

Symposium “Breaking the T cell – cancer recognition code”

Date: September 9, 2026

Location: Scandic Holmenkollen Park, Oslo, Norway

Chaired by Ton Schumacher, Netherlands Cancer Institute, Netherlands



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of Norway

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Morning Session

08:45 – 09:15: Registration and Mingling

09:15 – 09:30: Ton Schumacher, Netherlands Cancer Institute, Netherlands
An introduction to T cell recognition in cancer

09:30 – 10:10: Chris Garcia, Stanford University
How the structure of the T cell receptor guides AI decoding of antigen recognition

10:10 – 10:45: Michael Birnbaum, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
New Tools for decoding T cell recognition
(Dentist Olaf Aase and wife memorial lecture)

10:45 – 11:15: Coffee Break

11:15 – 11:50: Nik Sgourakis, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia
Structure-Guided Engineering of T Cell Receptors for Broad HLA and KRAS Neoantigen Coverage

11:50 – 12:25: Peter Bruno, University of California, San Francisco
Decoding the Cancer Immunoepitome at Scale with Synthetic Biology

12:25 – 13:00: Phil Bradley, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center
Prediction and design of T cell receptor specificity with structural models

13:00 – 14:00: Lunch

Afternoon Session

14:00 – 14:35: Johanna Olweus, Oslo University Hospital
From TCR discovery to the clinic - about not getting lost in translation

14:35 – 15:10: Steve Elledge, Harvard Medical School
Immunodominance in B and T cell repertoires

15:10 – 15:40: Coffee Break

15:40 – 16:15: Sergio Quezada, University College London
Antigen presentation under siege: how tumor immune escape shapes TIL therapy response and points towards precision solutions

16:15 – 16:50: Dirk Busch, Technical University of Munich
Saturating epitope-specific TCR libraries support identification of common modes of functional epitope recognition

16:50 – 17:25: Regina Barzilay, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Exploring AI in antigen-specific cancer immunotherapy

17:25 – 17:30: Concluding Remarks

17:30 – 19:00: Reception