22nd International Conference on Human Retrovirology: HTLV and Related Retroviruses
HTLV2026
June 3-6, 2026 | Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA

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.

<table>
<tr><td>10:30am</td><td colspan="2">Registration (Continued all day)</td></tr>
<tr><td>11:30 – 1pm</td><td colspan="2">Welcome Coffee</td></tr>
<tr><td>12 midday – 1pm</td><td colspan="2">Grant writing session/NIH/RFAs
Moderator: Fatah Kashanchi

NIH grant funding for rare diseases
Dr. Fatah Kashanchi, George Mason University, Virginia, USA

Extramural program on clinical trials
Dr. Joan Ohayon, NIH/NINDS, Bethesda, MD, USA

Q/A with Drs. Kashanchi and Ohayon</td></tr>
<tr><td>1pm – 3pm</td><td>Workshop 1
Public Health, Transmission & Community Engagement
(Leandro Sereno & Damian Purcell)

<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

Healthy Brazil (Brasil Saudável): A bold agenda to eliminate HTLV vertical transmission as a Public Health Problem
Pamela Gaspar, Ministry of Health of Brazil

Impact of HTLV in vulnerable population in Peru
Eduardo Gotuzzo, Universidad peruana cayetano heredia, Peru

<u>PRERECORD</u> HTLV-1 mother-to-child transmission
Andrea Thoma-Kress, Harald zur Hausen, Friedrich-Alexander-Universitat Erlangen-Nurnberg, Germany</td><td>Workshop 2
Molecular Virology and Immunopathogenesis
(Edward Harhaj & B. Hilda Ye)

Genetic landscape and clonal evolution of ATLL
Aileen Rowan, Imperial College London, UK

Quantitative imaging analysis provides new insights into HTLV-1 particle assembly and morphology
Louis Mansky, University of Minnesota – Twin Cities, USA

How Persistent HTLV-1 Infection Rewires T-Cell Function and Drives Disease
Yorifumi Satou, Hokkaido University, Japan

The role of epigenetic regulation in the life cycle of HTLV-1 and BLV
Luc Willems, University of Liege, Belgium

HTLV-1-induced innate dysfunction
Helene Dutartre, NSERM, France</td></tr>
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	PRERECORD Status of HTLV-1 in Aboriginal communities Lloyd Einsiedel, University of Melbourne, Australia **HTLV challenges and opportunities in the international public health agenda** Josh Anzinger, The University of the West Indies, Jamaica **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	**Pathogenesis of HAM/TSP** Christopher Itoh, NINDS/NIH, USA **ZOOM - Cellular localization of HBZ and its functions** Benoit Barbeau, Universite du Quebec a Montreal, Canada
3pm – 3:30pm	**Coffee Break**	
3:30pm – 5:30pm	**Workshop 3** **HTLV epidemiology, phylogenetics, and diagnostics** *(Graham Taylor & Robert Harrod)* **Standardizing molecular diagnosis of HTLV infections** Philippa Hetzel, St Vincent's Institute of Medical Research, Australia **Contributions of Molecular Epidemiology and Sequence Analysis to HTLV-1 Research** Philippe Afonso, Institut Pasteur, France **Diagnosis of HTLV infections in early life** Carolina Rosadas, Imperial College London, UK **Pathogenesis of HAM/TSP and Its Implications for Drug Discovery** Yoshi Yamano, St. Marianna University School of Medicine, Japan **PRERECORD - Molecular epidemiology of HTLV-1/2 in the Americas** Ricardo Ishak, Federal Do Para, Brazil	**Workshop 4** **Preclinical models, clinical guidelines, and trials** *(Luis Malpica & R. Alejandro Sica)* **HTLV animal models (ATLL & HAM/TSP)** Patrick Green, The Ohio State University, USA **US National Cancer Research Network (NCCN) guidelines** Steven Horwitz, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, USA **Targeting Epigenetic and Other Pathways in ATLL** Toshiki Watanabe, St Marianna University, Japan **Adult T-cell leukemia/lymphoma in 2026, and hopes for prevention** Lucy Cook, Imperial College Healthcare Nhs Trust, London, UK **Advances in Stem Cell Transplant for ATLL** Ali Bazarbachi, American University Of Beirut Medical Center (aubmc), Lebanon

	Revision of the Japanese clinical practice guideline for HTLV-1–Associated Myelopathy Tomoo Sato, St. Marianna University School of Medicine, Japan **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	**Current & emerging therapeutic strategies for ATLL in USA** Juan Carlos Ramos, University of Miami-Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, USA **Overview of Current clinical trials data and perspectives** Olivier Hermine, Necker Hospital, France
5:30pm – 7pm	**Welcome Reception** Constantine N. Papadakis Integrated Sciences Building 3245 Chestnut St, Philadelphia, PA 19104	

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	**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
9:30am - 10am	**Coffee Break**
10am – 11:30am	**Symposium 1 - Host pathogen interaction** **Chairs: Arnold Rabson and Lishomwa Ndhlovu** **Investigating the role of PP2A-B56 in establishing HTLV-1 infection** Goedele Maertens, Imperial College London, UK **CRM1 hijacking by HTLV-1 Rex reprograms the UPF1 helicase from antiviral to proviral functions** Vincent Mocquet, INSERM, Lyon, France **Hijacking antiviral defense: a restriction factor that promotes clonal expansion in adult T-cell leukemia** Alexis Fontaine, University of Liege, Belgium **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

	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 **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 **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
11:30am – 1pm	**Symposium 2 – Viral Proteins and Molecular Biology** **Chairs: Jianping Li and Louis Mansky** **Structural Basis of Antibody Recognition of the HTLV Envelope** Tongqing Zhou, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Bethesda, USA **Identifying key HTLV-1 integraseresidues for catalysis, host-factorbinding, and intasome formation** Aaron Mamane-Logsdon, Imperial College London, UK **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 **HTLV-1C p16 protein contributes to virus production and dissemination** Cynthia Pise-Masison, National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, USA **Whole genome HTLV-1 amplification using a simplified long-fragment polimerase chain reaction workflow optimized for next-generation sequencing** Felice Deminco, Professor Edgard Santos University Hospital, Salvador, Brazil **PRMT5 regulates HTLV-1 p30 stability and cell cycle progression** Bethany Pepple, The Ohio State University, Columbus, USA **Characterisation of proviral mutation diversity in HTLV-1-infected clones** Anat Melamed, Imperial College London, London, UK
1pm – 2pm	**Boxed Lunch**
2pm – 3pm	**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
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	**Symposium 3 - Inflammation and HAM/TSP** **Chairs: Steve Jacobsen and Fatah Kashanchi** **Senescence-driven inflammaging in HTLV-1 Infection: a multi-omics in vivo and in vitro signature** Johan Van Weyenbergh, KU Leuven, Belgium **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 **Tyrosine kinase inhibitors induce apoptosis in HTLV-1-infected T cells from HAM/TSP patients via Bim** Daisuke Kodama, Kagoshima University, Kagoshima City, Japan **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 **HTLV-1 associated myositis: A case series** Michael Wride, Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, London, United Kingdom **Single cell analysis of infected T cells from HAM/TSP patients** Saiful Islam, Kumamoto University, Kumamoto, Japan **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
10:00am – 10:40am	**Coffee Break**
10:40am – 12:20pm	**Symposium 4 – Epidemiology/Diagnosis** **Chairs: Glen Barber and Bobby Brooke Herrera** **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

	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 **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 **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 **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 **Improving access to and quality of Molecular Testing for HTLV globally** Mirna Biglione, CONICET–Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentia **PRERECORD - Evaluation and comparison of HTLV-1 proviral load using different methods** Gabriel Franco, Federal University of Bahia, Salvador, Brazil **Population-based patterns of adult T-Cell leukemia/lymphoma in the United States** Paulo Pinheiro, University of Miami School of Medicine, USA
12:20pm – 1:35pm	**Lunch – open**
1:35pm – 3:15pm	**Symposium 5 – Animal models** **Chairs: Patrick Green and Zafar Khan** **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 **Contribution to lung inflammation of genetic determinants in the HTLV-1C envelope** Genoveffa Franchini, National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, USA **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 **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 **A small polypeptide encoded by antisense long non-coding RNAs mediates bovine leukemia virus replication** Thomas Jouant, University of Liege, Gembloux, Belgium **HTLV-1 Hbz is a central determinant of viral persistence and oncogenic clonal expansion** Cameron Phelps, The Ohio State University, Columbus, USA **Loss of viral enhancer and viral CTCF binding site impairs Hbz expression and HTLV-1 persistence** Amanda Panfil, The Ohio State University, Columbus, USA **ZOOM –HTLV-1c Integration Rewires Host Nuclear Architecture and Enhancer Regulation in Infected T-Lymphocytes** Natasha Jansz, The Doherty Institute - University of Melbourne, Australia
3:15pm-3:45pm	**Coffee Break**
3:45pm – 5:30pm	**Symposium 6 – ATLL (General)** **Chairs: Pierluigi Porcu and Lucy Cook** **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 **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 **Utility of flow cytometry for prognostic prediction in adult T-cell leukemia-lDrymphoma** Shigeo Fuji, Osaka International Cancer Institute, Japan **EP300 deficiency leads to chronic replication stress driven aggressive Adult T-cell leukemia/lymphoma** Advaitha Madireddy, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, USA **Genome-wide histone code remodelling in ATL and HAM/TSP** Haozheng Liao, The University of Tokyo, Japan **PRERECORD Tax is expressed in uncultured CD7-/CADM1+ primary ATL cells and is critical for ATL survival** Rita Hleihel, American University of Beirut, Lebanon **IRF4 drives inflammasome and suppresses pyroptosis in ATLL** Daniel Rauch, Washington University, St Louis, USA **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
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	**Symposium 7 – Therapeutic/ATLL** **Chairs: Juan C. Ramos and Vidyasagar Koduri** **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 **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 **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 **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 **Venetoclax-Based Therapeutic Strategies in Relapsed/Refractory North American Adult T-Cell Leukemia/Lymphoma** Ankit Tanwar, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, New York, USA **Adult T-cell Leukaemia/Lymphoma Outcomes in the UK in 2025** Anna Weatherill, Imperial College London, UK Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, London, UK **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 **ZOOM - Immunological biomarkers in people with HTLV-1 treated with Dolutegravir** Maria Arriaga, Federal University of Bahia, Salvador, Brazil **ZOOM - Overcoming Adult T-Cell Leukemia/Lymphoma Survival Pathway with mTORC1 Blockade and BH3-Mimetics** Arezoo Darbandi, Veneto Institute of Oncology IOV–IRCCS, Italy

10:25am – 10:50am	**Coffee Break**
10:50am – 12:10pm	**Symposium 8 – Policy/social impact/stigma** **Chairs: Goedele Maertens and Carol Rosadas** **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 **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 **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 **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 **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 **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
12:10pm – 12:40pm	**Closing Ceremony**