

Fibrosis at the Crossroads of Tissue Homeostasis and Cancer

Monday, June 8, 2026 Day 1:

8:30 – 8:45 am Welcome and Introductory Remarks

8:45 – 10:45 am Session 1

Tissue Homeostasis, Fibrosis and Cancer

Session Leader-Dr. Mara Sherman

15 minute presentations + 5 minutes Q&A

8:45-9:05 *Session 1: Tissue Homeostasis, Fibrosis, and Cancer*

Dr. Mara Sherman (Sloan Kettering Institute)

9:05-9:25 *The ECM across the health-disease continuum: advances and remaining challenges*

Dr. Alexandra Naba (University of Illinois, Chicago)

9:25-9:45 *Engineering models for studying fibrosis and immune-stromal networks*

Dr. Jennifer Elisseeff (Johns Hopkins University)

9:45-10:05 *Understand Adipose Tissue – Tissue Fibrosis and Inflammation*

Dr. Valerie Horsley (Yale University)

10:05-10:45 Discussion

10:45-11:00 am Break

11:00 am-1:00 pm Session 2

Cancers as wounds that never heal-the underlying biology of fibrosis

Session Leader-Dr. Marina Pasca di Magliano

15 minute presentations + 5 minutes Q&A

11:00-11:20 *Evolution of the pancreatic cancer microenvironment*

Dr. Marina Pasca di Magliano (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor)

11:20-11:40 *Insight into mechanistic connection between fibrosis, emergence of cancer and metastatic dissemination*

Dr. Raghu Kalluri (MD Anderson Cancer Center)

11:40-12:00 *Fibroblast Neighborhood Builds Character*

Dr. Boris Hinz (University of Toronto, Canada)

12:00-12:20 *When Wounds Don't Heal: HSC Heterogeneity, ECM Remodeling, and Fibrosis Resolution*

Dr. Jennifer Chen (University of California, San Francisco)

12:20-1:00 Discussion

1:00 – 2:00 pm Lunch

2:05-3:45 pm Session 3

Tissue mechanics in fibrosis and tumorigenesis

Session Leader- Dr. Peter Friedl
15 minute presentations + 5 minutes Q&A

2:05-2:25 ***ECM mechanics and topology controlling cancer and immune cell positioning and function***

Dr. Peter Friedl (Radboud University, Netherlands)

2:25-2:45 ***Fibrosis mechanics: what are they and how do they drive cancer?***

Dr. Rebecca Wells (University of Pennsylvania)

2:45-3:05 ***Can Compiled Biomechanical Trait Profiles Score Clinically Relevant Fibrotic TME States?***

Dr. Edna Cukierman (Fox Chase Cancer Center)

3:05-3:45 Discussion

3:45-4:00 pm Break

4:00-6:00 pm Session 4

Immune mechanisms and impact of fibrosis in cancer

Session Leader-Dr. David DeNardo

15 minute presentations + 5 minutes Q&A

4:00-4:20 ***Immune mechanisms and impact of fibrosis in cancer***

Dr. David DeNardo (Washington University)

4:20-4:40 ***Fibroblast-Immune Cell Crosstalk + Fibrosis in the TME***

Dr. Matthew Buechler (University of Toronto, Canada)

4:40-5:00 ***Neutrophils, ECM remodeling, and a fibrotic niche***

Dr. Mikala Egeblad (Johns Hopkins University)

5:00-5:20 ***From basic science to clinical trial***

Dr. Tatiana Kisseleva (University of California, San Diego)

5:20-6:00 Discussion

Tuesday, June 9, 2026 Day 2:

8:30 – 10:30 am Session 5

Metabolism and fibrosis: a reciprocal dynamic

Session Leader-Dr. Valerie Weaver

15 minute presentations + 5 minutes Q&A

8:30-8:50 ***Metabolism as a Functional Layer of Stromal Ecotypes: Why Spatial MS Matters***

Dr. Sara Zanivan (MD Anderson Cancer Center)

8:50-9:10 ***Matrix heterogeneity and metabolic adaptation***

Dr. Natalie Torok (Stanford University)

9:10-9:30 ***Targeting metabolic circuits that underpin cancer-associated fibrosis and immune suppression***

Dr. Kevin Tharp (Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute)

9:30-9:50 ***Interplay between fibrosis, metabolism and risk to malignancy***

Dr. Valerie Weaver (University of California, San Francisco)

9:50-10:30 Discussion

10:30-10:45 am Break

10:45 am-12:45 pm Session 6

Chronic diseases and cancer – the tipping points between protective and detrimental fibrosis

Session Leader-Dr. Robert Schwabe

15 minute presentations + 5 minutes Q&A

10:45-11:05 ***The two sides of CAF in cancer and anti-cancer therapy***

Dr. Robert Schwabe (Columbia University)

11:05-11:25 ***Remodeling Risk: Obesity, Fibrosis, and Macrophages in Mammary Cancer***

Dr. Lisa Arendt (University of Wisconsin, Madison)

11:25-11:45 ***Matrix remodeling as a consequence and driver of pro-tumorigenic fibrosis***

Dr. Claudia Fischbach (Cornell University)

11:45-12:05 ***Convergence of senescent fibroblast phenotypes in lung fibrosis and cancer***

Dr. Tien Peng (University of California, San Francisco)

12:05-12:45 Discussion

12:45 am-1:00 pm Break

1:00-1:30 pm Executive Summary