

Preliminary Agenda LRC Congress

When healthy aging goes wrong: From chronic lung diseases to cancer: mechanisms, biomarkers, and interventions

04. Mai.2026– 05. Mai.2026

Location

MED CAMPUS - AULA
Neue Stiftingtalstraße 6, 8010 Graz

04. Mai 2026

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| 09:30 – 10:00 | Registration / Welcome Coffee |
| 10:00 – 10:05 | Welcome (MedUniGraz Vice Rector: Akos Heinemann) |
| 10:05 – 10:10 | Short Opening: Speakers Lung Research Cluster
Nikolaus Kneidinger and Grazyna Kwapiszewska |
| 10:10 – 10:50 | Keynote Lecture (Chair: Philipp Douschan)
Corey E. Ventetuolo (Brown University, USA)
Translating Epidemiology to Therapeutics in Pulmonary
Vascular Disease |
| 10:50 – 12:00 | Session – PH (Chair: Teresa John) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gabor Kovacs
<i>The clinical spectrum of PH-ILD</i>• Grazyna Kwapiszewska
<i>Vasculature in lung fibrosis</i>• Andrea Olschewski/Chandran Nagaraj
<i>KCNRG in the pulmonary circulation</i> |
| 12:00 – 13:15 | Lunch break |
| 13:15 – 13:55 | Keynote Lecture (Chair: Katharina Jandl)
Rosa Faner (University of Barcelona, Spain)
Talk title: tba |
| 13:55 – 15:15 | Session – COPD and Asthma (Chair: Anna Birnhuber) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eva Böhm
<i>Circadian Clock Proteins Across Chronic Lung Diseases:
Common and Distinct Roles in Asthma, COPD, and IPF</i>• Leigh Marsh
<i>Immune cell dynamics in chronic lung disease</i>• Katrin Milger
Talk title: tba• Florian Singer
<i>Functional change in the lungs of children with asthma -
impact of management strategies</i> |
| 15:15 – 15:35 | Coffee break |
| 15:35 – 17:30 | Poster Session |

05. Mai 2026

- 09:00 – 09:40** **Keynote Lecture** (Chair: Nikolaus Kneidinger)
Kristine Konopka (University of Michigan, USA)
A Pathologist's Perspective on the Updated Classification of Interstitial Pneumonias – When to Lump & When to Split
- 09:40 – 10:20 Session – Interstitial lung disease I (Chair: Rishi Rajesh)
• **Thomas Bärnthaler**
PTGDS as a novel target in pulmonary fibrosis
• **Valentina Biasin**
Enhanced fatty acid availability rewires fibroblasts metabolism and decreases collagen production
- 10:20 – 10:40** **Coffee break**
- 10:40 – 12:00 Session – Interstitial lung disease II (Chair: Lorenz Berg)
• **Martin Zacharias**
Beyond the Tumor Cell: Host-Microbiome Ecosystems in Lung Cancer and Metastasis
• **Harry Karmouty-Quintana**
Aging Lungs Under Stress: RNA Dysregulation as a Driver of Fibrosis and Pulmonary Hypertension
• **Paul Vesely**
Lung Regeneration is Fueled by Lipid Catabolism
• **Andelko Hrzenjak**
The Power of Small: microRNAs in Lung Cancer Tumorigenesis and Chemotherapy Resistance
- 12:00 – 13:00** **Lunch break**
- 13:00 – 13:40 **Keynoter Lecture** (Chair: Philipp Jost)
Michael Dengler (Medical University of Graz, Austria)
Talk title: tba
- 13:40– 15:20 Session – Lung Cancer (Chair: Michael Dengler)
• **Katarina Cisarova**
Aberrant methylation of the necrosome in lung cancer
• **Julia Kargl**
Mapping predictive profiles in immunotherapy responses in NSCLC
• **Katharina Leithner**
Metabolic flexibility and the use of mannose by lung cancer cells
• **Jörg Lindenmann**
Lung cancer- from the surgeon's point of view
• **Gudrun Absenger/Nikolaus John**
Lung cancer- from the physician's point of view
- 15:20** **Keynoter Lecture** (Chair: Elisabeth Fliesser)
Rory Morty (University Heidelberg, Germany)
What It Takes: Reflections on a Career in Lung Research
- 16:00** Closing remarks N. Kneidinger / G. Kwapiszewska