



## ESF Research Conferences

A Programme of the European Science Foundation

**Final  
Programme**

### ESF-EMBO Symposium on B Cells Cross the Divide From In Silico to the Whole Person

Sant Feliu de Guixols • Spain • 13-18 May 2006

**Chair:** Thierry Defrance • INSERM Lyon, FR

**Co-Chair:** John Gordon • MRC Birmingham, UK

[www.esf.org/conferences/lc06210](http://www.esf.org/conferences/lc06210)

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## Poster sessions & short oral presentations:

- all abstracts which have been requested to be presented as **posters** are accepted.
- there will be no **short talks** other than those listed on the conference programme.

<b>Saturday</b> 13 May	16.30 onwards	Registration at ESF-RC desk		
	19.30	Dinner		
	20.30	<b>Welcome Drink</b>		
<b>Sunday</b> 14 May	09.00-09.15	<b>Conference Opening</b>		
	09.15-10.00	<b>Introductory Lecture – Jean-Claude Weill</b> • INSERM, FR		
	<b>Session 1 • Epigenetic &amp; Transcriptional Control of B Cell Development</b>			
	Chairs: Amanda Fisher • MRC London, UK & Patrick Matthias • Friedrich Miescher Institute, Basel, CH			
	10.00-10.45	<b>Amanda Fisher</b> • MRC London, UK	<i>Epigenetic plasticity of quiescent B lymphocytes</i>	
	10.45-11.15	Coffee break		
	11.15-12.00	<b>Constanze Bonifer</b> • Leeds University, UK	<i>Mechanistic insights into gene activation and silencing at the chromatin level</i>	
	12.00-12.45	<b>Yehudit Bergman</b> • Hebrew University, Jerusalem, IL	<i>Epigenetic ontogeny of the IgK locus during B cell development</i>	
	13.00	Lunch		
	15.00-16.00	Poster session # 1		
	16.00-17.30	Short talks selected from Abstracts - Chair: Claudia Berek • Deutsches Rheuma Forschungszentrum, Berlin, DE		
	16.00-16.15	<b>Andreas Brauning</b> • University of Frankfurt, DE	<i>Aberrant expression of ID2, a suppressor of B-cell specific gene expression, in Hodgkin lymphoma</i>	
	16.15-16.30	<b>Irma Airoidi</b> • G. Gaslini Institute, IT	<i>Methylation of the IL-12Rbeta2 gene as novel tumor escape mechanism for pediatric B-acute lymphoblastic leukemia cells</i>	
	16.30-16.45	<b>Mikael Sigvardsson</b> • Lund University, SE	<i>Unraveling genetic networks in B-lymphocyte lineage commitment.</i>	
	16.45-17.00	<b>Kai Herrmann</b> • University of Erlangen-Nürnberg, DE	<i>B cell development in the absence of SLC: The quality of different μHC idiotypes dictates the clonal expansion</i>	
	17.00-17.15	<b>Uri Hershberg</b> • Yale University, US	<i>Differences in potential for amino acid change following mutation reveals distinct strategies for kappa and lambda light chain variation.</i>	
	17.15-17.30	<b>Deborah Dunn-Walters</b> • Kings College London, UK	<i>Hypermutation of immunoglobulin genes at A-T base pairs</i>	
	17.30-18.00	Coffee break		
	<b>Session 1 (continued) • Epigenetic &amp; Transcriptional Control of B Cell Development</b>			
	Chair: Patrick Matthias • Friedrich Miescher Institute, Basel, CH			
18.00-18.45	<b>Carlo Croce</b> • Kimmel Cancer Centre, Philadelphia, US	<i>Gene control by microRNAs in B cell malignancies</i>		
18.45-19.30	<b>Patrick Matthias</b> • F. Miescher Institute, Basel, CH	<i>Transcriptional control of B cell development and function</i>		
20.00	Dinner & Informal Get-Together			

Monday 15 May	<b>Session 2 • Molecular Basis of B Cell Repertoire Selection</b>		
	Chairs: Claudine Schiff • CNRS-INSERM, Marseille, FR & Hans-Martin Jäck • University of Erlangen, DE		
	09.00-09.45	<b>Claudine Schiff</b> • CNRS-INSERM, Marseille, FR	<i>The pre-B/stromal cell synapse</i>
	09.45-10.30	<b>Hans-Martin Jäck</b> • University of Erlangen, DE	<i>Ligand-dependent and independent pre-BCR signals in early B cell development</i>
	10.30-11.00	Coffee break	
	11.00-11.45	<b>Antonio Freitas</b> • CNRS Paris, FR	<i>Positive selection of self reactive B cells &amp; replenishment of the natural autoantibody compartment</i>
	12.30	Lunch	
	15.00-16.00	Poster session # 2	
	<b>Session 3 • B Cell Responses In Silico</b>		
	Chair: Robin Callard • UCL London, UK		
16.00-16.45	<b>Robin Callard</b> • University College London, UK	<i>Immunology and Mathematics: crossing the divide</i>	
16.45-17.30	<b>Michael Meyer-Hermann</b> • FIAS Frankfurt, DE	<i>B cell selection mechanisms in germinal centres: an alternative view</i>	
17.30-18.00	Coffee break		
<b>Session 4 • Interactions of B cells with their Stromal Microenvironment</b>			
Chair: Steven Pals • University of Amsterdam, NL			
18.00-18.45	<b>Claudia Berek</b> • Deutsches Rheuma Forschungszentrum, Berlin, DE	<i>Stromal cells define the B cell compartment</i>	
18.45-19.30	<b>Steven Pals</b> • University of Amsterdam, NL	<i>WNT signaling in multiple myeloma and osteolytic bone disease</i>	
20.00	Dinner & Informal Get-Together		
Tuesday 16 May	<b>Session 5 • Translation of Fundamental B Cell Biology to Clinical Medicine</b>		
	Chairs: Kenneth Nilsson • Rudneck Laboratory, Uppsala, SE & Freda Stevenson • University of Southampton, UK		
	08-45-09.30	<b>Freda Stevenson</b> • University of Southampton, UK	<i>DNA fusion gene vaccines against cancer: from basic biology to clinical testing</i>
	09.30-10.15	<b>Kenneth Nilsson</b> • Rudneck Laboratory, Uppsala	<i>Overcoming apoptosis resistance of myeloma cells</i>
	10.15-10.45	Coffee break	
	10.45-11.30	<b>Manlio Ferrarini</b> • INRC, Genova, IT	<i>Cellular dynamics of B CLL cells</i>
	11.30-12.15	<b>Rita Carsetti</b> • Ospedale Bambino Gesù, Roma, IT	<i>IgM memory cells and susceptibility to bacterial infections</i>
	12.15-12.45	<b>Thierry Defrance</b> • INSERM, Lyon, FR	<i>Adjuvantation of anti-bacterial polysaccharidic vaccines</i>
	13.00	Lunch	
	14.00	Half-day excursion to the Dali Museum, Figueres	
19.30	Dinner		

Wednesday  
17  
May

### Session 6 • B Cell Responses In Vivo/Intravital Exploration

Chair: Paul Garside • University of Glasgow, UK

09.00-09.45	<b>John Kehrl</b> • NIH Bethesda, US	<i>Regulation of B lymphocyte motility within lymph node follicles</i>
09.45-10.30	<b>Paul Garside</b> • University of Glasgow, UK	<i>Tracking lymphocytes in vivo</i>
10.30-11.00	Coffee break	

### Session 7 • The Interface between B Cells and the Central Nervous system

Chairs: Rainer Straub • Regensburg University Hospital, DE & John Gordon • MRC Birmingham, UK

11.00-11.45	<b>Vito Pistoia</b> • University of Genoa, IT	<i>Ectopic B cell differentiation in the nervous system</i>
11.45-12.30	<b>Edgar Meinel</b> • MPI of Neurobiology, Martinsried, DE	<i>The CNS as a source of B cell survival factors and B cell attracting chemokines</i>
13.00	Lunch	
14.00-15.00	Poster session # 3	
15.00-16.45	Short Talks selected from Abstracts Chair: Antonio Freitas • CNRS Paris, FR	
15.00-15.15	<b>Helen Baxendale</b> • University College London, UK	<i>In vitro assays to assess the persistence of memory responses to pneumococcal conjugate and polysaccharide vaccines in the elderly</i>
15.15-15.30	<b>Belen de Andres</b> • Instituto de Salud Carlos III, Madrid, ES	<i>A CD19+CD45R/B220- B cell population of embryofetal origin poised to spontaneous IgG/IgA secretion</i>
15.30-15.45	<b>David Stott</b> • University of Glasgow, UK	<i>Germinal centre response in the sentinel lymph node and breast carcinoma</i>
15.45-16.00	<b>Francesco Bertoni</b> • Oncology Inst. of Southern Switzerland, CH	<i>Inhibition of The B Cell Associated Tyrosine Kinase Syk As A Potential Therapeutic Target In Aggressive Lymphomas</i>
16.00-16.15	<b>Nelly Noraz</b> • CNRS Montpellier, FR	<i>Role of ZAP-70 in murine B cell development and homeostasis</i>
16.15-16.30	<b>Pierre Youinou</b> • Brest University Medical School, FR	<i>The abnormal distribution of B cells in primary Sjogren's syndrome is attributable to the presence of baf</i>
16.30-16.45	<b>Birgitta Sander</b> • Karolinska Institutet, SE	<i>Targeting the cannabinoid system in malignant lymphoma</i>
16.45-17.15	Coffee break	
17.15-18.00	<b>Rainer Straub</b> • Regensburg University Hospital, DE	<i>The bidirectional neuroimmune junction in the spleen</i>
18.00-18.45	<b>John Gordon</b> • MRC Birmingham, UK	<i>Targeting neuro-immune pathways in B cell disorders</i>
20.00	Get-together & Conference Dinner	

Thursday  
18  
May

### Session 8 • Psychosocial Influences on B Cell Functions

Chair: Mark Drayson • University of Birmingham, UK

09.00-09.45	<b>Mark Drayson</b> • University of Birmingham, UK	<i>Psychological stress and outcome of vaccination</i>
09.45-10.30	<b>Volker Stefanski</b> • Bayreuth U. & Leibniz Inst. for Zoo- & Wildlife Research, DE	<i>Impact of social stress on blood leukocytes distribution</i>
10.30-11.00	Coffee break	
11.00-11.45	Forward Look Plenary Discussion	
12.30	Lunch and departure	