Unit at the Luis Carlos Sarmiento Angulo Cancer Treatment and Research Center (CTIC). He is also affiliated with the GIGA/TERA Research Groups at CTIC and Universidad El Bosque. His clinical and research work focuses primarily on thoracic oncology, particularly non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). His areas of expertise and research interest include precision oncology, molecular and genomic characterization of lung cancer, oncogenic alterations and targeted therapies, treatment resistance, and brain metastases. Dr. Zuluaga has contributed to research on EGFR, ROS1, and ERBB2 alterations, as well as biomarkers and genomic characteristics relevant to Latin American populations. He is also actively involved in clinical research and oncology clinical trials, including studies evaluating emerging therapeutic strategies and real-world evidence in cancer care. His work focuses on translating advances in **molecular oncology and precision medicine into clinical practice,** while contributing to the development of evidence and access to innovative therapies for patients with lung cancer in Colombia and across Latin America.



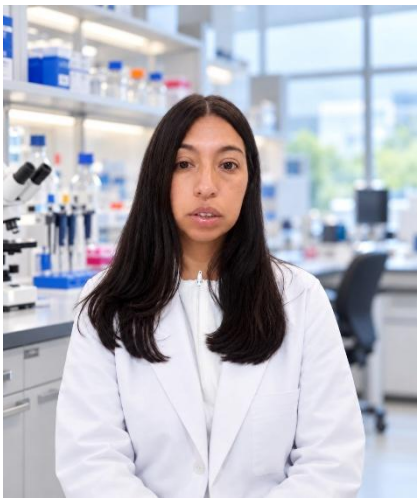
Andrés Felipe Cardona Mendoza, M.Sc.

Andrés Felipe Cardona Mendoza is a bacteriologist and immunologist, with a Master's degree in Biological Sciences and currently a PhD candidate in Computer Engineering at the University of Salamanca. He is an Assistant Professor at Universidad El Bosque and a researcher at the Artificial Intelligence Laboratory – SavIA Lab – of the Cellular and Molecular Immunology Group – INMUBO –, where he has primarily worked in oral and cervical cancer immunology. He currently focuses on the application of artificial intelligence to cancer and other medical fields, with an emphasis on developing computational tools for the analysis of complex biomedical data. His work includes the analysis of tissue and cell images, such as whole-slide images in digital pathology, the development of models to identify patterns in biological samples, and the application of deep learning techniques to clinical data processing. He also contributes to the development and organization of biomedical databases, which are essential for training AI systems, as well as to the validation of these models in translational research and healthcare settings.



Joaquín Guerra Villamizar, MD

Dr. Guerra Villamizar is a physician and surgeon who graduated from the Escuela Colombiana de Medicina. He is a specialist in Internal Medicine from Colegio Mayor de Nuestra Señora del Rosario and in Hematology and Clinical Oncology from Universidad Militar Nueva Granada in Bogotá, Colombia. He has extensive experience in comprehensive cancer care and currently serves as Head of the Oncology Unit at Los Cobos Medical Center in Bogotá. His professional experience has focused primarily on the diagnosis, management, and follow-up of patients with oncologic and hematologic diseases. He has also been involved in teaching, medical education, and clinical research, contributing to the advancement of knowledge and capabilities in the field of oncology. His career includes participation in academic and scientific forums focused on cancer care and knowledge exchange among healthcare professionals from different disciplines.



Sandra Janneth Perdomo Lara Ph.D

Dr. Perdomo Lara holds a Ph.D. in Biological Sciences and is a researcher at Universidad El Bosque in Bogotá, Colombia. She currently serves as Director of SavIA-Lab, the Artificial Intelligence and Virtualization for Health Laboratory, and Coordinator of the Cellular and Molecular Cancer Immunology Research Line within the INMUBO research group. Her scientific background includes biomedical research, epigenetics, molecular biomarkers, and the development of innovative diagnostic technologies, with a particular focus on cancer research. She currently leads interdisciplinary projects integrating artificial intelligence, digital pathology, medical imaging, and clinical and molecular data to develop innovative approaches for cancer detection, diagnosis, and characterization. She is the author and co-author of scientific publications in peer-reviewed journals and has participated in national and international research collaborations. She has also supervised undergraduate, master's, and other postgraduate students, contributing to the training of new researchers and the development of scientific talent in biomedical sciences.