ESPERANCE

ERA Chair Life Sciences Programme EmpoweR moleculAr aNd struCtural biology initiativEs

Modern Approaches for Discovering New Therapeutics

20–22 October 2026 · University of Patras, Greece

VENUE: CONFERENCE ROOM **"PAVLOS CORDOPATIS"**
Department of Pharmacy, Ground level

Day 1 · Tuesday 20 October 2026

14:00–15:00	***Registration & Welcome lunch***
15:00–15:30	**Welcome: The ESPERANCE project** Anastassis Perrakis *ERA Chair of the ESPERANCE project, Netherlands Cancer Institute and Oncode Institute, The Netherlands* Georgios A. Spyroulias *Coordinator of Esperance project, Professor, Department of Pharmacy, University of Patras, Greece*
SESSION I Chair: Anastassis Perrakis	
15:30–16:15 KEYNOTE	**Beyond Fragments: Modern Approaches to Drug Discovery at Diamond Light Source** Martin A. Walsh · *Interim Director of Life Sciences, Diamond Light Source, UK*
16:15–16:45	**Target 2035 – Data Generation at Scale to Support Computational Drug Discovery** Claudia Tredup · *Goethe University Frankfurt, Structural Genomics Consortium, Germany*
16:45–17:15	**Pharmacoexposomics: bridging the exposome, drug design and precision clinical care** Dimosthenis Sarigiannis · *NHRF Director and Chairman of the BoD*
17:15–18:45	*Meet the speakers*
	End of the meeting (20/10/2026)

Day 2 · Wednesday 21 October 2026

SESSION II Chair: Georgios Spyroulias

09:30–10:00	**Discovery of Viral Macro Domain Inhibitors Using Deep Docking** Athanasios Papakyriakou · *Institute of Biosciences & Applications, National Centre for Scientific Research "Demokritos", Athens, Greece*
10:00–10:30	**From Functional Validation to Target Identification. A toolkit for Antifibrotic Drug Discovery** Anastasia Mpakali · *BSRC Alexander Fleming; Inolysis P.C., Athens, Greece*
10:30–11:00	**Cracking Nature's Recipes to Design Lipid-Targeting Antibiotics** Markus Weingarth · *Department of Chemistry, Utrecht University, The Netherlands*
11:00–11:30	*Coffee break*

SESSION III Chair: Constantinos Mikelis

11:30–12:00	**Discovery of Inhibitors of Human, Viral, and Bacterial ADP-Ribosyl-Binding Macrodomains through High-Throughput Screening and Structure-Guided Design** Lari Lehtiö · *Faculty of Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine, University of Oulu, Finland*
12:00–12:30	**Decoding T Cell Development in the Human Thymus, One Cell at a Time** Ioannis Sarropoulos · *Cambridge Stem Cell Institute, University of Cambridge, UK*
12:30–13:00	**Harnessing the Way Cas9 Cuts DNA for Precise, Predictable and Personalised Genome Editing** Vassilis Roukos · *Department of Medicine, University of Patras, Greece*
13:00–14:00	*Lunch break · Meet the speakers*

SESSION IV Chair: Stavros Taraviras

14:00–14:30	**Retina-Directed Gene Therapy: Translational and Clinical Progress** Stylianos Michalakis · *Department of Ophthalmology, LMU University Hospital, LMU Munich, Germany*
14:30–15:00	**MRI-Guided Focused Ultrasound: A Non-Invasive and Effective Therapeutic Modality** Christakis Damianou · *Electrical Engineering Department, Cyprus University of Technology, Cyprus*
15:00–15:45 KEYNOTE	**Cancer Treatment Redirects Somatic Evolution in Epithelia** Philip H. Jones · *Wellcome Sanger Institute, Hinxton, UK*
15:45–16:15	*Coffee break · Discussion · Meet the speakers*

SESSION V Chair: Zoi Lygerou

16:15–17:00 KEYNOTE	**Nanobodies for Capturing Protein Dynamics: Unlocking the Fourth Dimension in Drug Discovery** Jan Steyaert · *VIB-VUB Center for Structural Biology, VIB & Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium*
17:00–17:30	**Computational Approaches in Targeting Cancer-Related Targets with Small Molecules** Minos Matsoukas · *Department of Biomedical Engineering, University of West Attica (UNIWA)*
17:30–18:00	**The Nuclear Receptor RORα as a Potential Therapeutic Target for Pulmonary Fibrosis: A Medicinal Chemistry and Translational Medicine Approach** Alexios N. Matralis · *Medicinal Chemistry Lab, BSRC "Alexander Fleming", Athens, Greece*

End of the meeting (21/10/2026)

Day 3 · Thursday 22 October 2026

SESSION VI Chair: Yiannis Drosos

09:30–10:00	**Decoding Regulatory Networks and Metabolic States in Health and Disease** Themis Alissafi · *Medical School, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens; Immune Regulation Laboratory, Biomedical Research Foundation of the Academy of Athens (BRFAA), Greece*
10:00–10:30	**Building Predictive Models for Precision Oncology Across Scales, Modalities and Perturbations** Marianna Rapsomaniki · *University of Lausanne / Lausanne University Hospital, Switzerland*
10:30–11:00	**Using Patient-Led Genetics to Unveil Metastatic Drivers in Cholangiocarcinoma** Paula Olaizola Rebe · *Institute of Genetics & Cancer, The University of Edinburgh, UK*
11:00–11:30	*Discussion*
11:30–12:00	*Coffee break · Meet the speakers*

SESSION VII Joint ESPERANCE (GA 101087215) & MILESTONE (GA 101159708) event:

From Discovery to Market: IP and Regulatory Pathways for New Therapeutics

*Co-organized with the **Technology Transfer, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Office** of the University of Patras, which coordinates the **WINET²*** network*

12:00–12:45	**From Research to Intellectual Assets: Protecting, Exploiting and Advancing Research through Intellectual Property** Faye Orfanou · *Tech Transfer Advisor-Lawyer, Managing Partner Science-2-Business/the Hive*
12:45–13:00	*Coffee break*
13:00–13:45	**Regulatory Framework and Compliance: Challenges along the Path from Research Discovery to Commercial Solutions for the Life Sciences and Medical Technology Markets** Ioanna Michalopoulou · *Life Sciences & Medical Technology lawyer, Michalopoulou & Associates lawgroup*

***WINET²** (*Widening Innovation Network Enabling Technology Transfer*, MIS 6018884) is a network of Technology Transfer Offices (TTOs) coordinated by the University of Patras, with the participation of the National Observatory of Athens, the University of Ioannina, the University of the Peloponnese, and the Ionian University.

End of the meeting