



Cancer Target Discovery and Development (CTD²) Network

Virtual Symposium
March 19, 2026

Agenda

Day 1 [Virtually Open to the Public] – March 19, 2026

Opening Keynote Talk:

9:00 am – 9:05 am – Welcome and Introduction of the NCI Director (**Dan Gallahan**, NCI Division of Cancer Biology)

9:05 - 9:30 am – Keynote Talk by the NCI Director (**Tony Letai**, NCI) [*Remote*]

9:30 am - 10:45 am - Session 1: Cancer Biology (Moderator: Ron DePinho)

9:30 - 10:00 am – Mapping the Language of Cell Recognition (**Michael McManus**, UCSF CTD²)

10:00 - 10:30 am - Modeling and Understanding the Role of CIN in CRC Tumor Biology (**Ron DePinho**, MD Anderson CTD²)

10:30 - 10:45 am - Targeting CIN-Induced Vulnerabilities and Immune Suppression in CRC (**Chaohao Li**, MD Anderson CTD²)

10:45 am - 11:05 am - Break

11:05 am - 12:25 am - Session 2: Precision Oncology (Moderator: Chris Kemp)

11:05 - 11:35 am - Results of the PROSPERITY Clinical Study: Ex Vivo Drug Testing is Predictive of Patients' Clinical Response (**Chris Kemp**, Fred Hutch CTD²)

11:35 - 11:50 am - Single-Cell Elucidation of Mechanistic Dependencies and Progression Trajectories in Low-Grade Glioma Subpopulations (**Luca Zanella**, Columbia University CTD²)

11:50 - 12:05 pm - Identifying Master Regulators of Tumor Cell State Dependencies in Desmoplastic Small Round Cell Tumors (**Melania Franchini**, Columbia University CTD²)

12:05 - 12:20 pm - Automated Machine Learning Profiling with MAP-HR for Quantifying Homologous Recombination Foci in Patient Samples (**Tugba Yildiran Ozmen**, OHSU CTD²)
[Remote]

12:20 pm - 1:30 pm - Lunch

12:40 - 1:10 pm - Lunch time round table (Facilitators: Chris Kemp)

1:30 - 3:00 pm - Session 3: Technology Enablement (Moderator: Michael McManus)

1:30 - 2:00 pm - Systemic and Local Tumor Programming (**Brian Brown**, Icahn School of Medicine CTD²) *[Remote]*

1:30 - 1:45 pm - Relaying Information About Cells (**Natalia Moskal**, UCSF CTD²)

2:15 - 2:30 pm - A Pan-Cancer Analysis of Somatic Mutation Effects on m6A RNA Modification (**Yining Zhao**, OHSU CTD²) *[Remote]*

2:30 - 2:45 pm - Genetic Modeling of Drug Response at Scale (**Chenchu Lin**, MD Anderson CTD²)

2:45 pm - 3:20 pm - Break

3:20 pm - 4:50 pm - Session 4: Computational Biology (Moderator: Lucas Hu)

3:20 - 3:50 pm - Predicting and Testing Synthetic Lethality at Scale (**Traver Hart**, MD Anderson CTD²)

3:50 - 4:05 pm - Modular AI Models for Drug Response Prediction (**Yue Zhang**, Fred Hutch CTD²)

4:05 - 4:20 pm - S-FLARE: Accurate and Scalable Inference of Unmeasured Features in Spatial Proteomics Data Using scRNA-seq References (**Qingnan Liang**, OHSU CTD²) *[Remote]*

4:20 - 4:50 pm - Quantum Cancer Therapy: Elucidating and Targeting Ultra-Conserved Cell States at the Single Cell Level (**Andrea Califano**, Columbia University CTD²)

4:50 pm - 5:20 pm: Afternoon round table discussion (Facilitators: Michael McManus and Natalia Moskal)

5:20 pm - 5:30 pm - Closing Remarks (NCI Division of Cancer Biology Staff)