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the Crick

## CRUK City of London Centre Paediatrics Symposium

Wednesday 24 June 2026

Zayed Centre for Research into Rare Disease in Children, London, WC1N 1DZ

### 10.00 Registration and refreshments

10.30 Introduction and welcome – Dr Karin Straathof, Cancer Institute, UCL

#### Session 1

Chair: Prof. Juan Pedro Martinez-Barbera, GOSH ICH, UCL

10.35 **Targeting clonal evolution in recurrent childhood medulloblastoma: Cancer-selective drug discovery and design**

Prof. Sheila Singh, KCL

11.00 **Modelling chromatin dysregulation in paediatric brain tumours**

Dr Alexandra Hadaway, Postdoctoral Fellow, QMUL (Prof. Silvia Marino group)

11.15 **Liquid biopsy versus tissue biopsy for variant detection in relapsed paediatric cancer: a retrospective pre-planned non-inferiority analysis from the Stratified Medicine Paediatrics programme**

Angela Liu, Biostatistician/Data Scientist, ICR Clinical Trials and Statistics Unit team

11.30 **Developing novel combination treatments for diffuse midline glioma**

Prof. Maya Thanou, KCL

11.55 **Dissecting senescence in paediatric brain tumours: insights from developmental and immunocompetent murine models**

Prof. JP Martinez-Barbera, GOSH ICH, UCL

### 12.20 Lunch

#### Session 2

Chair: Prof. Marc Mansour, GOSH ICH and Cancer Institute, UCL

13.40 **Novel immunotherapies for paediatric T-cell acute lymphoblastic**

Prof. Marc Mansour, GOSH ICH and Cancer Institute, UCL

14.05 **CAR T cell therapy for acute leukaemia**

Dr Theo Accogli, Postdoctoral Fellow, GOSH ICH, UCL (Dr Sara Ghorashian group)

14.20 **Mutant IL-12 with ultra-low activity enhances CAR-T cell efficacy in paediatric solid tumours without systemic toxicity**

Dr Alastair Hotblack, Postdoctoral Fellow, Cancer Institute, UCL (Dr Karin Straathof group)

14.35 **Childhood cancer predisposition**

Dr Mette Jorgensen, GOSH

### 15.00 Refreshments

#### Session 3

Chair: Dr Karin Straathof and Prof. Darren Hargrave

15.30 **Deciphering chemoresistance in osteosarcoma one cell at a time**

Dr Lucia Cottone, Cancer Institute, UCL

- 15.55 **Novel surgical approaches to neuroblastoma**  
Dr Jonathan Neville, Clinical Research Fellow, GOSH ICH, UCL (Dr Stefano Giuliani group)
- 16.10 **Childhood renal tumours in the molecular era**  
Dr Jonathan Kennedy, Clinical Research Fellow, GOSH ICH, UCL (Dr Karin Straathof and Dr Tanzina Chowdhury groups)
- 16.25 **CYP research opportunities in the future**
- 17.05 **Closing remarks – Prof. Darren Hargrave, GOSH ICH, UCL**

**17.10 Networking reception**