

8th Nordic / 1st European Merkel Cell Carcinoma Meeting

Leibniz Institute for Virology - Hamburg, Germany

Thursday, September 19, 2024

Chair: Nicole Fischer (Hamburg-Eppendorf, Germany)

- 09:00-09:05 **Nicole Fischer, Jürgen Becker, John Paoli & Weng-Onn Lui**
Welcome address
- 09:05-09:35 **James A DeCaprio** (Boston, USA)
Identifying therapeutic targets in MCPyV-positive Merkel cell carcinoma
- 09:35-10:05 **Iwona Lugowska** (Warsaw, Poland)
Merkel cell carcinoma: ESMO–EURACAN Clinical Practice Guideline for diagnosis, treatment and follow-up
- 10:05-10:20 **Emily Gong** (Seattle, USA)
Immunosuppressed Merkel cell carcinoma patients frequently respond to immunotherapy but with significantly shorter durability: a 183-patient cohort
- 10:20-10:35 **Silvia Albertini** (Hamburg, Germany)
Merkel Cell Polyomavirus efficiently infects iPS-derived skin organoids
- 10:35-11:00 **Flash poster presentations** (2 minutes/presentation)
Büke Celikdemir (Würzburg, Germany), **Sara Passerini** (Rome, Italy), **Wen Xu** (Brisbane, Australia) (2 posters), **Hao Shi** (Stockholm, Sweden), **Meng Luo** (Essen, Germany), **Hannah Björn Andtback** (Stockholm, Sweden), **Libuse Janska** (Stockholm, Sweden), **Yajie Yang** (Stockholm, Sweden), **Julian Kött** (Hamburg, Germany) and **Dan Liu** (Maastricht, Netherlands)
- 11:00-11:30 *Coffee break*
- 11:30-12:15 **Poster session**
- 12:15-12:30 **Haroldo Rodriguez** (Seattle, USA)
Germinal center B cell response in MCPyV-driven Merkel cell carcinoma associates with disease outcomes
- 12:30-13:00 **Martin Enge** (Stockholm, Sweden)
Gene dosage heterogeneity in cancer
- 13:00-14:00 *Lunch*

Chair: Jürgen Becker (Essen, Germany)

- 14:00-14:30 **Thibault Kervarrec** (Tours, France)
Adcitmer®, a new CD56-targeting monomethyl auristatin E-conjugated antibody, is a potential therapeutic approach in Merkel cell carcinoma
- 14:30-15:00 **Mads Hald Andersen** (Copenhagen, Denmark)
Immune modulatory vaccines for cancer therapy
- 15:00-15:15 **Isaac Brownell** (Bethesda, USA)
CDK inhibitors disrupt mRNA processing and synergize with Bcl-xL inhibitors in Merkel cell carcinoma
- 15:15-15:30 **Krista Lachance** (Seattle, USA)
Working together to find a cure: The Merkel cell carcinoma collaborative (MC3)
- 15:30-16:00 *Coffee break*
- 16:00-16:30 **Gustav Ullenhag** (Uppsala, Sweden)
The role of imaging during follow-up after radical surgery of stage IIB-C and III cutaneous melanoma and Merkel cell carcinoma: Survival results from an interim analysis of a randomized prospective multicenter study (TRIM)
- 16:30-17:00 **Klaus Pantel** (Hamburg-Eppendorf, Germany)
Liquid biopsy: From discovery to clinical implementation
- 17:00-17:15 **Georg Lodde** (Essen, Germany)
Only early adjuvant radiotherapy, particularly of the tumor bed rather than the lymph node region, improves prognosis in Merkel cell carcinoma: Results from the prospective German MCC registry
- 17:15-17:30 **Kuan Cheok Lei** (Essen, Germany)
High-definition spatial transcriptomics dissects MCC heterogeneity underlying epidermotropism

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Chair: Weng-Onn Lui (Stockholm, Sweden)

- 09:30-10:00 **David Schrama** (Würzburg, Germany)
Impairing T-antigen expression in MCPyV-positive Merkel cell carcinoma cells
- 10:00-10:30 **Axel Zur Hausen** (Maastricht, Netherlands)
Constitutive early B cell differentiation in Merkel cell carcinoma and its implications for cellular identity
- 10:30-11:00 **Mahtab Samimi** (Tours, France)
Outcomes of Merkel Cell Carcinoma patients with metastatic and recurring disease in France.
- 11:00-11:15 **Wen Xu** (Brisbane, Australia)
IMAT (Immunotherapy Merkel Adjuvant Trial) - Trial in Progress - A randomised, placebo-controlled, phase II trial of adjuvant Avelumab in patients with stage I-III Merkel cell carcinoma
- 11:15-11:45 *Coffee break*
- 11:45-12:15 **Paul Nghiem** (Seattle, USA)
A single postoperative dose of radiotherapy (8 Gy) has comparable efficacy to a standard 5-week course for localized Merkel cell carcinoma
- 12:15-12:30 **Nalini Srinivas** (Heidelberg, Germany)
Tertiary Lymphoid Structures in Merkel Cell Carcinoma Enable the Infiltration of Naïve and Central Memory T-Cells with a Diverse T-Cell Receptor Repertoire Associated with Response to Immunotherapy
- 12:30-12:45 **Anja Lange** (Essen, Germany)
Whole genome sequencing analysis of MCC cell lines - The hidden information in short-read whole genome sequencing data and the challenge to uncover them
- 12:45-13:30 *Lunch*

Chair: John Paoli (Gothenburg, Sweden)

- 13:30-14:00 **Kasia Korecka** (Poznan, Poland)
Dermoscopy in Merkel cell carcinoma
- 14:00-14:30 **Masahiro Shuda** (Pittsburgh, USA)
Role of CBP/p300 histone acetyltransferase in virus-induced Merkel cell carcinogenesis
- 14:30-14:45 **Tom Andrew** (Newcastle, UK)
Merkel cell carcinoma – From DeepMerkel to crystal clear
- 14:45-15:00 **Nicole Fischer, Jürgen Becker, John Paoli & Weng-Onn Lui**
Final remarks

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Poster presentations:

Büke Celikdemir (Würzburg, Germany) - RB1 knockdown and the expression of BCL-2, EZHIP, constitutive AKT and L-MYC in SCC cell lines result in increased SOX2 expression, a spindle-shaped morphology and improved survival in low attachment plates

Sara Passerini (Rome, Italy) - Development of an in vitro pulmonary cell model to study Merkel Cell Polyomavirus molecular biology and oncogenic mechanisms involved in tumors other than Merkel Cell Carcinoma

Wen Xu (Brisbane, Australia) - Subcutaneous Merkel cell carcinoma – a case series

Wen Xu (Brisbane, Australia) - Population based Merkel cell carcinoma outcomes over 10 years in Queensland, Australia

Hao Shi (Stockholm, Sweden) - Dissecting the role of PD-L1 isoforms in Merkel cell carcinoma

Meng Luo (Essen, Germany) - Anti-tumoral effect of prohibitin ligands on Merkel cell carcinoma

Hannah Björn Andtback (Stockholm, Sweden) - Biomarkers predicting benefit of checkpoint inhibition in advanced Merkel cell carcinoma - A systematic review

Libuse Janska (Stockholm, Sweden) – Exploring the cell surface - expression and polarization of immune-related protein markers on Merkel cell carcinoma tumor cells and infiltrating immune cells

Yajie Yang (Stockholm, Sweden) - Identifying metastasis biomarkers in Merkel cell carcinoma

Julian Kött (Hamburg, Germany) - Title to be announced

Dan Liu (Maastricht, Netherlands) - Title to be announced