

Agenda LRC Congress

When healthy aging goes wrong: From chronic lung diseases to cancer: mechanisms, biomarkers, and interventions

04 May 2026 – 05 May 2026

Location

MED CAMPUS - AULA
Neue Stiftingtalstraße 6, 8010 Graz

04 May 2026

09:30 – 10:00	Registration / Welcome Coffee
10:00 – 10:05	Welcome (MedUniGraz Vice Rector: Akos Heinemann)
10:05 – 10:10	Short Opening: Speakers Lung Research Cluster Nikolaus Kneidinger and Grazyna Kwapiszewska
10:10 – 10:50	Keynote Lecture (Chair: Philipp Douschan) Corey E. Ventetuolo (Brown University, USA) Translating Epidemiology to Therapeutics in Pulmonary Vascular Disease
10:50 – 12:00	Session – PH (Chair: Teresa John) • Gabor Kovacs <i>The clinical spectrum of PH-ILD</i> • Grazyna Kwapiszewska <i>Vasculature in lung fibrosis</i> • Andrea Olschewski/Chandran Nagaraj <i>KCNRG in the pulmonary circulation</i>
12:00 – 13:15	Lunch break
13:15 – 13:55	Keynote Lecture (Chair: Katharina Jandl) Rosa Faner (University of Barcelona, Spain) Addressing the heterogeneity of COPD across the lifespan
13:55 – 15:15	Session – COPD and Asthma (Chair: Anna Birnhuber) • Eva Böhm <i>Circadian Clock Proteins Across Chronic Lung Diseases: Common and Distinct Roles in Asthma, COPD, and IPF</i> • Leigh Marsh <i>Immune cell dynamics in chronic lung disease</i> • Katrin Milger <i>Clinical asthma phenotypes, biomarkers and response to targeted therapies</i> • Florian Singer <i>Functional change in the lungs of children with asthma - impact of management strategies</i>
15:15 – 15:35	Coffee break
15:35 – 17:30	Poster Session

05 May 2026

09:00 – 09:40	Keynote Lecture (Chair: Nikolaus Kneidinger) Kristine Konopka (University of Michigan, USA) A Pathologist's Perspective on the Updated Classification of Interstitial Pneumonias – When to Lump & When to Split
09:40 – 10:20	Session – Interstitial lung disease I (Chair: Rishi Rajesh) • Thomas Bärnthaler <i>PTGDS as a novel target in pulmonary fibrosis</i> • Valentina Biasin <i>Enhanced fatty acid availability rewires fibroblasts metabolism and decreases collagen production</i>
10:20 – 10:40	Coffee break
10:40 – 12:00	Session – Interstitial lung disease II (Chair: Lorenz Berg) • Martin Zacharias <i>Beyond the Tumor Cell: Host-Microbiome Ecosystems in Lung Cancer and Metastasis</i> • Harry Karmouty-Quintana <i>Aging Lungs Under Stress: RNA Dysregulation as a Driver of Fibrosis and Pulmonary Hypertension</i> • Paul Vesely <i>Lung Regeneration is Fueled by Lipid Catabolism</i> • Andelko Hrzenjak <i>The Power of Small: microRNAs in Lung Cancer Tumorigenesis and Chemotherapy Resistance</i>
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch break
13:00 – 13:40	Keynote Lecture (Chair: Philipp Jost) Michael Dengler (Medical University of Graz, Austria) Teaching Lung Cancer Cells How to Die: Exploiting Cell Death Pathways as a Therapeutic Strategy
13:40 – 15:20	Session – Lung Cancer (Chair: Michael Dengler) • Katarina Cisarova <i>Aberrant methylation of the necrosome in lung cancer</i> • Julia Kargl <i>Mapping predictive profiles in immunotherapy responses in NSCLC</i> • Katharina Leithner <i>Metabolic flexibility and the use of mannose by lung cancer cells</i> • Jörg Lindenmann <i>Lung cancer- from the surgeon's point of view</i> • Nikolaus John <i>Lung cancer- from the physician's point of view</i>
15:20	Keynote Lecture (Chair: Slaven Crnkovic) Rory Morty (University Heidelberg, Germany) What It Takes: Reflections on a Career in Lung Research
16:00	Closing remarks N. Kneidinger / G. Kwapiszewska

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