Renee Beekman MD, Ph.D.
Group Leader Single Cell Epigenomics and Cancer Development Unit, Center for Genomic Regulation (CRG), Barcelona, Spain

Title: "Charting early lymphoma formation from the epigenomics perspective"

Abstract: We develop and implement single-cell, single-molecule and genome editing tools to study epigenetic processes during early B-cell differentiation and its related B-cell tumor formation. We mainly focus on the study of (single-cell and single-molecule) DNAm levels to unravel enhancer activation patterns during different stages of normal B-cell and mantle cell lymphoma development and the analysis of the genome-wide effects of lymphoma-specific translocations (through genome editing and 3D genome studies).

Biosketch: Dr. R. Beekman holds a Master of Science Degree in Molecular Medicine (2005), a Medical Degree (2007, non-practicing) and a PhD Degree in Hematology (2013), all obtained at the Erasmus University, Rotterdam, the Netherlands. She is experienced in Epigenetics, Chromatin, Three-Dimensional Chromatin Structure, Genetics, Bioinformatics, Cancer, Hematology, Acute Myeloid Leukemia and Mature Lymphoid Malignancies. She obtained her PhD Degree in the group of Prof. Dr. I.P. Touw, focusing on genetics in acute myeloid leukemia. From 2013-2019 she was a postdoctoral fellow in the groups of Prof. Dr. E. Campo and Dr. J.I. Martin-Subero in the IDIBAPS, Barcelona, Spain. During her postdoc she focused on the epigenetic characterisation of lymphoid leukemias and lymphomas. In 2018 she received the La Caixa junior leader fellowship to start her own research line to study the role of epigenetic heterogeneity and stochastic gene expression events in development and disease. In January 2020 she started as group leader in the CRG, Barcelona, Spain where she is heading the Single Cell Epigenomics and Cancer Development lab. In her current research she focuses on understanding the accumulation of epigenetic events in normal and malignant B cells using single-cell technologies as well as on using genome-editing strategies to generate and characterise lymphoma-associated pre-malignant in vitro models.

Alba Maiques Diaz, Ph.D.
Junior Group Leader, August Pi i Sunyer Biomedical Research Institute (IDIBAPS); Department of Physiological Sciences, University of Barcelona, Spain.

Title: "LEF1 in CLL: A Context-Dependent Driver of Quiescence and Proliferation"

Abstract: Although the transcription factor LEF1 is uniformly overexpressed across all CLL subtypes and stages, we reveal a dual, context-dependent function shaped by post-translational control. Its oncogenic activity is driven by increased protein stability and alternative splicing, specifically exon 6 skipping, which promotes leukemic proliferation.

Biosketch: My research focuses on the onco-epigenetic dependencies that drive aggressiveness and treatment resistance in hematological malignancies. I completed my PhD at the Spanish National Cancer Center (CNIO, Madrid, 2009–2014), where I investigated epigenetic and transcriptional dysregulation triggered by AML1/ETO and MLL/AF9 in the initiation of acute myeloid leukemia (AML). From 2014 to 2019, I was a postdoctoral fellow in Dr. Tim Somervaille's group at the CRUK Manchester Institute (UK), where we elucidated the mechanism of action of LSD1 inhibitors in AML. I then joined Dr. Iñaki Martín-Subero's group (FRCB-IDIBAPS, Barcelona, 2019–2024) for a second postdoctoral stage, focusing on the molecular drivers of epigenetic and transcriptional dysregulation in chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL). In September 2024, I started my independent research program supported by an EHA Advanced Research Grant (2024–2027). In June 2025, I will establish my own group at the University of Barcelona, focused on Functional and Translational Epigenomics in Hematology.

Simona Valletta, Ph.D.
Head of Leukaemic Stem Cell Niche Group, The Oglesby Cancer Research Centre, University of Manchester, UK

Title: "The interplay of leukaemia cells and the bone marrow microenvironment"

Abstract: In this talk, I will present an overview of my group's research. I will focus in particular on two projects. The first project aims to understand the role of the tumour microenvironment (TME) in supporting acute myeloid leukaemia (AML) in vivo using different AML mouse models. In the second project, instead, we analysed bone marrow trephines from AML and multiple myeloma (MM) patients to investigate the spatial immune interactions within the AML /MM TME using co-detection by indexing (CODEX)

Biosketch: Dr. Valletta is a group leader at the University of Manchester where I lead the Leukaemic Stem Cell Niche Group. My lab main research interest is investigating the crosstalk between leukaemic stem cells and the microenvironment in the context of acute myeloid leukaemia (AML).
She obtained a PhD in experimental hematology at the University of Milan Bicocca in 2014.
Following my PhD, I moved to the University of Oxford, where I have been working on acute
myeloid leukaemia and myelodysplastic syndromes during my first postdoc experience and normal and malignant haematopoiesis, ageing, and AML, during my second postdoc.
Before joining the University of Manchester in 2023, she was a PI in the Radcliffe Department of Medicine and Kay Kendall Leukaemia Fund Intermediate Research Fellow at the MRC Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine, University of Oxford.
She is highly involved within EHA: in 2020 she was selected to participate in the TRTH mentoring program. She is also part of the EHA Specialized Working Groups on Stem
Cells, AML and Aging and organiser and chair of different international Conferences.

Lucille Stuani, Ph.D.
Affiliation: Junior Professor Chair, Montpellier Cancer Research Institute (IRCM), France

Title: “ Deciphering Metabolic Heterogeneity in Acute Myeloid Leukemia”

Abstract: My research focuses on uncovering the mechanisms that drive the metabolic specificities of IDH mutations in acute myeloid leukemia (AML) and gliomas, and understanding their molecular consequences. This work is essential not only to identify the most effective therapeutic strategies for patients with these mutations but also to gain broader insights into cancer cell metabolic heterogeneity and plasticity across different tumor ecosystems. Ultimately, I aim to better understand the mechanisms underlying resistance to targeted therapies, with the goal of informing the development of more effective second-line treatments.

Biosketch: She first obtained an engineering degree in analytical chemistry in Strasbourg, France. During my PhD at the National Center of Sequencing (Genoscope, near Paris), I explored metabolic rewiring in microorganisms using multi-omics approaches. I then transitioned to cancer research during my first postdoc at the Cancer Research Centre of Toulouse (CRCT), where I investigated how IDH1 mutations reprogram metabolism in AML. In a second postdoc at Stanford University (California, USA), I applied mass cytometry to study metabolic heterogeneity in AML cells, particularly in response to venetoclax-based therapies. Since 2023, she has been developing her own research group at the Cancer Research Institute of Montpellier (IRCM, France), where we investigate how IDH mutations shape metabolic and epigenetic heterogeneity in leukemias and gliomas, with the goal of identifying new therapeutic vulnerabilities.