



Emerging Voices in **CANCER** Research

A Multidisciplinary Symposium

28 November 2025, Pisa



The symposium **EVAMS - Emerging Voices in Cancer Research: A Multidisciplinary Symposium** is fully committed to elevating early-career contributions to oncology.

Born as the closing showcase of a Ministry-funded research project on novel theranostic strategies targeting ALDH1A3 - a key biomarker of cancer stem-like cells and a promising lever for precision diagnostics and therapy - the symposium is a platform for emerging talent in cancer research. Throughout the day, PhD students, postdoctoral fellows, residents, and early-career investigators will take center stage with oral communications and poster sessions to share their original work.

Participation is free of charge to ensure broad access and engagement across the cancer research community.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Prof Concettina La Motta, University of Pisa

Dr Ilaria D'Agostino, University of Pisa

Prof Silvia Garavaglia, University of Piemonte Orientale

Prof Lorenzo Magrassi, University of Pavia

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The symposium is organized in full compliance with the Guidelines for the Gender Equality Guidelines for Conferences and the Organization of Sustainable Events.

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

08:30	09:00	REGISTRATION	
09:00	09:15	OPENING ADDRESS	
		SESSION 1	
		chair	Prof Concettina La Motta, University of Pisa
		chair	Prof Gennara Cavallaro University of Palermo
09:15	09:45	KEY1	Prof Gennara Cavallaro (University of Palermo): Multifunctional Nanoplatfoms for Precision Medicine in Cancer Therapy
9:45	9:55	OR1	Dr Alexandra Charalampopoulou (The National Center for Oncological Hadrontherapy): The Role of Radiobiology in Cancer Research
9:55	10:05	OR2	Dr Marta Roncetti (Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche): Boosting the Anticancer Activity of Attenuated <i>Listeria Monocytogenes</i> via Bio-orthogonal Conjugation of Therapeutic Molecules
10:05	10:15	OR3	Dr Lidia Ciccone (University of Pisa): Human Prealbumin in Complex with Anticancer Drugs
10:15	10:25	OR4	Dr Salvatore Emanuele Drago (University of Palermo): Bioreducible Cationic Polymethacrylate-Carbon Nanodot Conjugates as Theranostic Platforms for siRNA Delivery
10:25	10:30	YT1	Dr Maria Chiara Santangelo (University of Pisa): Glycoconjugated Luminescent Ln (III) Complexes as Selective Bioimaging Probes
10:30	10:35	YT2	Dr Jacopo Castagnoli (University of Pisa): Cyclodextrin-based Nanocarrier Systems for Improved Delivery of Gefitinib in Lung Cancer Treatment
10:35	10:40	FP1	To be selected
10:40	10:45	FP2	To be selected
10:45	11:30	COFFEE BREAK AND NETWORKING	
		SESSION 2	
		chair	Dr Ilaria D'Agostino, University of Pisa
		chair	Prof Sara Galimberti, University of Pisa
11:30	12:00	KEY2	Prof Sara Galimberti (University of Pisa): The New Frontiers of Immunotherapy in Hematology: From Bispecific Antibodies to CAR T Cells
12:00	12:10	OR5	Dr Elena Andreucci (University of Florence): New Challenges in Immuno-Oncology: How to Induce Immunogenic Cell Death and Trigger a Systemic Anti-Tumour Response
12:10	12:20	OR6	Dr Davide De Luca (Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche): Functional Characterization of MYC Point Mutations in Diffuse Large B-cell Lymphoma
12:20	12:30	OR7	Dr Marta Banchi (University of Pisa): Synergistic Activity of Tafasitamab and Metronomic Chemotherapy on Preclinical Models of Diffuse Large B-Cell Lymphoma
12:30	12:40	OR8	Dr Silvia Martina Ferrari (University of Pisa): New Targeted Therapies in Aggressive Thyroid Cancer for the Personalization of the Treatment
12:40	12:45	YT3	Dr Lorenzo Chiaverini (University of Pisa): Metal Complexes for Anticancer Treatment
12:45	12:50	YT4	Dr Miriana Di Stefano (University of Pisa) Artificial Intelligence and Drug Discovery
12:50	12:55	FP3	To be selected
12:55	13:00	FP4	To be selected
13:00	14:30	LIGHT LUNCH AND POSTER SESSION	
		SESSION 3	
		chair	Dr Ilaria D'Agostino, University of Pisa
		chair	Prof Mattia Mori, University of Siena
14:30	15:00	KEY3	Prof Mattia Mori (University of Siena): A Journey into the Chemical Space of Hedgehog Pathway Inhibitors

15:00	15:10	OR9	Dr Davide Moi (University of Cagliari): Discovery of Hsp90/HDAC6 Dual Inhibitors Targeting Aggressive Prostate Cancer
15:10	15:20	OR10	Dr Doretta Cuffaro (University of Pisa): Structural Optimization and <i>in vitro</i> Efficacy on Colorectal Cancer Cells of Novel Cetuximab-Conjugate Aminobisphosphonates
15:20	15:30	OR11	Dr Giulia Bononi (University of Pisa): Rhenium-Tricarbonyl Complexes for Probing Glycolytic Cancer Metabolism via IR Imaging
15:30	15:40	OR12	Dr Andrea Angeli (University of Florence): Dual Inhibition of Carbonic Anhydrase IX and Glutathione Peroxidase 4 as a Novel Strategy for Ferroptosis-Induced Tumor Cell Death
15:40	15:45	YT5	Dr Fabio Di Ricco (University of Pisa): A Novel Class of Thyromimetics for the Treatment of MASLD-Associated HCC
15:45	15:50	YT6	Dr Eva Landucci (University of Pisa): Piperidine-Based MAGL Inhibitors: A Reversible Approach to Enzyme Modulation
15:50	15:55	FP5	To be selected
15:55	16:00	FP6	To be selected
16:00	16:30	COFFEE BREAK AND NETWORKING	
		SESSION 4	
		chair	Prof Concettina La Motta, University of Pisa
		chair	Prof Silvia Garavaglia, University of Piemonte Orientale
		chair	Prof Lorenzo Magrassi, University of Pavia
16:30	17:00	KEY4	Dr. Raquel Pequerul (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona): Improved Detection of ALDH in Low-Activity Samples Using an Enhanced-Fluorescence Method
17:00	17:10	OR13	Dr Sneha Swaroop (University of Bradford, UK): Targeting Cancer Stem Cells: A Strategy for Effective Eradication of Cancer
17:10	17:20	OR14	Dr Maya MacLean (Dalhousie University): Highly selective inhibition of ALDH1A3 impedes breast cancer growth and metastasis by blocking ALDH1A3-driven transcriptional programs
17:20	17:30	OR15	Dr Bianca Laura Bernardoni (University of Pisa): Lighting Up Cancer: Design and Synthesis of Fluorescent ALDH1A3 Inhibitors for Precision Cancer Surgery
17:30	17:40	OR16	Dr Paola Corna (University of Pavia): Biological Effects of ALDH1A3 Ligands Containing B or Gd on Glioblastoma cells
17:40	17:50	OR17	Dr Valentina Gigliotti (University of Piemonte Orientale): A Selective ALDH1A3 Inhibitor Impairs Mesothelioma 3-D Multicellular Spheroids Growth and Neutrophil Recruitment
17:50	18:00	OR18	Dr Giulia Ferrara (University of Piemonte Orientale): ALDH1A3-Targeted Theranostics
18:00	18:10	OR19	Dr Manuel Giacomarra (Fondazione Pisana per la Scienza): Exploring a Novel ALDH Inhibitor as a Promising Anticancer Agent against Glioblastoma Using in Vitro Precision Medicine Approaches
18:10	18:30	CLOSING REMARKS AND POSTER PRIZES	