

**“Emerging concepts and novel mechanisms in organ fibrosis” workshop
Málaga (Spain), 10th – 11th October 2024.**

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Synopsis:

Fibrosis is characterized by progressive tissue scarring in response to repetitive or chronic non-resolving injury, ultimately leading to organ failure and death. It is in fact, a major cause of morbidity and mortality worldwide. Classically, fibrosis is characterized by aberrant fibroblast activation that generates excessive extracellular matrix deposition and inadequate tissue repair. Although significant advances have been made in the understanding of cellular and molecular mechanisms driving tissue fibrosis, there is still a need to: discover the role of recently identified cell subpopulations in the development of fibrosis, to identify targets/pathways that are relevant in the initiation, amplification and resolution of fibrosis, and to unravel mechanisms of regeneration and repair.

The main goal of the workshop is to gather outstanding researchers studying fibrosis in different organs to discuss emerging concepts in the field as well as mechanisms of fibrogenesis and repair in order to better understand the development of fibrosis and to discover novel therapeutic approaches. We aim to: 1) understand fibroblast heterogeneity in tissue fibrosis and repair, 2) unravel novel mechanisms of fibrogenesis including aging, mechanotransduction and senescence, 3) study the influence of the microenvironment in the development of fibrosis and 4) develop strategies to promote regeneration and tissue repair in fibrotic organs.

The workshop is organized in different, complementary sessions, each with a keynote speaker, two round tables and a poster session that will be performed in a “tour-like” giving the opportunity to all the attendances to explain their work to a small group of people at once. With these different sessions we aim to promote active implication of all participants and allow everyone to present their research, share their ideas and contribute to the discussion.

This workshop will provide an interactive and dynamic atmosphere for the discussion of novel discoveries that accelerate fibrosis research and anti-fibrotic therapeutic approaches and the establishment of fruitful collaboration.

Key sessions:

- Cell heterogeneity in fibrosis
- Mechanisms of fibrogenesis: Aging, mechanotransduction, senescence.
- Molecular niche in fibrosis: Developmental pathways, cell-cell communication, microenvironment.
- Mechanisms of regeneration and repair
- Novel models and technologies to study organ fibrosis

Confirmed Invited Speakers:

Dean Sheppard (UCSF)
Purushothama R. Tata (Duke University)
David Lagares (Harvard University)
Giancarlo Forte (King's College London)
Manuel Serrano (Altos lab)
Maria Abad (Altos Lab)
Thomas Braun (Max Planck Institute for Heart and Lung Research)
Suphansa Sawamiphak (MDC)
Christoph Kuppe (Uniklinik Aachen)
Melissa Garcia Caballero (UMA, IBIMA)
Jose Maria Perez Pomar (UMA)

Target Audience:

- Fibrosis researchers
- Developmental biologists
- Stem cell researchers

Venue/Location and Transportation:

The workshop will be celebrated on October 10th and conclude on October 11th (Central European Time Zone) and will take place at the Rectorate building of the University of Malaga. The Rectorate building was originally the Post and Telegraph Office, that opened its doors in 1923 until 1986. Its architect was Teodoro de Anasagasti y Algán, from the Basque country and professor of History of architecture in Madrid, and the building is the finest example of Neo Mudejar architecture in Malaga. The layout of the structure is square with rounded corners and cylindrical towers. The brick and stone façade is enhanced by ornamentation using cobalt blue tiles. It is located very close to unique buildings such as the Museum of Malaga, the Alcazaba or the Roman Theater, and has positioned itself as one of the most interesting places to visit in Malaga,

How to get to Málaga?

The International Airport of Málaga (Málaga-Costa del Sol) is well connected with most of the European capitals offering daily direct flights with biggest airports in Europe including London, Frankfurt, Munich, Paris, Madrid, Barcelona, Amsterdam, Rome or Zurich. It is only 15 minutes far from the center of the city that can be reached by taxi, bus or train. Additionally, Málaga is easily accessible from Madrid by a high-speed train (AVE) that takes approximately 3h.

Prices / Registration:

The registration fee is 250 euros and covers attendance to the talks, poster session and round tables as well as light lunch on the first day and coffee breaks included in the program. The Gala dinner is not included and needs to be paid individually.