



Ovarian Cancer Midwest Focus Conference

November 11 - 12, 2021

We are delighted to announce that the Ovarian Cancer Midwest Focus (OCMF) conference 2021 will be both an in-person and a virtual conference that will include live streamed discussion rounds with national and international speakers.

Program Chairs:

Martina Bazzaro, Ph.D. - University of Minnesota - Twin Cities Campus

Ilana Chefetz, Ph.D. - The Hormel Institute, University of Minnesota

Ronny Drapkin, M.D., Ph.D. - University of Pennsylvania - Perelman School of Medicine

Melissa Geller, M.D., M.S. - University of Minnesota - Twin Cities Campus

Gottfried E. Konecny, M.D. - University of California - Los Angeles

Wednesday, November 10, 2021

ALL TIMES ARE CENTRAL STANDARD TIME (CST)

Social/Cash bar – 6:00 pm

Dinner – 7:00 pm

Location: The Historic Hormel Home, 208 4th Avenue NW, Austin, MN

Thursday, November 11, 2021

Location: The Hormel Institute, Ray Live Learning center, 801 16th Ave NE, Austin, MN 55912

Breakfast – 7:15-8:00

Opening Remarks – 8:00 – 8:05 AM Melissa Geller, MD, MS

Welcome Videos – 8:05-8:10

President Joan Gabel – University of Minnesota

Amy Klobuchar - U.S. Senator from Minnesota

Michelle Fischbach - U.S. Representative from Minnesota's 7th District

Moderator: Ronny Drapkin, MD, Ph.D.

The Impact of Ovarian Cancer Origins on Early Detection and Prevention Strategies

Tubal Origins and Prevention Strategies:

08:10 - 08:35 AM The Origins of Ovarian Precancer Species
le-Ming Shih, M.D., Ph.D. – John Hopkins Medicine

08:35 – 09:00 AM Opportunistic Salpingectomy: Is it more than just a good idea?
David Huntsman, M.D. – University of British Columbia

09:05 - 09:30 AM Salpingectomy for ovarian cancer risk reduction in high risk women
Karen Lu, M.D. – University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

New Approaches to Early Detection:

09:35 - 10:00 AM Early detection of cancer using cell-free DNA fragmentomes
Victor Velculescu, M.D., Ph.D. – Johns Hopkins Medicine

10:00 – 10:15 AM Break

10:15 - 10:40 AM Utero-tubal lavage for diagnosis of ovarian cancer
Keren Levanon, M.D., Ph.D. – Tel Aviv University Chaim Sheba Medical Center

10:40 – 11:05 AM Extracellular Vesicle Proteomic Fingerprinting of Ovarian Cancer for Early Detection with Nanoengineered Microfluidic Platforms
Andrew Godwin, Ph.D. – University of Kansas Medical Center

11:05 - 11:30 AM Question and Answer session

11:35 - 12:10 PM Flash Talks from Abstracts

1) Dual inhibition of ALDH1A and MEK1/2 causes synergistic cell death in high grade serous ovarian cancer triggered by enhanced DNA damage and diminished DNA repair

Imran Khan, Postdoctoral Associate – The Hormel Institute, University of Minnesota

2) USP13 promotes growth and metastasis of high-grade serous ovarian carcinoma in a novel mouse model

Cecil Han, Ph.D. – Georgetown University School of Medicine

3) GLS1 overexpression requires intact ARID1A and is a protective factor in ovarian clear cell carcinoma: differences between experimental models and clinical specimens

Valentino Clemente, Postdoctoral Associate – University of Minnesota

4) Rewiring of the PAX8 regulatory network during the transformation of normal fallopian tube secretory epithelium to high-grade serous ovarian cancer development

Robbin Nameki, Ph.D. Candidate – Samuel Oschin Cancer Center, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center

Question and Answer session

12:10 - 12:40 PM Exhibitor/Sponsor Presentations
1) Lori Willcoxon - GlaxoSmithKline
2) Mike Zinda – Repare Therapeutics
3) Jeff Hirst - Caris
4) Dr. Charles Dunton - Aspira
Question and Answer session

12:40 - 12:50 PM Break – Lunch Begins

Moderator: Ilana Chefetz, Ph.D.

Dynamic Heterogeneity in ovarian cancer

12:50 - 01:10 PM Lunch and Learn
Histology based Artificial Intelligence strategies for HGSC outcome prediction
Thomas Westerling-Bui, Ph.D. - Aiforia Inc.

01:10 - 01:30 PM Lunch and Learn –
Interested in a specific gene or signature? Online resources will help you plan your next step.
Sandra Orsulic, Ph.D. - UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine

01:30 - 01:40 PM Break – Lunch Ends

01:40 - 02:05 PM Exploring the CINful side of high-grade serous ovarian cancer
Kirk McManus, Ph.D. – University of Manitoba

02:05 - 02:30 PM Epigenetic control in tumor immunity and therapy
Weiping Zou, M.D., Ph.D. – University of Michigan Medical School

02:30 – 2:55 PM Malignant and immune cell phenotypic states in high grade serous ovarian cancer
Sohrab Shah, Ph.D. – Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

02:55 - 03:20 PM **Ruvelson Keynote Speaker** –
Development and characterization of an anti-Claudin-6 (CLDN6)
Antibody-Drug Conjugate for the treatment of CLDN6 positive cancer
Dennis Slamon, M.D., Ph.D. – University of California at Los Angeles

03:20 - 03:35 PM Break

03:35 - 04:00 PM Interconnectivity of cell death pathways
Ilana Chefetz, Ph.D. – The Hormel Institute, University of Minnesota

04:00 - 04:25 PM A novel humanized stroma PDX model for therapeutic studies
Ron Buckanovich, M.D., Ph.D. – University of Pittsburgh

04:25 - 04:55 PM Question and Answer session

Closing Remarks - 4:55 – 5:00 pm Ronny Drapkin, MD, Ph.D.

Social/Cash bar/Ping Pong Tournament – 5:00 pm
Dinner – 6:00 pm

Location: The Hormel Institute, 801 16th Avenue NE, Austin, MN

Friday, November 12, 2021

Location: The Hormel Institute, Ray Live Learning center, 801 16th Ave NE, Austin, MN 55912

Breakfast – 7:15 - 8:00 AM

Opening Remarks – 8:00 – 8:05 AM, Martina Bazzaro, Ph.D.

Welcome Videos – 8:05 - 8:10

Jakub Tolar, MD, Ph.D. – Dean of Medical School, Vice-President for Clinical Affairs
University of Minnesota

Douglas Yee, MD – Director, Masonic Cancer Center, University of Minnesota

Tina Smith - U.S. Senator from Minnesota

Moderator: Martina Bazzaro, Ph.D.

Basic mechanisms of chemoresistance in ovarian cancer

08:10 - 08:35 AM ***Ruvelson Keynote Speaker***
Genomic and functional approaches to modeling and targeting cancer
aneuploidy
Uri Ben-David, Ph.D. – Tel Aviv University

08:35 – 09:00 AM Targeting Microtubule-Associated Protein Tau in Paclitaxel-sensitive and
resistant Models in Ovarian Carcinoma
Maria Barbolina, Ph.D. – University of Illinois Cancer Center

09:00 – 09:25 AM Chromosomal instability sensitizes to paclitaxel
Beth Weaver, Ph.D. – University of Wisconsin

09:25 – 09:50 AM Determinants of p53-dependent tissue-specific gene expression and
radio-resistance in vivo
James Manfredi, Ph.D. – Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

09:50 - 10:15 AM Are ovarian cancers addicted to aneuploidy?
Jason Sheltzer, Ph.D. – Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory

10:15 – 10:40 AM Mechanisms of chromosomal instability indicate therapeutic sensitivities in
high grade serous ovarian carcinoma
Sarah McClelland, Ph.D. – Barts Cancer Institute

10:40 - 11:10 AM Question and Answer session

11:10 – 11:25 AM Break

11:25 - 12:00 PM Flash Talks from Abstracts

1) Loss of Claudin-4 reduces DNA damage repair and increases sensitivity to PARP inhibitors

Benjamin Bitler, Ph.D. – University of Colorado

2) Small extracellular vesicle cargo mediates sensory innervation in ovarian cancer

Hunter Reavis, Ph.D. Candidate – University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine

3) High-grade serous ovarian tumor cells modulate NK cell function to create an immune-tolerant microenvironment

Antonio Delgado-Gonzalez, Postdoctoral Research Fellow – Stanford University School of Medicine

4) Microenvironment induced epigenetic downregulation of miR-193b via the ERK/EZH2/DNMT1 axis promotes ovarian cancer stemness and metastasis

Subramanyam Dasari, Postdoctoral Scholar – Indiana University School of Medicine

Question and Answer session

12:00 - 12:30 PM Exhibitor/Sponsor Presentations

1) Brigitte Lawrence – Genentech Oncology

2) Casey Kuenn - Isoplexis

Question and Answer session

12:30 - 12:50 PM Break – Lunch Begins

Moderator: Gottfried E. Konecny, M.D.

Evolving Therapeutic Landscape in OC

12:50 - 01:10 PM Lunch and Learn

The DoD OCRP, the Ovarian Cancer Academy and how to apply

Karen Wylie, Ph.D. – Department of Defense Ovarian Cancer Research Program

01:10 - 01:30 PM Lunch and Learn

What is the problem with our access to clinical trials?

Rahel Ghebre, M.D., M.S. – University of Minnesota Medical School

01:30 - 01:40 PM Break – Lunch Ends

01:40 - 02:05 PM Treatment of Ovarian Cancer: The World Beyond PARP inhibition

Kathleen Moore, M.D. – University of Oklahoma College of Medicine

- 02:05 - 02:30 PM Targeting Replication Stress in Ovarian Cancer
Panagiotis Konstantinopoulos, M.D., Ph.D. – Harvard Cancer Center
- 02:30 - 02:55 PM Novel agent combinations: Targeting adaptive and resistance response
Stéphanie Lheureux, M.D., Ph.D. - University of Toronto
- 02:55 - 03:35 PM Break
- 03:35 - 04:00 PM Moving beyond PARP inhibitors: Progress, Pitfalls and Promises
Timothy Yap, Ph.D. – University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
- 04:00 - 04:25 PM Targeting *CCNE1* amplification in ovarian cancer...new approaches
Fiona Simpkins, M.D. – University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine
- 04:25 - 04:55 PM Question and Answer Session

Closing Remarks - 4:55 – 5:00 pm Gottfried E. Konecny, M.D.

Thank You for attending the Ovarian Cancer Midwest Focus Conference

Acknowledgement of Support

We gratefully acknowledge the following organizations for their financial contributions to this conference.

Funders Include:



With Gratitude

On behalf of the OCMF Program Chairs, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to the ***Ethel N. Ruvelson Memorial Lectureship in Ovarian Cancer*** for their help in supporting this conference. The *Ethel N. Ruvelson Memorial Lectureship in Ovarian Cancer* fund helps us continue to fund vital research lectureships and provide educational programs for our faculty and clinical researchers at the University of Minnesota.