

HTLV CONFERENCE 2026

Day 1 - WORKSHOPS: Wednesday June 3, 2026

George D. Behrakis Grand Hall, Creese Student Center, Drexel University, 3210 Chestnut St, Philadelphia, PA 19104.

10:30am	Registration <i>(Continued all day)</i> Tea, coffee & Continental Breakfast	
12 midday – 1pm	Grant writing session/NIH/RFAs Moderator: Fatah Kashanchi	
1pm – 3pm	Workshop 1 Public Health, Transmission & Community Engagement <i>(Leandro Sereno & Damian Purcell)</i>	Workshop 2 Molecular Virology and Immunopathogenesis <i>(Chairs: Edward Harhaj & B. Hilda Ye)</i>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>PRERECORD</u> - A New Area of Advocacy and Research Toward the Global Elimination of HTLV</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Fabiola Martin, Canberra Health Services/Canberra Sexual Health Centre, Australia</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Healthy Brazil (Brasil Saudável): A bold agenda to eliminate HTLV vertical transmission as a Public Health Problem</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Pamela Gaspar, Ministry of Health of Brazil</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Impact of HTLV in vulnerable population in Peru</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Eduardo Gotuzzo, Universidad peruana cayetano heredia, Peru</p> <p style="text-align: center;">HTLV-1 mother-to-child transmission</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Andrea Thoma-Kress, Harald zur Hausen, Friedrich-Alexander-Universitat Erlangen-Nurnberg, Germany</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>PRERECORD</u> Status of HTLV-1 in Aboriginal communities</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lloyd Einsiedel, University Of Melbourne, Australia</p> <p style="text-align: center;">HTLV challenges and opportunities in the international public health agenda</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Josh Anzinger, The University Of The West Indies, Jamaica</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Genetic landscape and clonal evolution of ATLL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Aileen Rowan, Imperial College London, UK</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Quantitative imaging analysis provides new insights into HTLV-1 particle assembly and morphology</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Louis Mansky, University of Minnesota – Twin Cities, USA</p> <p style="text-align: center;">How Persistent HTLV-1 Infection Rewires T-Cell Function and Drives Disease</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yorifumi Satou, Hokkaido University, Japan</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The role of epigenetic regulation in the life cycle of HTLV-1 and BLV</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Luc Willems, University of Liege, Belgium</p> <p style="text-align: center;">HTLV-1-induced innate dysfunction</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Helene Dutartre, NSERM, France</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Pathogenesis of HAM/TSP</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Christopher Itoh, NINDS/NIH, USA</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>ZOOM</u> - Molecular Virology of HTLV</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Benoit Barbeau, Universite du Quebec a Montreal, Canada</p>
3pm – 3:30pm	Coffee Break	

<p>3:30pm – 5:30pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Workshop 3 HTLV epidemiology, phylogenetics, and diagnostics <i>(Graham Taylor & Robert Harrod)</i></p> <p>Standardizing molecular diagnosis of HTLV infections Philippa Hetzel, St Vincent’s Institute of Medical Research, Australia</p> <p>Contributions of Molecular Epidemiology and Sequence Analysis to HTLV-1 Research Philippe Afonso, Institut Pasteur, France</p> <p>Diagnosis of HTLV infections in early life Carolina Rosadas, Imperial College London, UK</p> <p>Pathogenesis of HAM/TSP and Its Implications for Drug Discovery Yoshi Yamano, St. Marianna University School of Medicine, Japan</p> <p><u>PRERECORD</u> - Molecular epidemiology of HTLV-1/2 in the Americas Ricardo Ishak, Federal Do Para, Brazil</p> <p>Revision of the Japanese clinical practice guideline for HTLV-1– Associated Myelopathy Tomoo Sato, St. Marianna University School of Medicine, Japan</p> <p><u>ZOOM</u> - The HTLV CARE Africa Network: Building Collaboration, Awareness, Research and Education to Address the Public Health Burden of HTLV-1 in Africa Jean-Claude Twizere, University of Liege, Belgium</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Workshop 4 Preclinical models, clinical guidelines, and trials <i>(Luis Malpica & R. Alejandro Sica)</i></p> <p>HTLV animal models (ATLL & HAM/TSP) Patrick Green, The Ohio State University, USA</p> <p>US National Cancer Research Network (NCCN) guidelines Steven Horwitz, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, USA</p> <p>Targeting Epigenetic and Other Pathways in ATLL Toshiki Watanabe, St Marianna University, Japan</p> <p>Adult T-cell leukemia/lymphoma in 2026, and hopes for prevention Lucy Cook, Imperial College Healthcare Nhs Trust, London, UK</p> <p>Advances in Stem Cell Transplant for ATLL Ali Bazarbachi, American University Of Beirut Medical Center (aubmc), Lebanon</p> <p>Overview of Current clinical trials data Olivier Hermine, France</p>
<p>5:30pm – 7pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Welcome Reception Constantine N. Papadakis Integrated Sciences Building 3245 Chestnut St, Philadelphia, PA 19104</p>	

Day 2 - Thursday June 4, 2026

George D. Behrakis Grand Hall, Creese Student Center, Drexel University, 3210 Chestnut St, Philadelphia, PA 19104.

8:30am – 9:30am	<p style="text-align: center;">Opening Ceremony Opening Remarks by the Chair Welcome by the IRVA President Welcome by the DrexelMed Dean and Drexel President WHO/PAHO and Local Community Representative Patient experiences</p>
9:30am - 10am	Coffee Break
10am – 11:30am	<p style="text-align: center;">Symposium 1 - Host pathogen interaction Chairs: Arnold Rabson and Lishomwa Ndhlovu</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Investigating the role of PP2A-B56 in establishing HTLV-1 infection Goedele Maertens, Imperial College London, UK</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CRM1 hijacking by HTLV-1 Rex reprograms the UPF1 helicase from antiviral to proviral functions Vincent Mocquet, INSERM, Lyon, France</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Hijacking antiviral defense: a restriction factor that promotes clonal expansion in adult T-cell leukemia Alexis Fontaine, University of Liege, Belgium</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Non-random organization of provirus-host 3D chromatin interactions across HTLV-1-infected clones Mateo Bazire, Laboratoire de Biologie et Modélisation de la Cellule (LBMC), Ecole Normale Supérieure de Lyon, France</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Human breast milk prevents acid-induced cell death of HTLV-1 infected cells, enhances release of infectious virus and modulates the viral biofilm Franziska Wittdorf, Uniklinikum Erlangen, Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Erlangen, Germany</p> <p style="text-align: center;">HTLV-1 Tax induces PINK1-Parkin-dependent mitophagy to mitigate activation of the cGAS-STING pathway Edward Harhaj, Penn State College of Medicine, Hershey, USA</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dendritic Cells Pulsed with HAM/TSP Exosomes Sensitize CD4 T Cells to Enhance HTLV-1 Infection, Induce Helper T-Cell Polarization, and Decrease Cytotoxic T-Cell Response Thomas Premeaux, Weill Cornell Medicine & Drexel Medicine, USA</p>
11:30am – 1pm	<p style="text-align: center;">Symposium 2 – Viral Proteins and Molecular Biology Chairs: Jianping Li and Louis Mansky</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Identification of key HTLV-1 integrase residues for catalysis, host factor binding, and intasome formation Aaron Mamane-Logsdon, Imperial College London, UK</p>

	<p>Small-molecule modulators of BLV and HTLV proteases: from enzymatic screening to antiviral activity Camila Sagasti, Institut Pasteur de Montevideo, Montevideo, Uruguay Facultad de Medicina, UdelaR, Montevideo, Uruguay</p> <p>HTLV-1C p16 protein contributes to virus production and dissemination Cynthia Pise-Masison, National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, USA</p> <p>Whole genome HTLV-1 amplification using a simplified long-fragment polymerase chain reaction workflow optimized for next-generation sequencing Felice Deminco, Professor Edgard Santos University Hospital, Salvador, Brazil</p> <p>PRMT5 regulates HTLV-1 p30 stability and cell cycle progression Bethany Pepple, The Ohio State University, Columbus, USA</p> <p>Characterisation of proviral mutation diversity in HTLV-1-infected clones Anat Melamed, Imperial College London, London, UK</p> <p>ZOOM - Structural Basis of Antibody Recognition of the HTLV Envelope Tongqing Zhou, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Bethesda, USA</p>
1pm – 2pm	Boxed Lunch
2pm – 3pm	<p>Keynote Lecture Chimeric Antigen Receptor T-cell Immunotherapy for T-cell Malignancies Marco Ruella CAR-T Therapy against Leukemia and Lymphoma University of Pennsylvania (PennMedicine), Philadelphia, USA</p>
3pm – 6pm	Poster Session & Vendor exhibits (Papadakis integrated science building atrium)
6pm	Free evening

Day 3 – Friday June 5, 2026

Pennsylvania Convention Center, 1101 Arch Street.

8am – 8:30am	Morning Tea & Coffee
8:30am – 10:10am	<p>Symposium 3 - Inflammation and HAM/TSP Chairs: Steve Jacobsen and Fatah Kashanchi</p> <p>Senescence-driven inflammaging in HTLV-1 Infection: a multi-omics in vivo and in vitro signature Johan Van Weyenbergh, KU Leuven, Belgium</p> <p>Transcriptional reprogramming in immune cells of HTLV-1 asymptomatic carriers and HAM/TSP patients following antiretroviral therapy Sai Chaitanya Rajendra Gaekwar, Drexel Medicine, Philadelphia, USA</p> <p>Tyrosine kinase inhibitors induce apoptosis in HTLV-1-infected T cells from HAM/TSP patients via Bim Daisuke Kodama, Kagoshima University, Kagoshima City, Japan</p>

	<p>Elucidating the relationship between neuroinflammation and brain white matter lesions in HTLV-1 infection Marzia Puccioni-Sohler, Univesidade Federal do Estado do Rio de Janeiro (UNIRIO), Brazil Univesidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ), Brazil</p> <p>HTLV-1 associated myositis: A case series Michael Wride, Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, London, United Kingdom</p> <p>Single cell analysis of infected T cells from HAM/TSP patients Saiful Islam, Kumamoto University, Kumamoto, Japan</p> <p>T-cell exhaustion and high Tim-3 expression defines HTLV-1c infection and pulmonary disease Ashley Hirons, Doherty Institute, Melbourne, Australia University of Melbourne, Australia</p>
10:00am – 10:40am	Coffee Break
10:40am – 12:20pm	<p style="text-align: center;">Symposium 4 – Epidemiology/Diagnosis Chairs: Glen Barber and Bobby Brooke Herrera</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Comparison of clinical features and outcomes of adult T-cell leukemia/lymphoma across world regions: An international retrospective cohort study Bryan Valcarcel, MD Anderson, Texas, USA</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Population-based patterns of adult T-Cell leukemia/lymphoma in the United States Paulo Pinheiro, University of Miami School of Medicine, USA</p> <p>A cross-sectional view of HTLV-1 infection across pediatric, adult, and pregnant populations in an endemic region of Colombia Juan P. Rojas-Hernández, Universidad del Valle, Cali, Colombia Universidad Libre seccional, Cali, Colombia Universidad San Martín, Cali, Colombia Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Cali, Colombia</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Prevalence of HTLV-1 infection among family members of people living with the virus: A systematic review and meta-analysis Fernanda Grassi, Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, Gonçalo Moniz Institute, Salvador, Brazil</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Quantification of HTLV-proviral load in whole blood and dried blood spots: an alternative to peripheral blood mononuclear cells Momoko Usui, Imperial College London, UK</p> <p style="text-align: center;">HTLV-I family cluster with varied outcomes and a potential exposure-related HTLV-I seroindeterminate status Jessica Cuenca-Iglesias, Instituto de Medicina Tropical “Alexander von Humboldt” (IMTAvH), Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, Lima, Peru</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Improving access to and quality of Molecular Testing for HTLV globally</p>

	<p>Mirna Biglione, CONICET–Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina</p> <p><u>PRERECORD</u> - Evaluation and comparison of HTLV-1 proviral load using different methods</p> <p>Gabriel Franco, Federal University of Bahia, Salvador, Brazil</p>
12:20pm – 1:35pm	Lunch – open
1:35pm – 3:15pm	<p style="text-align: center;">Symposium 5 – Animal models Chairs: Patrick Green and Zafar Khan</p> <p>DTG use is associated with sustained decrease in HTLV-1 proviral load, that persists after 6 months of therapy interruption Carlos Brites, Federal University of Bahia, Salvador, Brazil</p> <p>Contribution to lung inflammation of genetic determinants in the HTLV-1C envelope Genoveffa Franchini, National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, USA</p> <p>Efficient induction of anti-HTLV-1 neutralizing antibodies by immunization with LNP-mRNA expressing a membrane-anchored Env SU trimer Hiroshi Ishii, National Institute of Infectious Diseases, Japan Institute for Health Security, Tokyo, Japan</p> <p>Combination antiretroviral therapy and MCL-1 inhibition mitigate HTLV-1 infection in vivo Marcel Doerflinger, The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, Parkville, Australia</p> <p>A small polypeptide encoded by antisense long non-coding RNAs mediates bovine leukemia virus replication Thomas Jouant, University of Liege, Gembloux, Belgium</p> <p>HTLV-1 Hbz is a central determinant of viral persistence and oncogenic clonal expansion Cameron Phelps, The Ohio State University, Columbus, USA</p> <p>Loss of viral enhancer and viral CTCF binding site impairs Hbz expression and HTLV-1 persistence Amanda Panfil, The Ohio State University, Columbus, USA</p> <p><u>ZOOM</u> –HTLV-1c Integration Rewires Host Nuclear Architecture and Enhancer Regulation in Infected T-Lymphocytes Natasha Jansz, The Doherty Institute - University of Melbourne, Australia</p>
3:15pm- 3:45pm	Coffee Break
3:45pm – 5:40pm	<p style="text-align: center;">Symposium 6 – ATLL (General) Chairs: Pierluigi Porcu and Lucy Cook</p> <p>Glucose dynamics predict Post-Transplant Relapse in ATL, revealing broad metabolic reprogramming confirmed by multi-cohort cross-omics analysis Kritika Subramanian, Rega Institute for Medical Research, KU Leuven, Belgium</p>

	<p>Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, USA</p> <p>Towards the validation of the Viral Clonality Evenness (VCE) index: a novel prognostic biomarker for adult T-cell leukemia Anne-Sophie Reuter, GIGA, University of Liège, Belgium</p> <p>Utility of flow cytometry for prognostic prediction in adult T-cell leukemia-IDrymphoma Shigeo Fuji, Osaka International Cancer Institute, Japan</p> <p>EP300 deficiency leads to chronic replication stress driven aggressive Adult T-cell leukemia/lymphoma Advaitha Madireddy, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, USA</p> <p>Genome-wide histone code remodelling in ATL and HAM/TSP Haozheng Liao, The University of Tokyo, Japan</p> <p>Tax is expressed in uncultured CD7-/CADM1+ primary ATL cells and is critical for ATL survival Rita Hleihel, American University of Beirut, Lebanon</p> <p>Characterizing the Function Role of FOXO3 and its Clinical Implications in HTLV-1 Related Adult T-cell Leukemia-lymphoma Georgios Pongas, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, USA</p> <p>IRF4 drives inflammasome and suppresses pyroptosis in ATLL Daniel Rauch, Washington University, St Louis, USA</p> <p>The role of EP300 in North American adult T-cell leukemia/lymphoma: downstream effector and therapeutic opportunity Shiang-Jie Yang, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, New York, USA</p>
6pm	HTLV Walk to dinner
7pm	Gala Dinner - Moshulu Restaurant near Penns lending

Day 4 - Saturday June 6, 2026

Pennsylvania Convention Center, 1101 Arch Street.

8am	Morning Tea & Coffee
8:30am – 10:25am	<p>Symposium 7 – Therapeutic/ATLL Chairs: Juan C. Ramos and Vidyasagar Koduri</p> <p>First-in-Human CD70-Directed Allogeneic CAR T-Cell Therapy for HTLV-1 ATLL: Durable Responses and Molecular Evolution in the COBALT-LYM Trial R. Alejandro Sica, Montefiore Medical Center, NYC, USA</p> <p>Immune evasion via the NKG2A–HLA-E axis and its potential as a novel immunotherapeutic target in adult T-cell leukemia-lymphoma (ATL)</p>

	<p style="text-align: center;">Takahisa Nakamura, Kumamoto University, Japan</p> <p>Role of a unique subset of cytolytic T cells in clinical response in the belinostat trial with zidovudine plus interferon for ATLL B. Hilda Ye, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, New York, USA</p> <p>Kromastat, a Polymer Nanoparticle of Class 1 Selective HDAC Inhibitor, Demonstrates Marked Activity in Adult T Cell Leukemia/Lymphoma Rana Mhaidly, American University of Beirut, Lebanon</p> <p>Venetoclax-Based Therapeutic Strategies in Relapsed/Refractory North American Adult T-Cell Leukemia/Lymphoma Ankit Tanwar, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, New York, USA</p> <p>Adult T-cell Leukaemia/Lymphoma Outcomes in the UK in 2025 Anna Weatherill, Imperial College London, UK Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, London, UK</p> <p>Long-term efficacy and safety of bexarotene in Japanese patients with adult T-cell leukemia-lymphoma: results from a phase II extension study (B-1901) Kentaro Yonekura, Imamura General Hospital, Kagoshima, Japan</p> <p><u>ZOOM</u> - Immunological biomarkers in people with HTLV-1 treated with Dolutegravir Maria Arriaga, Federal University of Bahia, Salvador, Brazil</p> <p><u>ZOOM</u> - Overcoming Adult T-Cell Leukemia/Lymphoma Survival Pathway with mTORC1 Blockade and BH3-Mimetics Arezoo Darbandi, Veneto Institute of Oncology IOV-IRCCS, Italy</p>
10:25am – 10:50am	Coffee Break
10:50am – 12:20pm	<p style="text-align: center;">Symposium 8 – Policy/social impact/stigma Chairs: Goedele Maertens & Carol Rosadas</p> <p>HTLV in Brazil: Recent advances in national policies for surveillance, antenatal care, and the elimination of vertical transmission Pâmela Gaspar, Secretariat for Health and Environmental Surveillance, Ministry of Health of Brazil</p> <p>From invisibility to public policy: integrating HTLV into Brazil’s vertical transmission elimination certification process Mayra Aragon, Secretariat of Health Surveillance and Environment, Ministry of Health, Brazil</p> <p>The HTLV Brazil Health Education Initiative: Multiple strategies for science communication and health education on HTLV and associated diseases Clarice N Lins de Morais, Oswaldo Cruz Foundation- Fiocruz, Recife, PE, Brazil</p> <p>A community-based partnership to assess knowledge about HTLV-1 and ATLL and perceptions about research among an at-risk population in Philadelphia Sean Reilly, Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, Philadelphia, USA</p>

	<p style="text-align: center;">Global disparities in HTLV-1 research and response: A unique focus on Caribbean and Polynesian/Japanese and Caribbean populations Ryan Hoffmann, Drexel University College of Medicine, Philadelphia, USA</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Strengthening community engagement to advance HTLV public policies in Brazil: from invisibility to national representation Jair Brandão de Moura Filho, Secretariat for Health and Environmental Surveillance, Ministry of Health of Brazil</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Innovation and Health Cooperation to Strengthen Molecular Diagnosis of HTLV in the Brazilian Unified Health System (SUS) Renata Olivia Gadelha Romero, Rio Grande do Norte State Health Department, Natal, RN, Brazil</p>
12:20pm – 1:20pm	Closing Ceremony