



FRONTIERS IN IMMUNOLOGY RESEARCH NETWORK

FIRN, 64 Holden Street, Worcester, MA 01605, USA
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14th FRONTIERS IN IMMUNOLOGY RESEARCH NETWORK (FIRN) INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Worcester, Massachusetts, USA
Assumption University, October 12-14, 2024

Please see below:

- **SUBJECT CATEGORIES**
- **SCHEDULE**
- **INSTRUCTIONS TO PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS**
- **PROGRAM SESSIONS**

SUBJECT CATEGORIES

- Allergy and immunopathology
 - Antigen presentation
 - Autoimmunity
 - B cells
 - Cellular immunology
 - Cytokines, chemokines, inflammation
 - Dendritic cells
 - Diabetes
 - Imaging at the molecular, cellular or animal level
 - Immune responses to infectious diseases
 - Immunogenetics and gene discovery
 - Immunotherapy
 - Innate immunity
 - In silico modelling
 - Knockout and knock-in studies
 - Lymphocyte activation and homing
 - Lymphocyte differentiation and migration
 - Mechanisms of cell death
 - Molecular immunology
 - Mucosal immunology SIG
 - NK cells
 - NKT and T regulatory cells
 - Plasmon resonance
 - Protein crystallography
 - Science communication - BD award session
 - Signal transduction
 - Stem cells
 - T cell biology
 - The immune response to viral infections
 - The MHC and its interactions
 - Tolerance
 - Transplantation
 - Tumour immunology
 - Vaccine development
 - Veterinary immunology SIG
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Excursion Details (please click [here](#)); all excursions at extra cost.

Friday, October 11, 2024

Pre-Conference Day-Long Excursion (starting at 9:00 AM):
Newport Island, Rhode Island (meals on your own)

Pre-registration (5:00 PM – 6:00 PM)
Welcome Reception (6:00 PM – 7:00 PM)

Saturday, October 12, 2024

Registration & Sessions: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Afternoon / Evening Excursion (after Sessions, starting at 4:00 PM):
Walking Tour Worcester City (dinner on your own)

Sunday, October 13, 2024

Registration & Sessions: 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Afternoon / Evening Excursion (after Sessions, starting at 4:00 PM):
Wachusett Brewery (dinner on your own)

Monday, October 14, 2024

Registration & Sessions: 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Afternoon / Evening Excursion (after Sessions, starting at 4:00 PM):
Boston (dinner on your own)

Tuesday, October 15, 2024

Post-Conference Day-Long Excursion (starting at 9:00 AM):
Plymouth Town and surroundings (meals on your own)

INSTRUCTIONS TO PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

(a) ORAL PRESENTATIONS:

Session Time Allocations: Most sessions are 90 minutes long, each with three presenters; two sessions are 120 minutes long, each with four presenters; one session (keynote talk) and two sessions (featured talks) are 45 minutes long each; three sessions, set up as thematic brainstorming roundtables, are 30 minutes long each.

Session Moderators: Assume overall responsibility for your session. Try to contact the session participants before the meeting. Inform them that each presentation room will be equipped with a flipchart and power point capability (projector and computer). Ask them if they have any special needs relating to their presentation and, in collaboration with the conference registration desk, try to satisfy those needs. Arrive at the session room 10 minutes in advance and make sure that it is in order and properly equipped. Welcome and introduce the participants. Start the session on time and adhere to the time schedule. Moderate the open discussion to the best of your ability.

Presenters: Each presentation (inclusive of questions and answers) should take no more than 30 minutes (or 45 minutes if keynote or featured). Stay within the allotted time even though it may not be enough! Be well prepared. Please do not just read your paper / slides. Your presentation of main points, methods, and conclusions should lead to a fruitful discussion during and after the session. Every presentation room will be equipped with screens, flipcharts, and power point capability (computer and projector). For Power Point presentations, please feel free to bring your own equipment and all necessary cables and transformers required by standards in Italy. *If the session's moderator is absent, the last presenter listed should take on the role of the moderator.*

(b) POSTER PRESENTATIONS:

- Displays and presentations have been scheduled to take place daily. Please search in the Program to find out when you will present and be prepared to display prior to your presentation. After your presentation, please remove all materials that relate to your poster.
- Posters should be prepared on heavy paper (preferably laminated), plastic, foam or other that can readily be displayed and not exceed 3ft x 4ft (36 x 48 inches). Please note that FIRN would not provide any construction materials or electricity for the posters.

Posters should easily read from 2-3 feet away. Text should be limited to the core ideas and presented in a font size that allows one to read it with ease. Experienced poster presenters suggest 3-6 graphics to mix in with your text to make the posters more engaging.



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***14TH INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE***

**Assumption University
Worcester, Massachusetts, USA
October 12-14, 2024**

Speakers, Titles of Talks, Affiliations



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

(Sunday, October 13, 2024)

Rahm Gummuluru, Ph.D.

Professor & Vice-Chair, Department of Virology,
Immunology & Microbiology

Director, Graduate Medical Sciences

Immunology Training Program (ITP)

Investigator, National Emerging Infectious
Diseases Laboratory (NEIDL)

Co-Director, Developmental Core,

Providence/Boston Center for AIDS Research (Prov/Bos CFAR)

Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine

650 Albany St., X343C, Boston MA 02118, USA

Title of Talk:

Innate Immunity Against HIV

Dr. Gummuluru is a Professor in the Department of Virology, Immunology & Microbiology at Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine (BU-CAMed), Investigator in the National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratory (NEIDL), and Co-Director of the Developmental Core for the Providence/Boston Center for AIDS Research. Research in his laboratory is broadly focused on macrophage – pathogen interactions and uses a combination of cell biology, biochemistry, nanotechnology, iPSC and animal models to understand mechanisms of HIV-induced immunopathology and cell biology of HIV infection. His lab has made significant contributions to lectin-mediated viral entry mechanisms in macrophages and dendritic cells and innate immune signaling pathways triggered upon viral entry. More recent work has expanded these approaches to the study of diverse enveloped viruses, including paramyxoviruses, filoviruses, and coronaviruses, and induction of innate immune sensing mechanisms in myeloid cells upon pathogen exposure. Additional work has focused on the development of nanotherapeutics to target myeloid cells in tissues as novel approaches to suppress recalcitrant tissue virus reservoirs in cART-suppressed HIV+ individuals.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

(Monday, October 14, 2024, late AM or early PM)

Kai Wucherpfennig, MD, Ph.D.

Chair, Department of Cancer Immunology and Virology, DFCI

Professor of Neurology, BWH

Professor of Immunology, HMS

Title of Talk:

Designing immunotherapies that engage T cells and NK cells

Kai Wucherpfennig is Chair of the Department of Cancer Immunology and Virology at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Professor of Neurology in the Department of Neurology at Brigham and Women's Hospital, and Professor of Immunology at Harvard Medical School. He is the Nancy Lurie Marks Professor of Neurology in the Field of Medical Oncology and Co-director of the Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy (PICI) at DFCI. His research focuses on the role of cytotoxic T cells and NK cells in cancer immunotherapy. His lab studies mechanisms of resistance to cancer immunotherapies and develops novel immunotherapy approaches based on these molecular insights. He has been elected as a member of the American Society for Clinical Investigation (2006), the Henry Kunkel Society at Rockefeller University (2007) and as Fellow of the American Society for the Advancement of Science (2009).

Hyperglycemia and Wound Healing: The Role of Alpha1-Antitrypsin

**Idan Farber¹, Alon Naumchik¹, Yossi Istoyler¹,
Melodie Zaknoun¹, Eli C Lewis¹ and Eldad Silberstein²**

¹Department of Clinical Biochemistry & Pharmacology, Faculty of Health Sciences,
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer-Sheva, Israel and

²Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery,
Soroka University Medical Center, Beer-Sheva, Israel

The Impact of Reactive Oxygen Species on Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Efficacy in Wound Healing: Insights from Pre-clinical Models

Lihie Sheffer¹, Idan Farber¹, and Eli C Lewis¹, Eldad Silberstein²

¹Department of Clinical Biochemistry & Pharmacology, Faculty of Health Sciences,
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer-Sheva, Israel and

²Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Soroka University Medical Center,
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer-Sheva, Israel

Driving CARs to BARs, simplified

David W. Scott

Emeritus Professor of Medicine

Department of Medicine (MED)

Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences

4301 Jones Bridge Road

Bethesda, MD 20814, USA

Alpha 1 Antitrypsin (AAT) Mitigates Radiation-Induced Capsular Contracture: Insights from a Murine Model

**Yuval Habousha¹, Idan Farber^{1,2}, Lihie Sheffer¹, Dor Halpern^{1,2},
Eli C Lewis¹, and Eldad Silberstein²**

¹Department of Clinical Biochemistry & Pharmacology, Faculty of Health Sciences,
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer-Sheva, Israel, and

²Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Soroka University Medical Center,
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer-Sheva, Israel

More Speakers and Program Details forthcoming.