

CNIO - CaixaResearch Foundation Frontiers Meeting  
**Metabolism and Cancer: Insights from Obesity and Beyond - 20<sup>th</sup>- 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026**

**Venue:**

Spanish National Cancer Research Centre – CNIO Auditorium, Madrid, Spain

**Organizing committee:**

**Roger Davis**, Molecular Medicine, UMass Chan Medical School, Massachusetts, US

**Nabil Djouder**, Growth Factors, Nutrients and Cancer, CNIO, Madrid, Spain

**Alejo Efeyan**, Metabolism and Cell Signalling Group, CNIO, Madrid, Spain

**M<sup>a</sup> Carmen Fernández Agüera**, Cell Metabolism, Cell Press, Seville, Spain

**Miguel A. Quintela**, Breast Cancer Clinical Research, CNIO, Madrid, Spain

**Guadalupe Sabio**, Organ Crosstalk in Metabolic Diseases, CNIO, Madrid, Spain

**Rationale:**

Obesity remains a significant health concern, affecting over 17% of adults in Europe and contributing significantly to cancer development. The primary goal of the conference is to deepen our understanding of metabolic crosstalks and their profound implications for cancer. Taking a holistic approach, the event will explore the plethora of interactions between metabolism and cancer across various tissues and organs.

The conference will highlight key drivers stemming from unhealthy metabolism that impact cancer development. It will delve into cutting-edge topics such as advancements in adipocyte biology, uncovering the diverse roles of adipose tissue beyond fat storage and its influence on tumor metabolism. Additionally, groundbreaking research on exercise and its potential impact on cancer will be presented. The role of mitochondrial bioenergetics in metabolic regulation will be rigorously examined, offering promising avenues for cancer therapy. Moreover, the conference will scrutinize the tumor microenvironment and metabolic changes in surrounding tissues, alongside immune modulation, particularly in the context of obesity. Cachexia, a complex syndrome involving muscle wasting and its relationship with cancer, will also be a focal point.

**SPEAKER LIST**

**Kivanç Birsoy**, Metabolic Regulation and Genetics, Rockefeller University, New York, US

**Paul Cohen**, The Rockefeller University, New York, US

**Arkaitz Carracedo**, CIC bioGUNE, Center for Cooperative Research in Biosciences, Vizcaya, Spain

**Gina DeNicola**, Moffitt Cancer Center, Tampa, US

**Sabrina Diano**, Institute of Human Nutrition, Columbia University, New York, US

**Ilaria Elia**, KU Leuven, Leuven, Belgium

**Mark Febbraio**, Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia

**Sarah-Maria Fendt**, VIB KU Leuven Center for Cancer Biology, Leuven, Belgium

**Marcus D. Gonçalves**, NYU Langone Health, New York, US

**Mathias Heikenwälder**, German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ), Tübingen, Germany

**Stephen Herzig**, Helmholtz Munich, Munich, Germany

**Tobias Janowitz**, Cold Spring Harbor, New York, US

**Lydia Lynch**, Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research, Princeton University, Princeton, US

**Brendan Manning**, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Boston, US

**Rubén Nogueiras**, Center for Research in Molecular Medicine and Chronic Diseases. Santiago de Compostela, Spain

**Celeste Simon**, University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine, Philadelphia, US

**Aleksandra Trifunovic**, University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany

**Karen Vousden**, The Francis Crick Institute, London, UK

**Eileen White**, Rutgers Cancer Institute, Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research, New York, US

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**Metabolism and Cancer: Insights from Obesity and Beyond - 20<sup>th</sup>- 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026**

Wednesday May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026

08:30-09:15 *Registration - main hall*

09:15-09:30 *Welcome address*

**09:30-12:00 Session 1. Obesity, Adipose Tissue, and Systemic Metabolism in Cancer**

09:30 – 10:00 New roles for adipocytes in health and disease  
**Paul Cohen, The Rockefeller University, New York, US**

10:00 – 10:30 Cancer Cachexia: From Tumor to Liver  
**Stephan Herzig, Helmholtz Munich, Munich, Germany**

10:30-11:00 *Poster session - coffee break – Canteen*

11:00 – 11:15 *short talk*

11:15 – 11:30 *short talk*

11:30 – 12:00 Dietary lipids and cholesterol shape anti-tumor immunity  
**Lydia Lynch, Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research, Princeton University, Princeton, US**

**12:00-15:30 Session 2. Exercise, Nutritional Signals, and Cancer Prevention**

12:00 – 12:30 Role of the gut liver axis in MASH driven HCC  
**Mark Febbraio, Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia**

12:30-14:00 *Lunch break – Canteen*

14:00 – 14:30 Cysteine metabolism in cancer  
**Gina DeNicola, Moffitt Cancer Center, Tampa, US**

14:30 – 14:45 *short talk*

**14:45 – 17:15 Session 3. Cachexia and Muscle-Wasting Syndromes in Cancer**

14:45 – 15:00 *short talk*

15:00 – 15:30 Cancer Cachexia  
**Eileen White, Rutgers Cancer Institute, Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research, New York, US**

15:30-16:00 *Poster session - coffee break – Canteen*

16:00 – 16:30 Mechanisms of Interorgan Communication During Cancer Progression  
**Tobias Janowitz, Cold Spring Harbor, New York, US**

16:30 – 16:45 *short talk*

16:45 – 17:15 Tumor Inflammation and Appetite Loss During Cachexia  
**Marcus D. Goncalves, NYU Langone Health, New York, US**

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**09:30-11:30 Session 4. Metabolic Reprogramming and Tumor-Intrinsic Pathways**

09:30 – 10:00 From Metabolite to Messenger: Lactate in Feeding Regulation  
**Sabrina Diano**, Institute of Human Nutrition, Columbia University, New York, US

10:00 – 10:15 *short talk*

10:00 – 10:30 Metabolic Control of Cancer Progression  
**Karen Vousden**, The Francis Crick Institute, London, UK

*10:30-11:15 Group picture CNIO main entrance / poster session & coffee break – Canteen*

11:15 – 11:45 **Aleksandra Trifunovic**, University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany

11:45 – 11:30 *short talk*

**11:30-17:15 Session 5. Tumor Microenvironment and Metabolic Interactions**

11:30 – 12:00 Understanding the role of organelles metabolism in cancer  
**Kivanç Birsoy**, Metabolic Regulation and Genetics, Rockefeller University, New York, US

12:00 – 12:15 *short talk*

*12:15-14:00 Lunch break – Canteen*

14:00 – 14:30 Metabolic rewiring Driving Metastasis Formation  
**Sarah-Maria Fendt**, VIB KU Leuven Center for Cancer Biology, Leuven, Belgium

14:30 – 14:45 *short talk*

14:45 – 15:15 Role of mTOR signaling in the metabolism of growing tumors  
**Brendan Manning**, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Boston, US

15:15 – 15:30 *short talk*

*15:30-16:00 Poster session - coffee break – Canteen*

16:00 – 16:30 From Cell Cycle Regulators to Liver Metabolism  
**Rubén Nogueiras**, Center for Research in Molecular Medicine and Chronic Diseases. Santiago de Compostela, Spain

16:30 – 16:45 *short talk*

16:45 – 17:15 The influence of cellular and systemic metabolism in prostate cancer progression  
**Arkaitz Carracedo**, CIC bioGUNE, Center for Cooperative Research in Biosciences, Vizcaya, Spain

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Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026

09:30-12:30 **Session 6. Metabolic Pathways in Cancer**

09:30 – 10:00 Deciphering the hepatic immune-metabolic environment opening novel combinatorial therapies to treat liver cancer  
**Mathias Heikenwälder**, German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ), Tübingen, Germany

10:00 – 10:15 *short talk*

10:15 – 10:30 *short talk*

10:30 – 11:00 Understanding the metabolic cross-talk between cancer and T cells in metastatic Melanoma  
**Ilaria Elia**, KU Leuven, Leuven, Belgium

11:00-11:30 *Poster session - coffee break – Canteen*

11:30 – 12:00 **Celeste Simon**, University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine, Philadelphia, US

12:00 – 12:30 Canonical and non-canonical signaling by macrophage JNK  
**Roger Davis**, Molecular Medicine, UMass Chan Medical School, Massachusetts, US

12:30 *Poster/talk prizes*

*Wrap up and closing*

**More information and registration:** <https://www.cnio.es/en/eventos/cnio-caixaresearch-frontiers-meeting-metabolism-and-cancer-insights-from-obesity-and-beyond-2/>