

XXIII Cancer Research KI Retreat

September 28-29, 2026

GENERAL PROGRAM OUTLINE

Monday, September 28:

Bus departure from Stockholm: **08:30**

Arrival, coffee, and registration: **09:30**

Morning session: **10:05**

Group photo: **12:30**

Lunch: **12:45**

Afternoon session: **13:45**

Coffee break and collection of keys: **15:15**

Breakout sessions: **16:00**

Mingle and welcoming drink: **17:30**

Dinner: **18:00**

Poster session: **20:00**

Tuesday, September 29:

Breakfast and check out: **07:30**

Morning session: **09:15**

Coffee break: **10:35**

Panel discussion: **11:45**

Lunch: **13:00**

Afternoon session: **14:00**

Coffee break: **15:30**

Bus departure: **16:00**

Arrival to Stockholm: **17:00**

Keynote Speakers:

Prof. Elaine Fuchs, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, The Rockefeller University

Dr. Joan Massagué, Sloan Kettering Institute, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Prof. Nicholas McGranahan, University College London, Cancer Institute

Monday, September 28

08:30 Buses depart from Stockholm Citi terminalen
09:30 - 10:00 Arrival at Djurönäset (estimated time), Coffee & Registration

Morning session

10:05 - 10:15 **Opening and Welcome Remarks**

Chairs: Jonas Muhr and Hala Habash

10:15 - 11:00 **Keynote Lecture: Elaine Fuchs**, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, The Rockefeller University, New York, USA
"Tissue Stem Cells: Coping with Stress"

11:00 - 11:20 **Ioannis Zerdes**, Dep. of Oncology-Pathology, Karolinska Institutet; Theme Cancer, Karolinska University Hospital
"Deciphering tumor-immune microenvironment determinants of treatment response and resistance in breast cancer"

11:20 - 11:35 **Celine Hafkesbrink**, Dep. of Women's and Children's Health, Karolinska Institutet
"Chemotherapy rewires neuroblastoma into a targetable NCAM1–FGFR1 state"

11:35 - 11:50 **Rodrigo Morales Castro**, Dep. of Laboratory Medicine, Karolinska Institutet
"Novel histone deacetylase inhibitors limit tumor expansion in a zebrafish KRAS-driven intestinal tumor model"

11:50 - 12:05 **Heshuang Qu**, Dep. of Oncology-Pathology, Karolinska Institutet
"A Transcriptomics- and AI-Guided 3D NSCLC Spheroid Platform for Modeling EMT and Phenotypic Drug Screening"

12:05 - 12:20 **Yujie Xiang**, Dep. of Medical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Karolinska Institutet
"AI-based multi-modal prognostic modelling of histopathology images, mRNA expression, and clinical information in a Swedish study including 3,000 patients"

12:30 - 12:40 **Group Picture**

12:45 - 13:45 Lunch

Afternoon session

Chairs: **Kasper Karlsson** and **Sara Abu Ajamieh**

13:45 - 14:30 Keynote Lecture: Nicholas McGranahan, University College London, Cancer Institute, London, United Kingdom
“Cancer Evolution Beyond the Genome”

14:30 - 14:50 Erik Benson, Dep. of Microbiology, Tumor and Cell Biology, Karolinska Institutet
“Discovery of cell targeting DNA structures by evolutionary selection”

14:50 - 15:10 Poster pitches
Moderated by Pablo Martí Andrés

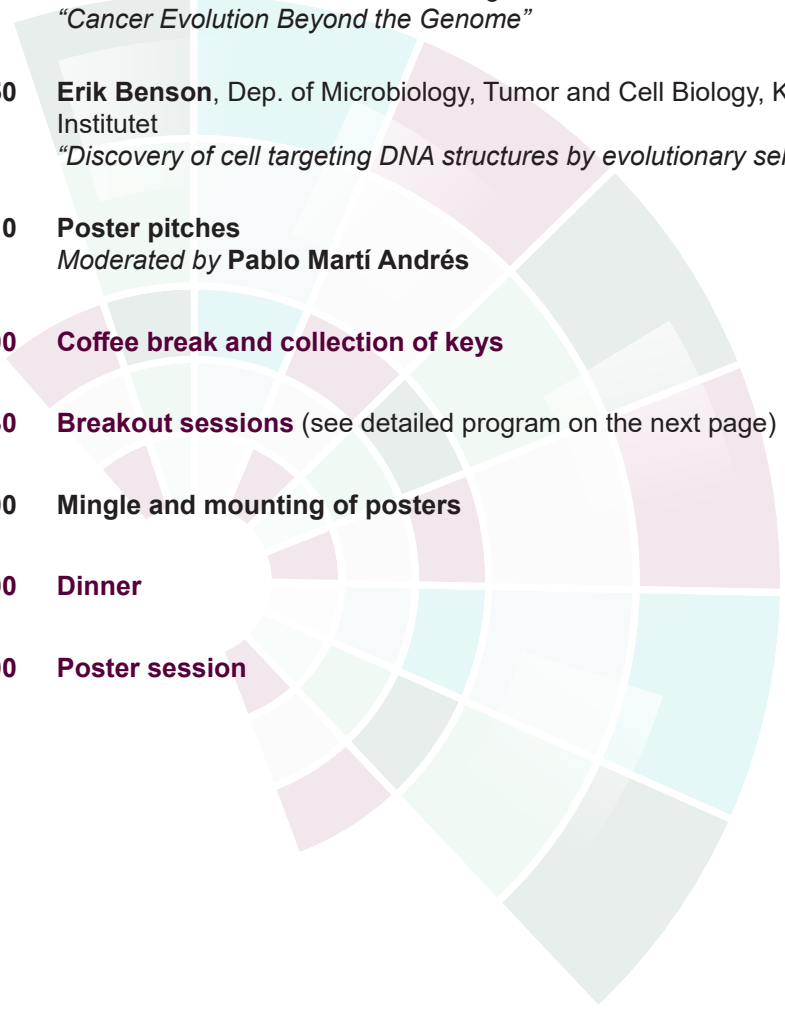
15:15 - 16:00 Coffee break and collection of keys

16:00 - 17:30 Breakout sessions (see detailed program on the next page)

17:30 - 18:00 Mingle and mounting of posters

18:00 - 20:00 Dinner

20:00 - 22:00 Poster session



Breakout Sessions

Monday, September 28 (16:00 - 17:30)

Please note:

- **Pre-registration is required for all sessions.** If you haven't registered yet, please contact the organizers to check if there are any available spots.
- Abstracts and additional information about the speakers can be found in the **extended abstract booklet available online**.

**Scan the QR code to access more information
about the breakout sessions**



Breakout session 1: Patient Perspectives

In these sessions, you will join one of our oncologists and one of their patients for an honest conversation about their real-life journey. You will meet patients and their relatives who will share their own experiences and perspectives, so please be prepared for an intimate and personal session.

Pancreatic Cancer

Marco Gerling, House 4 (Room 4A)

Childhood Cancer

Anna Nilsson, House 5 (Room 5A)

Breakout session 2: Scientific Presentations

In this session, participants will have the opportunity to attend several scientific presentations selected by the Scientific Committee from submitted abstracts. A detailed program and information about each presentation can be found in the digital booklet, accessible by scanning the QR code above.

Chairs: Ewa Kurzejska and Sara Abu Ajamieh

House 7 (Conference Room 7A)

Breakout session 3: The AI Landscape at KI

In this session, **Robert Svebeck** will present how AI is being applied across Karolinska Institutet, highlighting available resources, ongoing initiatives, and opportunities for future development. The session will be chaired by **Mattias Rantalainen**.

House 3 (Room 3A)

Breakout session 4: Meet the Scientist

In these sessions, participants will have the opportunity to engage in conversation with our keynote speakers in a more relaxed and informal setting. This format allows for questions that might otherwise be difficult to ask due to time constraints or their personal nature.

Prof. Elaine Fuchs, House 1 (Coffee Lounge)

Dr. Joan Massagué, House 2 (Coffee Lounge)

Prof. Nicholas McGranahan, House 3 (Coffee Lounge)

Tuesday, September 29

07:30 - 09:00 Breakfast and check-out

Morning session

Chairs: **Marie Arsenian Henriksson** and **Sammy Se Whee Park**

- 09:15 - 10:00** **Keynote Lecture:** **Joan Massagué**, Sloan Kettering Institute, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, USA
"A TGF- β dormant metastasis program"
- 10:00 - 10:20** **Aline Pfefferle**, Dep. of Medical Cell Biology, Uppsala University, Sweden
"Pan-cancer profiling of tumor-infiltrating natural killer cells"
- 10:20 - 10:35** **Thuy Tran**, Dep. of Oncology-Pathology, Karolinska Institutet; Theranostics Trial Center, Karolinska University Hospital
"Development of a Novel TROP2-targeted Monoclonal Antibody for Radiotheranostics of Solid Tumors - A New Modality in Precision Oncology"
- 10:35 - 11:05 Coffee break**
- Chairs:* **Eva Jolly** and **Mindaugas Raitelaitis**
- 11:05 - 11:25** **Péter Nagy**, National Institute of Oncology, Budapest, Hungary
"Cysteine metabolism in cancer"
- 11:25 - 11:45 Highlights from Karolinska Comprehensive Cancer Center**
- **Patrik Rossi:** *Updates from Karolinska CCC: Coordination Group and Regional CCC Network*
 - **Fredrik Döberl:** *Patient Involvement in Karolinska CCC and the Role of the Patient Network*
 - **Yvonne Wengström:** *Nursing Perspective in Karolinska CCC: Connecting Practice, Strategy and Research*
 - **Marco Gerling:** *Educational Strategy Group: Highlighting the New Strategic Collaboration*
- 11:45 - 13:00 Panel discussion:** *"New challenges in cancer treatment: What are we doing wrong?"*
Moderated by **Ingemar Ernberg** and **Andri Papakonstantinou**
With **Elaine Fuchs**, **Joan Massagué**, **Nicholas McGranahan**, **Signe Friesland**, **Patrik Rossi**, and **Nils Wilking**

13:00 - 14:00 Lunch

Afternoon session

Chairs: **Hong Qian** and **Mingzhi Liu**

- 14:00 - 14:15 Flora Mikaeloff**, Dep. of Oncology-Pathology, Karolinska Institutet
"Multi-omics integrative clustering revealed three independent molecular subtypes of poor prognosis and drug resistance in acute myeloid leukemia"
- 14:15 - 14:30 Isabel Barragán**, Dep. of Oncology-Pathology, Karolinska Institutet
"Immune phenotyping of molecular subtypes derived from early multiomic blood profiling for prognostic stratification in NSCLC"
- 14:30 - 14:50 Amanda Rolf**, Dep. of Medical Biochemistry and Biophysics, Karolinska Institutet
"Long-term in vitro expansion of a human tripotent fetal pancreas stem cell"
- 14:50 - 15:10 Filipe Pereira**, Division of Molecular Medicine and Gene Therapy, Lund University, Sweden
"Building the Dendritic Cells that Build TLS"
- 15:15 - 15:30 Conclusion & Poster Prizes**
- 15:30 - 16:00 Coffee break** (takeaway available)
- 16:00 Buses depart for Stockholm**
- 17:00 Arrival at Stockholm Cityterminalen** (estimated)
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Highlights from Karolinska CCC

Tuesday, September 29, 11:25

Karolinska Comprehensive Cancer Center (Karolinska CCC) is a strategic partnership between Karolinska University Hospital and Karolinska Institutet, bringing together world-leading expertise in cancer research, diagnostics, treatment, education, and innovation. As a regional hub for cancer care and research, Karolinska CCC works to accelerate the translation of scientific discoveries into improved outcomes for patients through precision medicine, multidisciplinary collaboration, and person-centered care.

During this session, you will hear updates from the following speakers:



Patrik Rossi, Managing Director, Cancer Theme Karolinska University Hospital; Chair, Board of Directors Karolinska CCC
Updates from Karolinska CCC: Coordination Group and Regional CCC Network



Fredrik Döberl, Vice chair, Karolinska CCC PNN
Patient Involvement in Karolinska CCC and the Role of the Patient Network



Yvonne Wengström, Professor
Nursing Perspective in Karolinska CCC: Connecting Practice, Strategy and Research



Marco Gerling, Oncologist, Co-director of Cancer Research KI
Educational Strategy Group: Highlighting the New Strategic Collaboration

More information about Karolinska Comprehensive Cancer Center

In 2025, Karolinska CCC became the first Comprehensive Cancer Centre in Sweden to receive renewed accreditation from the Organization of European Cancer Institutes (OECI), securing its status as an internationally recognized center of excellence until 2030. The renewed accreditation reflects the center's commitment to the highest standards in cancer research and care, while reinforcing the close collaboration between Karolinska Institutet and Karolinska University Hospital. A major recent development is the inclusion of childhood cancer within the center, creating new opportunities for research, innovation, and seamless care throughout a patient's life.

By combining clinical expertise with cutting-edge academic research, Karolinska CCC continues to drive advances that shape the future of cancer prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and survivorship, both in Sweden and internationally.

**Scan the QR code to access more information
about Karolinska Comprehensive Cancer Center**



Panel Discussion

Tuesday, September 29, 11:45

New challenges in cancer treatment: What are we doing wrong?

This year's panel builds on the discussion opened by Prof. Robert Weinberg at our previous Cancer Research KI Retreat. It takes up one of the questions the cancer community keeps returning to: given how much we have learned about cancer biology, and how far the technology has come, why is it still so hard to turn that progress into better outcomes for patients?

The panel will consider where progress stalls in prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and the move from discovery to clinical practice. Panelists will be asked to reflect on whether research priorities, funding structures, healthcare systems, regulatory frameworks, and innovation strategies are well matched to what patients and society actually need. The session will also address challenges that have emerged more recently: cancer care is becoming more complex, access to treatment remains unequal, and fast-moving technologies such as artificial intelligence and precision medicine still have to be fitted into everyday practice.

Because these challenges are at once scientific, clinical, organizational, and economic, the panel brings together experts from cancer research, clinical care, healthcare leadership, and health economics. They will discuss how the different parts of the cancer ecosystem interact, where the gaps lie, and what would have to change for scientific advances to reach patients as real benefit.

Ingemar Ernberg and **Andri Papakonstantinou** will moderate.



Panelists:



Elaine Fuchs, Professor
Howard Hughes Medical Institute, The Rockefeller University, New York, USA



Joan Massagué, Director
Sloan Kettering Institute, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, USA



Nicholas McGranahan, Professor
University College London, Cancer Institute, London, United Kingdom



Patrik Rossi, Managing Director
Cancer Theme, Karolinska University Hospital
Chair
Board of Directors Karolinska CCC



Signe Friesland, Associate Professor
Department of Oncology-Pathology, Karolinska Institutet
Patient Area Manager & Head of Department
Cancer Theme, Karolinska University Hospital



Nils Wilking, Associate Professor
Department of Oncology-Pathology, Karolinska Institutet