

The Cancer Research Institute is proud to highlight selected sessions and presentations during AACR 2025 with a focus on: tumor microenvironment and immune modulation, cutting-edge advances in cell therapy, neoantigens and personalized immunotherapy, broader trends and translational strategies in cancer immunotherapy, and more.

Saturday, April 26	Speaker/Chair
8:00 - 10:00 Room S404 - McCormick Place South (Level 4), ED22 SESSION: CAR-T Cells in Hematological Malignancies: Innovations and Pitfalls	Marco Ruella, MD University of Pennsylvania
9:00 AM - 9:20 AM Room S404 - McCormick Place South (Level 4), ED22 TALK: Engineering the next generation of CAR T-cells: Overcoming resistance and enhancing efficacy	Marco Ruella, MD University of Pennsylvania
10:30 AM - 10:50 AM Room S406 (Vista Ballroom) - McCormick Place South (Level 4), ED28 TALK: Title TBD	Sacha Gnjjatic, PhD Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
1:17 PM - 1:40 PM Room S100 A (Grand Ballroom A) - McCormick Place South (Level 1), ED26 TALK: CARs versus T cell engagers: Which will prevail in the solid tumor microenvironment?	Brad Nelson, PhD BC Cancer Research
2:30 PM - 4:00 PM Room S106 - McCormick Place South (Level 1), DC02 SESSION: Rising Rates of Early-Onset Cancers: Understanding the Shift and Exploring Solutions	MODERATOR: Elizabeth M. Jaffee, MD Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center
Sunday, April 27	Speaker/Chair
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Arie Crown Theater - McCormick Lakeside Center (Level 2), CPTL01 SESSION: Advances in Immunotherapy	CO-CHAIR: Antoni Ribas, MD, PhD UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center; Pamela N. Munster, MD, UCSF University of California San Francisco
1:05 PM - 1:25 PM Room S402 - McCormick Place South (Level 4), SY38 TALK: Harnessing the neoadjuvant window: Immunotherapy in breast cancer	Elizabeth A. Mittendorf, MD, PhD, MHCM Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Monday, April 28	Speaker/Chair
12:30 AM - 2:00 PM Room S105 - McCormick Place South (Level 1), SY21 SESSION: Immunometabolism and Metabolic Fitness in Tumors	CHAIR: Jeffrey C. Rathmell, PhD Vanderbilt University Medical Center
12:35 PM - 12:50 PM Room S105 - McCormick Place South (Level 1), SY21-01 TALK: Inflammatory drivers of the obesity-cancer connection	Jeffrey C. Rathmell, PhD Vanderbilt University Medical Center
1:15 PM - 1:30 PM Room S105 - McCormick Place South (Level 1), SY21-02 TALK: Reprogramming the tumor microenvironment with a single punch – our journey from bench to bedside	Ping-Chih Ho, PhD Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research at UNIL
7:10 PM - 7:25 PM Room S105 - McCormick Place South (Level 1), TM10 TALK: A vascular-restricted, tumor-induced neutrophil population drives vascular occlusion, pleomorphic necrosis and metastasis	Jose M. Adrover, PhD Francis Crick Institute



We are thrilled to present the 2025 AACR-Cancer Research Institute Lloyd J. Old Award in Cancer Immunology to Crystal L. Mackall, MD, Fellow of the AACR Academy, during the meeting. Dr. Mackall's award lecture will be held on Tuesday, April 29, at 3:00 PM (details below).

Tuesday, April 29	Speaker/Chair
8:32 AM - 8:59 AM Hall B1 - McCormick Place North (Level 3), PL04 TALK: Leveraging tumor immune archetypes in treating cancer	Matthew F. Krummel, PhD University of California San Francisco
10:15 - 10:45 AM Room E351 - McCormick Lakeside Center (Level 3), SY16 SESSION: Novel Classes of Human Cancer Rejection Antigens: Beyond Point Mutations	CHAIR: Christopher A. Klebanoff, MD Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
10:20 - 10:40 AM Room E351 - McCormick Lakeside Center (Level 3), SY16 TALK: Therapeutic targeting of public neoantigens resulting from recurrent gene fusions and mRNA mis-splicing events	Christopher A. Klebanoff, MD Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
10:45 - 11:05 AM Room E351 - McCormick Lakeside Center (Level 3), SY16 TALK: Tumor-wide RNA splicing aberrations generate therapeutically actionable public neoantigens	Hideho Okada, MD, PhD University of California San Francisco
11:10 AM - 11:30 AM Room E351 - McCormick Lakeside Center (Level 3), SY16 TALK: Dark genome antigens as targets for immunotherapies	Sebastian Amigorena, PhD Institut Curie
10:15 AM - 12:15 PM Arie Crown Theater - McCormick Lakeside Center (Level 2) SESSION: Biologics and T-cell Engagers	CO-CHAIRS: Crystal L. Mackall, MD Stanford Hospital; Jedd D. Wolchok, MD, PhD Weill Cornell Medicine/Sandra and Edward Meyer Cancer Center
10:20 AM - 10:40 AM Room E451 - McCormick Lakeside Center (Level 4), SY19 TALK: Identification and functional validation of neoantigen-specific TCRs from PBMC in low mutational burden cancer patients	Stephen P. Schoenberger, PhD La Jolla Institute for Immunology
10:45 AM - 11:05 AM Room E451 - McCormick Lakeside Center (Level 4), SY19 TALK: RNA vaccines for pancreatic cancer	Vinod P. Balachandran, MD Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
2:30 PM - 4:00 PM Arie Crown Theater - McCormick Lakeside Center (Level 2), MS.IM01.01 SESSION: Adoptive Cell Therapies	CO-CHAIRS: Daniel J. Powell, PhD Univ. of Pennsylvania; Sidi Chen, PhD Yale School of Medicine
3:00 PM - 3:45 PM Room S105 - McCormick Place South (Level 1), LE11 TALK: AACR-Cancer Research Institute Lloyd J. Old Award in Cancer Immunology, CAR T cells for cancer therapy	Crystal L. Mackall, MD Stanford Hospital

Wednesday, April 30	Speaker/Chair
10:15 AM - 11:45 AM Room S401 - McCormick Place South (Level 4), SY20 SESSION: Hubs of Anti-Tumor Immunity: Lymph Nodes and Lymphoid Structures	CHAIR: Amanda W. Lund, PhD NYU Langone Health Perlmutter Cancer Ctr.
10:20 AM - 10:40 AM Room S401 - McCormick Place South (Level 4), SY20-01 TALK: Programming the lymphatic state to maintain immune surveillance and limit regional metastasis	Amanda W. Lund, PhD NYU Langone Health Perlmutter Cancer Ctr.