

HTLV European Research Network Conference 2025

04.07. – 06.07.2025

University Hospital Erlangen
Institute of Clinical and Molecular Virology
Schlossgarten 4, 91054 Erlangen



**Uniklinikum
Erlangen**



Welcome to HERN 2025

We are pleased to welcome you to the HTLV European Research Network Conference HERN 2025 at the Institute of Clinical and Molecular Virology in Erlangen.

This conference continues to provide an excellent platform to discuss recent advances in HTLV-1 research, a field focused on an often-overlooked pathogen responsible for serious diseases such as adult T-cell leukemia/lymphoma and inflammatory disorders.

We sincerely thank all speakers, chairs, and participants for their contributions, which make this meeting a valuable place for scientific exchange. Special thanks to Klaus Überla, director of the Institute of Virology, the local organizing committee, and our sponsors, the *German Research Foundation* (DFG), the *Research Training Group* RTG 2504 (GRK2504), *Infect-Net* and the *Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space* (BMFTR/BMBF), for their support.

We look forward to inspiring presentations, productive discussions, and opportunities to connect, including at the Conference Dinner and a visit to a traditional Franconian beer garden.

Best regards,



Andrea Thoma-Kress

On behalf of the local organizing team



Andrea
Thoma-Kress

Antje
Ubl

Franziska
Wittdorf

Laura
Kemeter

Norbert
Donhauser

Melissa
Kiessling

Friday, 4th July 2025

13.00 – 13.45	Registration
13.45 – 14.00	Welcome
14.00 – 16.00	Session I: Public Health
16.00 – 16.30	Coffee Break
16.30 – 17.15	Graham Taylor: Where are we with PMTCT and PEP/PreP?
17.15 – 18.15	Session II: Diagnostics
19.30.	Conference Dinner at Herzstück with networking opportunity

Saturday, 5th July 2025

08.30 – 10.30	Session III: Transmission
10.30 – 11.00	Coffee Break
11.00 – 11.45	Amanda Panfil: Layers of Control – RNA Epigenetics and Viral Gene Regulation in HTLV-1
11.45 – 12.30	Session IV: Molecular Virology
12.30 – 14.00	Lunch – Palmeria
14.00 – 14.45	Genoveffa Franchini: Are the differing inflammatory profiles and pathogenicity of HTLV-type A and type C linked to viral orf-I?
14.45 – 16.00	Session V: Molecular Virology
16.00 – 16.30	Coffee Break
16.30 – 18.00	Session VI: Pathogenesis
19:00	<i>Optional and at your own expense:</i> Social evening at Entla's Keller beer garden (If the weather is nice)

Sunday, 6th July 2025

08.30 – 10.30	Session VII: Therapy and Clinical Virology
10.30 – 11.00	Coffee Break
11.00 – 12.00	Session VIII: Prognostic Factors
12.00 – 12.45	Open Discussion
12.45 – 13.00	Farewell
13.00 – 14.00	Please do not forget to take your lunch package with you.

Erlangen Highlights



Old and New University Library

© Florian Trykowski



Schlossgarten with Markgrafenschloss

© Daniel Böhm



Hugenottenkirche

© Florian Trykowski



Paulibrunnen on the market square

© Florian Trykowski



Neustädter Kirche

© Florian Trykowski



Botanical Garden

© Florian Trykowski

HERN 2025 Keynote Speaker Biographies

Graham Taylor



Graham P. Taylor is the Head of the Section of Virology at the Department of Infectious Disease at Imperial College London. Prof. Taylor earned his MB, ChB degree from the University of Birmingham and later obtained a DSc from Imperial College London. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of London and a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy.

In 1992, Professor Taylor began his career in human retrovirology as a clinical research fellow at St. Mary's Hospital, London, where he established an HTLV research clinic. This clinic later evolved into the National Centre for Human Retrovirology in 2004, providing specialized care to patients in England infected with HTLV-1 and HTLV-2.

He is a founding member of the HTLV European Research Network. Through his clinical and academic work, Professor Taylor has contributed to advancements in the understanding of retroviral infections and the development of diagnostic and therapeutic strategies for HTLV-related diseases.

Amanda Panfil



Amanda Panfil received a BA in Microbiology from Ohio Wesleyan University before completing her PhD in Cellular and Molecular Biology at the University of Wisconsin. She then undertook her postdoctoral training at The Ohio State University, where she is currently an Assistant Professor.

Her research focuses on the genetic and epigenetic players that are essential for cellular transformation by HTLV-1 and the development of HTLV-1-associated diseases. Amanda Panfil has received

several notable awards, including the 2024 Junior Investigator Award from the International Retrovirology Association (IRVA), the PLoS Pathogen Outstanding Young Investigator award at the International Workshop on Retroviral Pathogenesis in 2017 and the REACH for Commercialization award in 2016, recognizing her contributions to inspiring female entrepreneurship at The Ohio State University. She is an active member of the Center for Retrovirus Research, the Comprehensive Cancer Center Leukemia Research Program, the Infectious Diseases Institute, and the Center for RNA Biology at The Ohio State University, and Treasurer of IRVA.

HERN 2025 Keynote Speaker Biographies

Genoveffa Franchini



Genoveffa Franchini completed a Doctor of Medicine at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia in 1977 and completed a postdoctoral fellowship in hematology there in 1979. The same year, she joined the National Cancer Institute as a research fellow. Since 1997, Genoveffa Franchini has led the Animal Models and Retroviral Vaccines Section at National Cancer Institute's Vaccine Branch.

Her research focuses on the pathogenesis of HTLV-1 and HIV, uncovering viral mechanisms and identifying novel therapeutic targets. She contributed to the development of the ALVAC-HIV/gp120 vaccine, which demonstrated limited but significant protection in a large-scale human trial.

Her innovative approaches to HIV and HTLV-1 vaccine development and immune regulation have earned her recognition, including election to the American Society for Clinical Investigation 1990 and the Association of American Physicians 2007.

Conference Supporters



Bundesministerium
für Bildung
und Forschung



Friedrich-Alexander-Universität
Medizinische Fakultät

**Uniklinikum
Erlangen**



GRK 2504
Novel antiviral approaches



infectnet



DFG Deutsche
Forschungsgemeinschaft

HERN 2025 Networking Opportunity

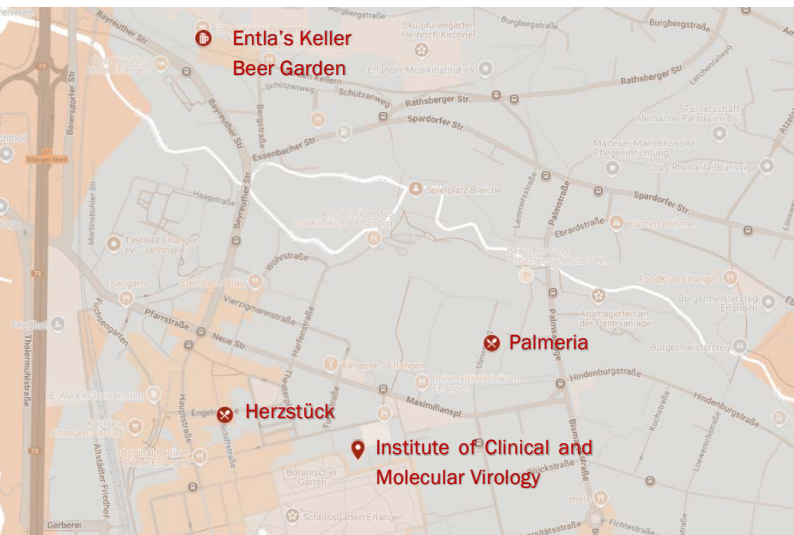
Join us for...

... our Conference Dinner at Herzstück



Schiffstraße 14
91054 Erlangen
www.herzstueck-erlangen.de

- Food and drinks are covered by your conference fee.
- A 5 minutes' walk from the Institute of Virology



... a Social evening at Entla's Keller open-air beer garden



An den Kellern 5/7
91054 Erlangen
www.entlaskeller.de

- Seating under the roof in case of rain
- Food and drinks are available at your own expense.
- A 15 minutes' walk from the Institute of Virology
- By car/taxi: 5 – 10 minutes from the Institute of Virology
 - Taxi Erlangen (phone): +49 9131 19410

Organizational Remarks

- Pick up your conference badge at the entrance.
- Please confirm your attendance with a signature.
- Free wi-fi access will be available at the conference location.
- The certificate of attendance will be sent to you via email after the conference.



Institute of Clinical and Molecular Virology

Head: Prof. Dr. med. Klaus Überla

Schlossgarten 4, 91054 Erlangen, Germany

Website: <https://hern2025.net>

Email: vi-hern2025@uk-erlangen.de

Organizing Committee

PD Dr. Dr. Andrea Thoma-Kress

Norbert Donhauser

Laura Kemeter

Melissa Kiessling

Antje Ubl

Franziska Wittdorf

Editor: Antje Ubl

Photos: © 2024 | Antje Ubl | Nuremberg

© Entla's Keller

© 2024 mapz.com – OpenstreetMap (ODbL)

© G. Taylor: <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/medicine/molecular-diagnosticunit/people/>

© A.Panfil: <https://htlv.net/our-team/>

© G. Franchini: <https://ccr.cancer.gov/staff-directory/genoveffa-franchini>