

CINNAMON **CAR-T Conference**

Kaunas, Lithuania | 19 May 2026

“Advancing CAR-T Research and Implementation in ITC Countries: Challenges, Opportunities, and Networking”

09:30 – 10:00 | Registration

10:00 – 10:10 | Opening Remarks – **Julio Delgado (IDIBAPS – Hospital Clínic de Barcelona, Spain)**

10:10 – 11:30 | Session 1 – CAR-T Implementation in the Baltic region

- **10:10 – 10:30** *“Challenges and experience in establishing academic CAR-T programs in Lithuania”* – **Domas Vaitiekus** (Kauno Klinikos, Lithuania)
- **10:30 – 10:50** *“The CAR-T Program in Vilnius: a pioneering initiative in the Baltic region”* – **Laimonas Griškevičius** and **Skirmantė Černiauskiene** (Vilnius University Hospital Santaros Klinikos, Lithuania)
- **10:50 – 11:10** *“CAR-T in Estonia: Current Landscape and Future Directions”* – **Ain Kaare** (Tartu University Hospital, Estonia)
- **11:10 – 11:30** *“Building GMP-Compliant CAR T Manufacturing at the Finnish Red Cross Blood Service”* – **Anita Laitinen** (Finnish Red Cross Blood Service, Finland)
- **11:30 – 11:50** *“Establishing CAR-T Manufacturing Infrastructure in Latvia: The Precision Medicine in Pediatric Care (PMPC) Project”* – **Mirjam Blattner-Johnson** (Children's Clinical University Hospital, Latvia)

11:50 – 13:00 | Session 2 – Regulatory, Clinical, and Manufacturing Insights

- **11:50 – 12:10** *“Academic CART-cell developments in Hospital Clínic of Barcelona”* – **Julio Delgado** (IDIBAPS – Hospital Clínic de Barcelona, Spain)
- **12:10 – 12:30** *“Apheresis CD8+CCR7+CD45RA- T-Cells as a Novel Biomarker Associate with CAR T-Cell Kinetics and Clinical Outcome”* – **Iván García de La Torre** (Instituto Ramón y Cajal de Investigación Sanitaria (IRYCIS), Spain)
- **12:30 – 12:50** *“Navigating the EU Regulatory Landscape for GMP CAR-T Cell Manufacturing: Lessons Learned from the JOIN4ATMP Project”* – **Vania Lo Presti** (Erasmus University Medical Center Rotterdam, Netherlands)

12:50 – 13:00 | Q&A

13:00 – 13:40 | Break**13:40 – 14:40 | Session 3 – Young Researchers Pitching Session**

- **Pitch 1:** “*Nanobodies: The ideal building blocks for next-generation CAR-T cells*” – **Florian Van Oers** (University of Antwerp, Belgium)
- **Pitch 2:** “*De Novo Design and In Silico Safety Profiling of CLDN4 Binders for Solid Tumor CAR-T Therapy*” – **Ozan Gocmen** (Ege University, Turkey)
- **Pitch 3:** “A highly sensitive, probe-free and non-invasive immunotherapy biomarker for CAR-T fitness” – **Marisa Fernandes Antunes** (Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal)
- **Pitch 4:** “Establishing a Local Point-of-Care CAR-T Cell Therapy Platform at the University Hospital of Rabat: Challenges and Opportunities” – **Naoufal Benlachgar** (Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Rabat, Morocco)
- **Pitch 5:** “Standardising CAR-T Cell Pharmacokinetics in Multiple Myeloma to Predict Clinical Outcomes and Toxicity” – **Jorge Illarramendi** (Bordeaux University Hospital, France)

14:40 – 15:40 | Session 4 – Technology, Innovation, and Future Perspectives

- **14:40 – 15:00** “*From Discovery to GMP: Building a Practical Path for CAR-T Translation*” – **Tanel Mahlakõiv (Icosagen, Estonia)**
- **15:00 – 15:20** “*Building Cell Therapy Manufacturing Capabilities in the Baltics: From CDMO Expertise to Integrated Infrastructure*” – **Vladas Algirdas Bumelis (Nortway Biotech, Lithuania)**
- **15:20 – 15:40** “*Beyond Single-Step Solutions: Integrated Bioprocessing as a Key Enabler of Decentralized CAR-T*” – **Erik Vossenaar (Scinus Cell expansion, Netherlands)**

15:40 – 16:00 | Q&A, Closing Remarks