

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

FOCIS GOES NORTH: ICELAND CANCER IMMUNOLOGY CONFERENCE

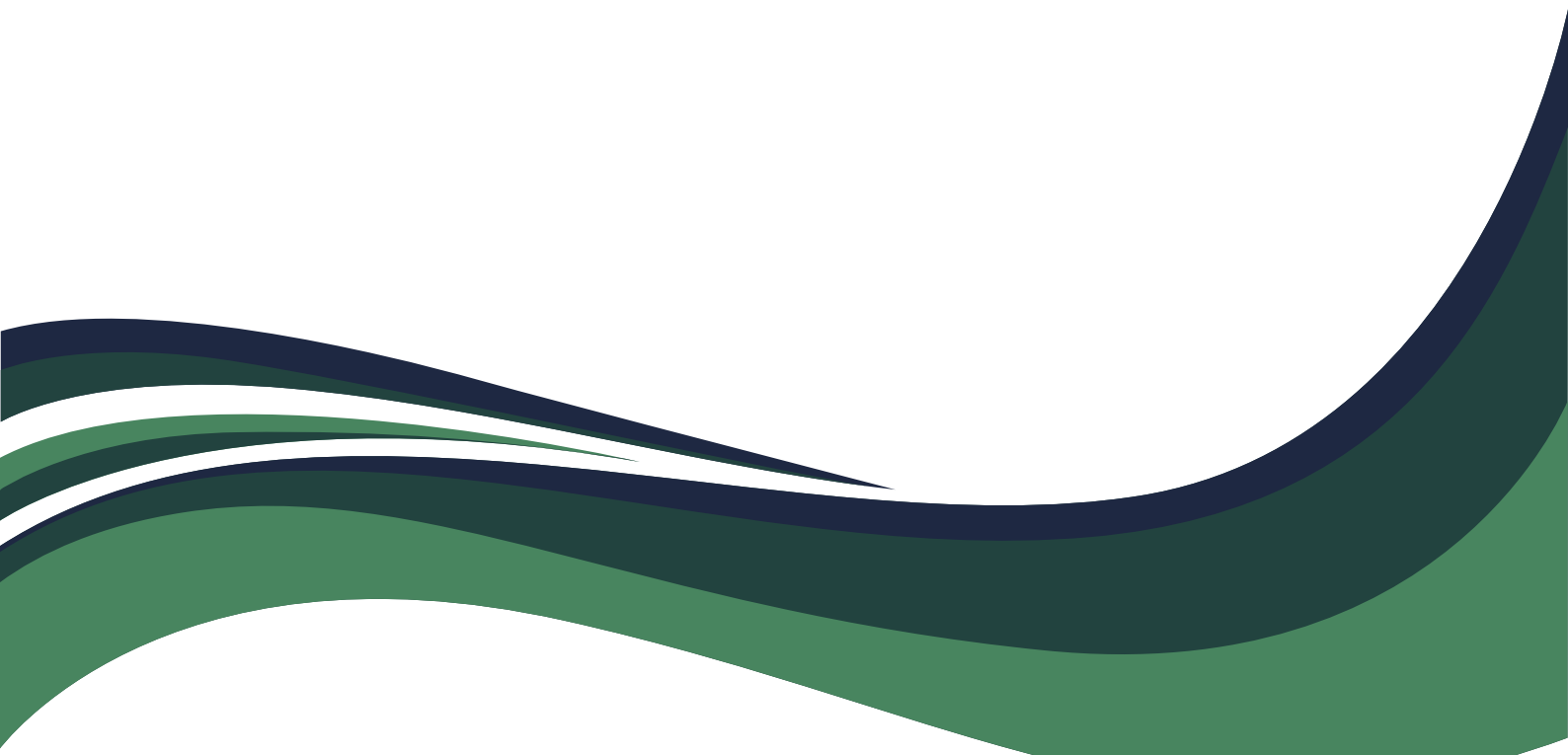
UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND
AUGUST 20-21, 2026





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Dates: August 20-21, 2026

Location: University of Iceland

Sæmundargata 2, 102 Reykjavík, Iceland

OVERVIEW

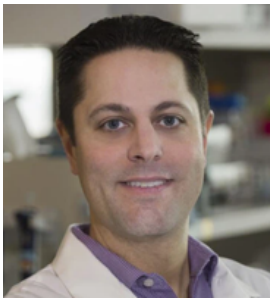
Join us in the dramatic landscapes of Iceland for a groundbreaking symposium dedicated to understanding the intricate interaction of the immune system with the tumor and how it is shaping the next phase of anti-cancer therapies. As the field moves beyond isolated targets to a systems-biology approach, this conference brings together global thought leaders to explore the complex interplay between the host, the tumor, and the environment.

Over two days, attendees will participate in deep-dive sessions covering four critical pillars of modern oncology:

- **Microbes and Immune Function:** analyzing how the microbiome and external factors shape tumor initiation, progression and response to therapy.
- **The Immune Battlefield:** advancing our understanding of immune function and the next generation of immunotherapies
- **The Blueprint of Disease:** deciphering the genetics and epigenetics driving cancer evolution.
- **The Metabolic Engine:** mapping the tumor microenvironment and metabolic pathways to identify new therapeutic vulnerabilities.
- **Experience cutting-edge science** in one of the world's most inspiring natural environments.



CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS



David Brooks, PhD
University Health Network
Canada



Stefanía P Bjarnarson
University of Iceland
Iceland



Sigríður Klara Böðvarsdóttir
University of Iceland
Iceland



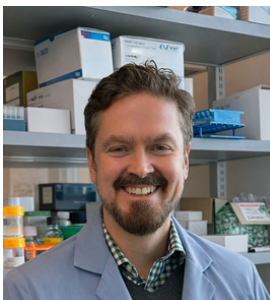
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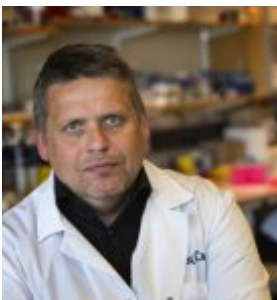
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University of Toronto
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Tracy McGaha, PhD
University Health Network
Canada



Eiríkur Steingrímsson
University of Iceland
Iceland



Thorarinn Gudjonsson, PhD
University of Iceland
Iceland



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS





SPEAKERS

- **Alberto Martin** (University of Toronto, Canada)
- **Alice Kamphorst** (Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, USA)
- **Andy Minn** (Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, USA)
- **Arlene Sharpe** (Harvard University, USA)
- **Ben Youngblood** (St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, USA)
- **Christian Jobin** (University of Florida, USA)
- **David Brooks** (University Health Network, Canada)
- **Dorian McGavern** (NIH, USA)
- **Erna Magnúsdóttir** (University of Iceland, Iceland)
- **Göran Jönsson** (Lund University Cancer Center, Sweden)
- **Mikael Karlsson** (Karolinska Institutet, Sweden)
- **Pam Ohashi** (University Health Network, Canada)
- **Sigurdís Haraldsdóttir** (University of Iceland, Iceland)
- **Sine Hadrup** (Technical University of Denmark, Denmark)
- **Sergio Roa** (Universidad de Navarra, Spain)
- **Therese Sørli** (Oslo University Hospital, Norway)
- **Tiago Da Silva** (University of Southern Denmark)
- **Tracy McGaha** (University Health Network, Canada)
- **Qiang Pan Hammarstrom** (Karolinska Institutet, Sweden)
- **Robert Clarke** (University of Manchester, UK)

Day 1

8:00 – 9:00 AM Breakfast & Registration

Session 1: Microbes and Immune Function

9:00 – 11:30 AM

Chair: Alberto Martin

9:00 – 9:10 AM Meeting Opening Remarks:Sigríður Klara Böðvarsdóttir and Alberto Martin

9:10 – 9:40 AM From immune diversity to oncogenic mutagenesis
Alberto Martin (University of Toronto, Canada)

9:40 – 10:10 AM Bacterial-derived small molecules with immunotherapy adjuvant properties for cancer treatment
Christian Jobin (USA)

10:10 – 10:40 AM Spotlighting Tertiary Lymphoid Structures (TLS) as local inducers of antitumor responses
Tiago Da Silva Medina (Denmark)

10:40 – 11:10 AM Coffee break 

11:10 – 11:40 AM How CD8+ T cells control tumors: Insights from 2 new targets
Arlene Sharpe (USA)

11:40 – 12:10 PM Microenvironmental signals driving breast cancer metastatic colonisation in the bone
Robert Clarke (UK)

12:10 – 12:20 PM Gold Sponsor: Immudex Presentation



12:20 – 12:30 PM Gold Sponsor: Pixelgen Presentation



Thursday, August 20, 2026

Day 1

12:45 – 2:00 PM

Lunch @ EIRIKSDOTTIR

(Building Gróska next to Amgen deCODE)

Session 2: Immune Regulation and Immunotherapy

2:00 - 4:30 PM

Chair: David Brooks

2:00 – 2:30 PM

The interferon paradox in cancer immunity

David Brooks (Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, Canada)

2:30 – 3:00 PM

Signal 1 meets signal 2: building durable antitumor immunity in lymphoma

Sergio Roa (Spain)

3:00 – 3:30 PM

Determinants of Anti-Tumor Immunity in the Development and Treatment of Liver Cancer

Alice Kamphorst (USA)

3:30 – 4:00 PM

Coffee break



4:00 – 4:30 PM

Chronic Interferon, Inflammatory Memory, and Cancer Immunotherapy Resistance

Andy Minn (USA)

4:30 – 5:00 PM

Neutrophil regulation of immunotherapy for cancer is controlled by type II interferon

Mikael Karlsson (Sweden)

5:00 – 6:30 PM

Poster Session

Undergraduate, PhD, and PDFs are invited to present their research work in the fields of immunology, genetics, and cancer.

Friday, August 21, 2026

Day 2

8:00 – 9:00 AM Breakfast & Registration

8:55 – 9:00 AM Opening Remarks: Stefanía Bjarnarson

Session 3: Genetics and Epigenetics in Cancer

9:00 – 12:00 PM

Chair: Pan Hammarstrom

9:00 – 9:30 AM **B cell genome instability and lymphomagenesis**
Qiang Pan Hammarstrom (Sweden)

9:30 – 10:00 AM **Translating epigenetic mechanisms of T cell exhaustion into durable tumor immunotherapy**
Ben Youngblood (USA)

10:00 – 10:30 AM **Mismatch repair deficiency, Lynch syndrome and hypermutated tumors**
Sigurdís Haraldsdottir (Iceland)

10:30 – 11:00 AM Coffee break 

11:00 – 11:30 AM **Regulation of Tumor Immunity by Highly Dynamic CNS Barriers**
Dorian McGavern (National Institutes of Health, USA)

11:30 – 12:00 PM **Novel tools for T cell targeting – improving T cell therapy**
Sine Hadrup (Denmark)

12:00 – 12:30 PM **Exploring the role of the anti-tumor immune response in initiation and therapy response in melanoma**
Göran Jönsson (Sweden)

12:45 – 2:00 PM **Lunch @ EIRIKSDOTTIR**
(Building Gróska next to Amgen deCODE)

Session 4: Metabolism and the Tumor Microenvironment

1:00 – 4:00 PM

Chair: Erna Magnúsdóttir

2:00 – 2:30 PM

Self Organizing Bone Marrow Organoids from Human Pluripotent Stem Cells for the Study of Waldenström Macroglobulinaemia Tumour Microenvironment

Erna Magnúsdóttir (Iceland)

2:30 – 3:00 PM

Amino acid metabolism and outcomes in pancreatic cancer

Tracy McGaha (Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, Canada)

3:00 – 3:30 PM

Coffee break



3:30 – 4:00 PM

Spotlight on Ductal Carcinoma In Situ. Metabolic heterogeneity and immune cell interaction

Therese Sørli (Norway)

4:00 – 4:30 PM

Key roles for Innate cells in the tumor microenvironment

Pam Ohashi (Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, Canada)

4:30 – 4:40 PM

Meeting Closing Remarks

David Brooks and Erna Magnúsdóttir

Directions

Address:

University of Iceland

deCODE Building.

Sturlugata 8, 102 Reykjavík, Iceland



FOCIS UPCOMING EVENTS

FOCIS 2027 Annual Meeting.



Research & Education Virtual Symposia



Join FOCIS Today!

Join a Diverse Community of Immunologists

FOCIS is an international organization of immunology specialists united by a commitment to excellence. Our membership includes clinicians, researchers, industry experts, trainees and graduate and medical students.

Key Member Benefits:

- Network with our global community.
- Post job openings on our career center – it's free!
- Gain knowledge with FOCIS' educational offerings.
- Network with our global community.
- Obtain free access to FOCIS' eNewsletter, Immunology Update.
- Utilize resources and tools to help advance your career and knowledge base.

LEARN MORE

