Conquering Cancer: A Key Role for EU-Japan Research

A joint event between
the 13th Kobe University Brussels European Centre’s Researchers Forum
and the VUB Oncology Research Centre Day 2023

In cooperation with ULB-Institut Bordet and the University of Kent
Brussels 1 December 2023

FRIDAY 1 DECEMBER

Venue
VUB-UZ Faculty of Medicine, Brussels Health Campus, Avenue du Laerbeek 103, 1090 Brussels

Morning
JOINT SESSION WITH THE VUB ONCOLOGY RESEARCH CENTRE DAY (OPEN FORUM)

Participants
Faculty & researchers from ULB, KU, VUB, University of Kent + other registered participants

8:30-9:00
Registration (badges, conference documents) and welcome coffee

9:00-9:15
Opening addresses:
Auditorium Piet Brouwer
Moderator: Prof Yuzo Kodama, Graduate School of Medicine, Kobe University
Prof. Karin Vanderkerken, Vice-Rector Internationalisation VUB; Chair VUB Oncology Cluster
Prof. Masato Fujisawa, President, Kobe University

9:15-12:50
Presentations by KU, VUB, ULB-Bordet and U. of Kent Cancer Researchers

9:15-10:05
Theme 1: Tumor microenvironment, tumor heterogeneity and plasticity

Moderator
Prof. Michelle Garrett, University of Kent

Presenters
Prof. Yuzo Kodama, Kobe University.
Clinicopathological features and tumor microenvironment of very early pancreatic cancer
Prof. Ilse Rooman, VUB
Intra-ductal plasticity in pancreatic cancer tissue
Prof. Etienne Meylan, ULB-Institut Bordet
Tumor-associated neutrophils
Prof. Martin Michaelis, University of Kent
The Resistant Cancer Cell Line (RCCL) collection – Drug-adapted cancer cell lines as preclinical models of acquired drug resistance

10:05-10:55
Coffee break

10:55-11:10
Theme 2: Development of cutting-edge treatments, with focus on immunotherapy, targeted therapies and radiotherapy (‘precision oncology’)

Moderator
Prof. Christos Sotiriou, ULB-Institut Bordet

Presenters
Prof. Karine Breckpot, VUB
Leveraging mRNA in cancer vaccination
Prof. Hirota Shinomiya, Kobe University
Initial outcomes of photo-immunotherapy for head and neck cancer in Japan
Prof. Michelle Garrett, University of Kent
Cancer drug discovery: from small molecules to synthetic polymers
Prof. Alex De Caluwe, ULB-Institut Bordet
Combining immunotherapy and radiation therapy in breast cancer

11:10-12:00
Theme 3: Advances in medical technologies and robotics in cancer treatment, including imaging and AI

Moderator
Prof. Yuzo Kodama, Kobe University
**12:00-12:50 Theme 4: Social and societal issues: Fostering innovations in cancer management, and new approaches in patient empowerment and well-being, enhancement of quality of life in patients, their carers and families**

**Moderator:** Prof. Ilse Rooman, VUB

**Presenters**
Dr. Sarah Hotham, University of Kent
*The role of behavioural science in the design and delivery of innovations in cancer management: A research collaboration with Cancer Research UK*

Prof. Isabelle Merckaert, ULB-Institut Bordet
*Emotion regulation and survivorship*

Prof. Takashi Yamaguchi, Kobe University.
*Pharmacological management of cancer dyspnea*

Prof. Luc Deliens, VUB
*Person-centred care and palliative care in people with cancer*

**12:50-14:00 Networking lunch offered by VUB**

*Room Atrium/Forum Building D*