

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

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

5:30pm – 7pm	<p><b>Welcome Reception</b> Constantine N. Papadakis Integrated Sciences Building 3245 Chestnut St, Philadelphia, PA 19104</p>
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**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><b>Opening Ceremony</b> 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	<p><b>Coffee Break</b></p>
10am – 11:30am	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Symposium 1 - Host pathogen interaction</b> <b>Chairs: Arnold Rabson and Lishomwa Ndhlovu</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Investigating the role of PP2A-B56 in establishing HTLV-1 infection</b> Goedele Maertens, Imperial College London, UK</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CRM1 hijacking by HTLV-1 Rex reprograms the UPF1 helicase from antiviral to proviral functions</b> Vincent Mocquet, INSERM, Lyon, France</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Hijacking antiviral defense: a restriction factor that promotes clonal expansion in adult T-cell leukemia</b> Alexis Fontaine, University of Liege, Belgium</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Non-random organization of provirus-host 3D chromatin interactions across HTLV-1-infected clones</b> Mateo Bazire, Laboratoire de Biologie et Modélisation de la Cellule (LBMC), Ecole Normale Supérieure de Lyon, France</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Human breast milk prevents acid-induced cell death of HTLV-1 infected cells, enhances release of infectious virus and modulates the viral biofilm</b> Franziska Wittdorf, Uniklinikum Erlangen, Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Erlangen, Germany</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>HTLV-1 Tax induces PINK1-Parkin-dependent mitophagy to mitigate activation of the cGAS-STING pathway</b> Edward Harhaj, Penn State College of Medicine, Hershey, USA</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>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</b> Thomas Premeaux, Weill Cornell Medicine &amp; Drexel Medicine, USA</p>

11:30am – 1pm	<p align="center"><b>Symposium 2 – Viral Proteins and Molecular Biology</b>  <b>Chairs: Jianping Li and Louis Mansky</b></p> <p align="center"><b>Identification of key HTLV-1 integrase residues for catalysis, host factor binding, and intasome formation</b>  Aaron Mamane-Logsdon, Imperial College London, UK</p> <p align="center"><b>Small-molecule modulators of BLV and HTLV proteases: from enzymatic screening to antiviral activity</b>  Camila Sagasti, Institut Pasteur de Montevideo, Montevideo, Uruguay  Facultad de Medicina, UdelaR, Montevideo, Uruguay</p> <p align="center"><b>HTLV-1C p16 protein contributes to virus production and dissemination</b>  Cynthia Pise-Masison, National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, USA</p> <p align="center"><b>Whole genome HTLV-1 amplification using a simplified long-fragment polymerase chain reaction workflow optimized for next-generation sequencing</b>  Felice Deminco, Professor Edgard Santos University Hospital, Salvador, Brazil</p> <p align="center"><b>PRMT5 regulates HTLV-1 p30 stability and cell cycle progression</b>  Bethany Pepple, The Ohio State University, Columbus, USA</p> <p align="center"><b>Characterisation of proviral mutation diversity in HTLV-1-infected clones</b>  Anat Melamed, Imperial College London, London, UK</p> <p align="center"><b><u>ZOOM</u> - Structural Basis of Antibody Recognition of the HTLV Envelope</b>  Tongqing Zhou, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Bethesda, USA</p>
1pm – 2pm	<b>Boxed Lunch</b>
2pm – 3pm	<p align="center"><b>Keynote Lecture</b>  <b>Chimeric Antigen Receptor T-cell Immunotherapy for T-cell Malignancies</b>  Marco Ruella  CAR-T Therapy against Leukemia and Lymphoma  University of Pennsylvania (PennMedicine), Philadelphia, USA</p>
3pm – 6pm	<b>Poster Session &amp; Vendor exhibits</b> <b>(Papadakis integrated science building atrium)</b>
6pm	<b>Free evening</b>

**Day 3 – Friday June 5, 2026**

Pennsylvania Convention Center, 1101 Arch Street.

8am – 8:30am	<b>Morning Tea &amp; Coffee</b>
8:30am – 10:10am	<p align="center"><b>Symposium 3 - Inflammation and HAM/TSP</b>  <b>Chairs: Steve Jacobsen and Fatah Kashanchi</b></p> <p align="center"><b>Senescence-driven inflammaging in HTLV-1 Infection: a multi-omics in vivo and in vitro signature</b>  Johan Van Weyenbergh, KU Leuven, Belgium</p>

	<p><b>Transcriptional reprogramming in immune cells of HTLV-1 asymptomatic carriers and HAM/TSP patients following antiretroviral therapy</b> Sai Chaitanya Rajendra Gaekwar, Drexel Medicine, Philadelphia, USA</p> <p><b>Tyrosine kinase inhibitors induce apoptosis in HTLV-1-infected T cells from HAM/TSP patients via Bim</b> Daisuke Kodama, Kagoshima University, Kagoshima City, Japan</p> <p><b>Elucidating the relationship between neuroinflammation and brain white matter lesions in HTLV-1 infection</b> Marzia Puccioni-Sohler, Universidade Federal do Estado do Rio de Janeiro (UNIRIO), Brazil Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ), Brazil</p> <p><b>HTLV-1 associated myositis: A case series</b> Michael Wride, Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, London, United Kingdom</p> <p><b>Single cell analysis of infected T cells from HAM/TSP patients</b> Saiful Islam, Kumamoto University, Kumamoto, Japan</p> <p><b>T-cell exhaustion and high Tim-3 expression defines HTLV-1c infection and pulmonary disease</b> Ashley Hirons, Doherty Institute, Melbourne, Australia University of Melbourne, Australia</p>
10:00am – 10:40am	<b>Coffee Break</b>
10:40am – 12:20pm	<p><b>Symposium 4 – Epidemiology/Diagnosis</b> <b>Chairs: Glen Barber and Bobby Brooke Herrera</b></p> <p><b>Comparison of clinical features and outcomes of adult T-cell leukemia/lymphoma across world regions: An international retrospective cohort study</b> Bryan Valcarcel, MD Anderson, Texas, USA</p> <p><b>Population-based patterns of adult T-Cell leukemia/lymphoma in the United States</b> Paulo Pinheiro, University of Miami School of Medicine, USA</p> <p><b>A cross-sectional view of HTLV-1 infection across pediatric, adult, and pregnant populations in an endemic region of Colombia</b> 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><b>Prevalence of HTLV-1 infection among family members of people living with the virus: A systematic review and meta-analysis</b> Fernanda Grassi, Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, Gonçalo Moniz Institute, Salvador, Brazil</p> <p><b>Quantification of HTLV-proviral load in whole blood and dried blood spots: an alternative to peripheral blood mononuclear cells</b></p>

	<p style="text-align: center;">Momoko Usui, Imperial College London, UK</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>HTLV-I family cluster with varied outcomes and a potential exposure-related HTLV-I seroindeterminate status</b> Jessica Cuenca-Iglesias, Instituto de Medicina Tropical “Alexander von Humboldt” (IMTAvH), Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, Lima, Peru</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Improving access to and quality of Molecular Testing for HTLV globally</b> Mirna Biglione, CONICET–Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>PRERECORD</u> - Evaluation and comparison of HTLV-1 proviral load using different methods</b> Gabriel Franco, Federal University of Bahia, Salvador, Brazil</p>
<p>12:20pm – 1:35pm</p>	<p><b>Lunch – open</b></p>
<p>1:35pm – 3:15pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Symposium 5 – Animal models</b> <b>Chairs: Patrick Green and Zafar Khan</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>DTG use is associated with sustained decrease in HTLV-1 proviral load, that persists after 6 months of therapy interruption</b> Carlos Brites, Federal University of Bahia, Salvador, Brazil</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Contribution to lung inflammation of genetic determinants in the HTLV-1C envelope</b> Genoveffa Franchini, National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, USA</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Efficient induction of anti-HTLV-1 neutralizing antibodies by immunization with LNP-mRNA expressing a membrane-anchored Env SU trimer</b> Hiroshi Ishii, National Institute of Infectious Diseases, Japan Institute for Health Security, Tokyo, Japan</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Combination antiretroviral therapy and MCL-1 inhibition mitigate HTLV-1 infection in vivo</b> Marcel Doerflinger, The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, Parkville, Australia</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>A small polypeptide encoded by antisense long non-coding RNAs mediates bovine leukemia virus replication</b> Thomas Jouant, University of Liege, Gembloux, Belgium</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>HTLV-1 Hbz is a central determinant of viral persistence and oncogenic clonal expansion</b> Cameron Phelps, The Ohio State University, Columbus, USA</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Loss of viral enhancer and viral CTCF binding site impairs Hbz expression and HTLV-1 persistence</b> Amanda Panfil, The Ohio State University, Columbus, USA</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>ZOOM</u> –HTLV-1c Integration Rewires Host Nuclear Architecture and Enhancer Regulation in Infected T-Lymphocytes</b> Natasha Jansz, The Doherty Institute - University of Melbourne, Australia</p>

3:15pm- 3:45pm	<b>Coffee Break</b>
3:45pm – 5:30pm	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Symposium 6 – ATLL (General)</b> <b>Chairs: Pierluigi Porcu and Lucy Cook</b></p> <p><b>Glucose dynamics predict Post-Transplant Relapse in ATL, revealing broad metabolic reprogramming confirmed by multi-cohort cross-omics analysis</b> Kritika Subramanian, Rega Institute for Medical Research, KU Leuven, Belgium Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, USA</p> <p><b>Towards the validation of the Viral Clonality Evenness (VCE) index: a novel prognostic biomarker for adult T-cell leukemia</b> Anne-Sophie Reuter, GIGA, University of Liège, Belgium</p> <p><b>Utility of flow cytometry for prognostic prediction in adult T-cell leukemia-IDrymphoma</b> Shigeo Fuji, Osaka International Cancer Institute, Japan</p> <p><b>EP300 deficiency leads to chronic replication stress driven aggressive Adult T-cell leukemia/lymphoma</b> Advaitha Madireddy, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, USA</p> <p><b>Genome-wide histone code remodelling in ATL and HAM/TSP</b> Haozheng Liao, The University of Tokyo, Japan</p> <p><b>Tax is expressed in uncultured CD7-/CADM1+ primary ATL cells and is critical for ATL survival</b> Rita Hleihel, American University of Beirut, Lebanon</p> <p><b>IRF4 drives inflammasome and suppresses pyroptosis in ATLL</b> Daniel Rauch, Washington University, St Louis, USA</p> <p><b>The role of EP300 in North American adult T-cell leukemia/lymphoma: downstream effector and therapeutic opportunity</b> Shiang-Jie Yang, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, New York, USA</p>
6pm	<b>HTLV Walk to dinner</b>
7pm	<b>Gala Dinner - Moshulu Restaurant near Penns lending</b>

**Day 4 - Saturday June 6, 2026**

Pennsylvania Convention Center, 1101 Arch Street.

8am	<b>Morning Tea &amp; Coffee</b>
8:30am – 10:25am	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Symposium 7 – Therapeutic/ATLL</b> <b>Chairs: Juan C. Ramos and Vidyasagar Koduri</b></p> <p><b>First-in-Human CD70-Directed Allogeneic CAR T-Cell Therapy for HTLV-1 ATLL: Durable Responses and Molecular Evolution in the COBALT-LYM Trial</b></p>

	<p>R. Alejandro Sica, Montefiore Medical Center, NYC, USA</p> <p><b>Immune evasion via the NKG2A–HLA-E axis and its potential as a novel immunotherapeutic target in adult T-cell leukemia-lymphoma (ATL)</b> Takahisa Nakamura, Kumamoto University, Japan</p> <p><b>Role of a unique subset of cytolytic T cells in clinical response in the belinostat trial with zidovudine plus interferon for ATLL</b> B. Hilda Ye, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, New York, USA</p> <p><b>Kromastat, a Polymer Nanoparticle of Class 1 Selective HDAC Inhibitor, Demonstrates Marked Activity in Adult T Cell Leukemia/Lymphoma</b> Rana Mhaidly, American University of Beirut, Lebanon</p> <p><b>Venetoclax-Based Therapeutic Strategies in Relapsed/Refractory North American Adult T-Cell Leukemia/Lymphoma</b> Ankit Tanwar, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, New York, USA</p> <p><b>Adult T-cell Leukaemia/Lymphoma Outcomes in the UK in 2025</b> Anna Weatherill, Imperial College London, UK Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, London, UK</p> <p><b>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)</b> Kentaro Yonekura, Imamura General Hospital, Kagoshima, Japan</p> <p><b><u>ZOOM</u> - Immunological biomarkers in people with HTLV-1 treated with Dolutegravir</b> Maria Arriaga, Federal University of Bahia, Salvador, Brazil</p> <p><b><u>ZOOM</u> - Overcoming Adult T-Cell Leukemia/Lymphoma Survival Pathway with mTORC1 Blockade and BH3-Mimetics</b> Arezoo Darbandi, Veneto Institute of Oncology IOV–IRCCS, Italy</p>
10:25am – 10:50am	<b>Coffee Break</b>
10:50am – 12:20pm	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Symposium 8 – Policy/social impact/stigma</b> <b>Chairs: Goedele Maertens &amp; Carol Rosadas</b></p> <p><b>HTLV in Brazil: Recent advances in national policies for surveillance, antenatal care, and the elimination of vertical transmission</b> Pâmela Gaspar, Secretariat for Health and Environmental Surveillance, Ministry of Health of Brazil</p> <p><b>From invisibility to public policy: integrating HTLV into Brazil’s vertical transmission elimination certification process</b> Mayra Aragon, Secretariat of Health Surveillance and Environment, Ministry of Health, Brazil</p> <p><b>The HTLV Brazil Health Education Initiative: Multiple strategies for science communication and health education on HTLV and associated diseases</b> Clarice N Lins de Morais, Oswaldo Cruz Foundation- Fiocruz, Recife, PE, Brazil</p>

	<p><b>A community-based partnership to assess knowledge about HTLV-1 and ATLL and perceptions about research among an at-risk population in Philadelphia</b> Sean Reilly, Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, Philadelphia, USA</p> <p><b>Global disparities in HTLV-1 research and response: A unique focus on Caribbean and Polynesian/Japanese and Caribbean populations</b> Ryan Hoffmann, Drexel University College of Medicine, Philadelphia, USA</p> <p><b>Strengthening community engagement to advance HTLV public policies in Brazil: from invisibility to national representation</b> Jair Brandão de Moura Filho, Secretariat for Health and Environmental Surveillance, Ministry of Health of Brazil</p> <p><b>Innovation and Health Cooperation to Strengthen Molecular Diagnosis of HTLV in the Brazilian Unified Health System (SUS)</b> Renata Olivia Gadelha Romero, Rio Grande do Norte State Health Department, Natal, RN, Brazil</p>
12:20pm – 1:20pm	<b>Closing Ceremony</b>