

CINNAMON **Training School**

Würzburg, Germany | 21 & 22 September 2026

"From Bench to Bedside: Translating CAR-T and Cell-Based Immunotherapies"

Joint training school with **T2EVOLVE Association**

Date: 21st and 22nd of September 2026

Location: Rudolf Virchow Center (RVZ) - Building D15, Josef-Schneider-Straße 2, 97080, Würzburg, Germany

Day 1 – 21st September (8:30 – 17:00)

08:30 – 09:00 Registration & Welcome Coffee

09:00 – 09:15 Welcome & Opening Remarks - Speakers: **Julio Delgado, Michael Hudecek, Carmen Sanges**

Introduction to CINNAMON and T2EVOLVE

09:15 – 10:15 The Birth of an Idea: How Innovative Therapies Begin - Speaker: **Michael Hudecek**

Topics: Identifying unmet clinical needs; Choosing therapeutic targets; Engineering next-generation cell therapies; Translational research mindset; What "success" means from different perspectives; How patients can influence innovation

Interactive: "What clinical problem would you solve?"

10:15 – 10:45 Coffee Break

10:45 – 12:15 How Does an Idea Become a Therapy?

(10:45 – 11:30) Talk 1: Selecting the Right Target - Speaker: **Maria Themeli**

Topics: Biology of disease, Target discovery, Translational opportunities

(11:30 – 12:15) Talk 2: Engineering the Next Generation of Cell Therapies - Speaker: Maik Luu

Topics: CAR design, Gene editing, Logic-gated approaches, Emerging technologies

12:15 – 13:15 Lunch break

13:15 – 14:45 From Hypothesis to Evidence: Preclinical Development

(13:15 – 14:00) Talk 1: Preclinical Models for Advanced Therapies - Speaker: Emmanuel Donnadieu

Topics: Strengths and limitations; Animal models; Human-relevant systems; Predicting clinical efficacy

(14:00 – 14:45) Talk 2: From Preclinical Evidence to Regulatory Confidence - Speaker: Julio Delgado

Topics: What evidence is needed before entering clinical trials?; Demonstrating efficacy and safety; Translational relevance of preclinical models; Interactions with regulators during development; Lessons learned from advanced therapy programs

14:45–15:15 Coffee break

15:15–16:45 Final interactive workshop: The Translational Challenge: What Would You Do? Moderators: Carmen Sanges, Julio Delgado

Objective: Let's develop some translational thinking. Students work in small multidisciplinary teams to tackle a series of real-life decision points encountered during the development of an advanced therapy. Each scenario represents a critical moment where scientists, clinicians, manufacturers, regulators and patients may have different priorities.

16:45–17:00 Closing remarks and preview of Day 2

Day 2 – 22nd September (8:30 – 12:30)

08:30 – 09:00 Registration, Coffee & Networking

09:00 – 10:30 Clinical Trial Design: Bringing Innovation to Patients

(09:00 – 9:45) Talk 1: Designing Early-Phase Cell Therapy Trials - Speaker: Julio Delgado

Topics: Translating preclinical evidence into clinical protocols; Defining endpoints and patient populations; Dose escalation and adaptive designs; Safety considerations in first-in-human studies; Academic versus industry-sponsored trials

(09:45 – 10:30) Talk 2: Building Successful Translational Programs - Speaker: Barbara Huber & Jessica Schmidt

Topics: The LION program as a case study; Multidisciplinary clinical infrastructures; Integrating laboratories, manufacturing and clinical teams; Long-term follow-up and patient pathways. **Interactive exercise:** "Design a Phase I trial for a novel CAR-T product." **Learning objective:** By the end of the exercise, students should be able to identify the essential components of an early-phase cell therapy trial

10:30 – 10:45 Coffee Break

11:00–12:30 Learning From Every Patient: From Harmonized Immunomonitoring to AI-Driven Insights

(11:00 – 11:45) Talk 1: Collecting the Right Data to Learn From Every Patient - Speaker: Carmen Sanges

Topics: Why immunomonitoring matters in advanced therapies; Biomarkers of efficacy, persistence and toxicity; Harmonization across European centers; The T2EVOLVE immunomonitoring initiative

(11:45 – 12:30) Talk 2: From Harmonized Data to Clinical Intelligence - Speaker: Kristin Reiche

Topics: Integrating data across centres; AI and machine learning applications; Predicting response and toxicity; Digital twins; Learning healthcare systems; Examples from CERTAINTY. **Interactive session:** "Which biomarkers would you prioritize for your own trial?"

12:30 – 12:40 Closing remarks