

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>)	
11:30 – 1pm	Welcome Coffee	
12 midday – 1pm	<p style="text-align: center;">Grant writing session/NIH/RFAs Moderator: Fatah Kashanchi</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NIH grant funding for rare diseases Dr. Fatah Kashanchi, George Mason University, Virginia, USA</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Extramural program on clinical trials Dr. Joan Ohayon, NIH/NINDS, Bethesda, MD, USA</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Q/A with Drs. Kashanchi and Ohayon</p>	
1pm – 3pm	<p>Workshop 1 Public Health, Transmission & Community Engagement <i>(Leandro Sereno & Damian Purcell)</i></p> <p><u>PRERECORD</u> - A New Area of Advocacy and Research Toward the Global Elimination of HTLV Fabiola Martin, Canberra Health Services/Canberra Sexual Health Centre, Australia</p> <p>Healthy Brazil (Brasil Saudável): A bold agenda to eliminate HTLV vertical transmission as a Public Health Problem Pamela Gaspar, Ministry of Health of Brazil</p> <p>Impact of HTLV in vulnerable population in Peru Eduardo Gotuzzo, Universidad peruana cayetano heredia, Peru</p> <p>HTLV-1 mother-to-child transmission Andrea Thoma-Kress, Harald zur Hausen, Friedrich-Alexander-Universitat Erlangen-Nurnberg, Germany</p>	<p>Workshop 2 Molecular Virology and Immunopathogenesis <i>(Edward Harhaj & B. Hilda Ye)</i></p> <p>Genetic landscape and clonal evolution of ATLL Aileen Rowan, Imperial College London, UK</p> <p>Quantitative imaging analysis provides new insights into HTLV-1 particle assembly and morphology Louis Mansky, University of Minnesota – Twin Cities, USA</p> <p>How Persistent HTLV-1 Infection Rewires T-Cell Function and Drives Disease Yorifumi Satou, Hokkaido University, Japan</p> <p>The role of epigenetic regulation in the life cycle of HTLV-1 and BLV Luc Willems, University of Liege, Belgium</p> <p>HTLV-1-induced innate dysfunction Helene Dutartre, NSERM, France</p>

	<p><u>PRERECORD</u> Status of HTLV-1 in Aboriginal communities Lloyd Einsiedel, University Of Melbourne, Australia</p> <p>HTLV challenges and opportunities in the international public health agenda Josh Anzinger, The University Of The West Indies, Jamaica</p> <p>Control of endemic HTLV-1 to prevent silent global spread - lead from the ASPIRE (Adopting Sustainable Partnerships for an Innovative Research Ecosystem) Program Damian Purcell, University of Melbourne, Australia</p>	<p>Pathogenesis of HAM/TSP Christopher Itoh, NINDS/NIH, USA</p> <p><u>ZOOM</u> - Cellular localization of HBZ and its functions Benoit Barbeau, Universite du Quebec a Montreal, Canada</p>
3pm – 3:30pm	Coffee Break	
3:30pm – 5:30pm	<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</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>Current & emerging therapeutic strategies for ATLL in USA</p>

	<p>Tomoo Sato, St. Marianna University School of Medicine, Japan</p> <p>The HTLV CARE Africa Network: Building Collaboration, Awareness, Research and Education to Address the Public Health Burden of HTLV-1 in Africa</p> <p>Jean-Claude Twizere, University of Liege, Belgium</p>	<p>Juan Carlos Ramos, University of Miami-Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, USA</p> <p>Overview of Current clinical trials data and perspectives</p> <p>Olivier Hermine, Necker Hospital, France</p>
5:30pm – 7pm	<p>Welcome Reception</p> <p>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>Opening Ceremony</p> <p>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>Coffee Break</p>
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</p>

	<p>Franziska Wittdorf, Uniklinikum Erlangen, Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Erlangen, Germany</p> <p>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>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>Symposium 2 – Viral Proteins and Molecular Biology Chairs: Jianping Li and Louis Mansky</p> <p>Identifying key HTLV-1 integraseresidues for catalysis, host-factorbinding, 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><u>ZOOM</u> - 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>Symposium 4 – Epidemiology/Diagnosis Chairs: Glen Barber and Bobby Brooke Herrera</p> <p>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>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>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>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>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>Improving access to and quality of Molecular Testing for HTLV globally Mirna Biglione, CONICET–Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina</p> <p><u>PRERECORD</u> - Evaluation and comparison of HTLV-1 proviral load using different methods Gabriel Franco, Federal University of Bahia, Salvador, Brazil</p> <p>Population-based patterns of adult T-Cell leukemia/lymphoma in the United States Paulo Pinheiro, University of Miami School of Medicine, USA</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 – 5:30pm	<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 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>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 style="text-align: center;">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) 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 – 12:10pm	<p style="text-align: center;">Symposium 8 – Policy/social impact/stigma Chairs: Goedele Maertens and Carol Rosadas</p> <p>HTLV in Brazil: Recent advances in national policies for surveillance, antenatal care, and the elimination of vertical transmission</p>

	<p>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>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>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>
12:10pm – 12:40pm	<p style="text-align: center;">Closing Ceremony</p>