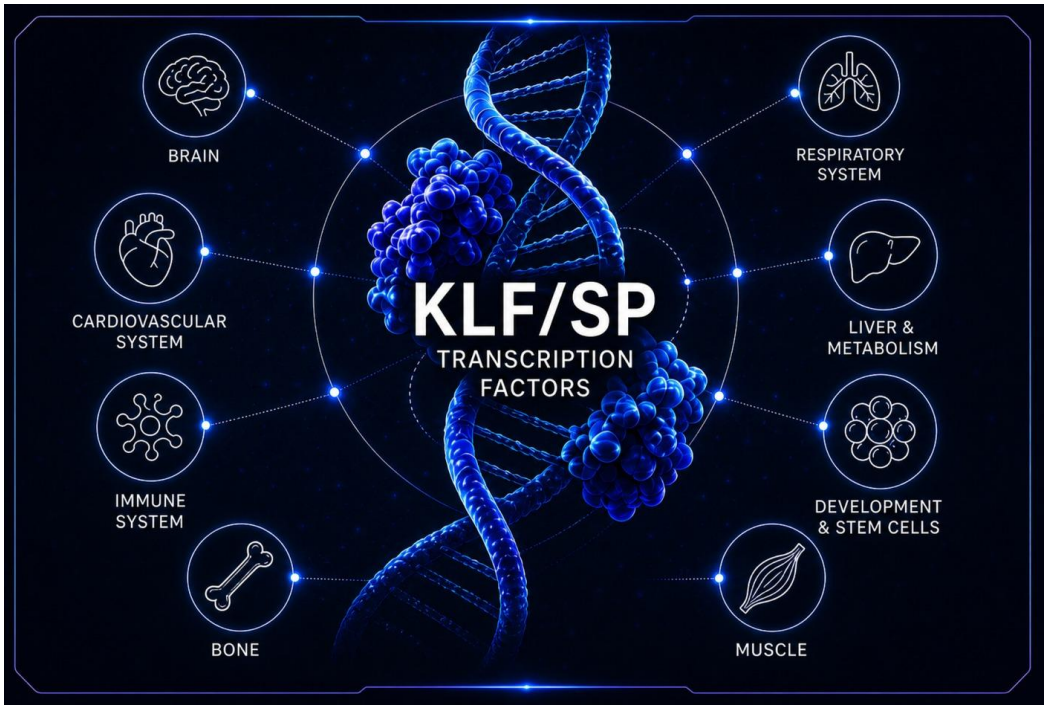
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KLF RESEARCH

INTERNATIONAL MEETING

From Molecular Mechanisms to Therapeutic Opportunities

KLF/SP factors, downstream signalling effectors and FOXO friends



13 – 16 NOVEMBER 2026

GIESSEN, GERMANY

Days 1 and 4 (13 and 16 November) · Best Western Plus Hotel Steinsgarten
Days 2 and 3 (14 and 15 November) · Justus Liebig University (JLU)

www.kruppel.org

WELCOME

We are delighted to welcome you to the international meeting of the International Society for KLF Research, "From Molecular Mechanisms to Therapeutic Opportunities: KLF/SP Factors and Downstream Signalling Effectors," taking place 13–16 November 2026 at Justus Liebig University (JLU) Gießen, Germany.

This meeting continues the legacy of the prestigious KLF/SP conference series, previously held in Japan (2008, 2018), the USA (2010, 2012, 2014, 2016) and most recently in Greece (2024). It provides a leading global platform for scientific exchange, fostering collaboration and dialogue across disciplines focused on transcriptional regulation, signaling pathways and systems biology in health and disease of different organs and systems.

The conference will bring together an international group of experts from all career stages, creating a dynamic and inclusive environment for discussion and discovery. Our shared goal is to advance the understanding of disease mechanisms and progression, while highlighting cutting-edge developments in translational medicine, gene regulation and emerging therapeutic strategies.

Participants will present novel insights into KLF/SP biology and downstream related pathways, with a strong emphasis on innovative technologies and their application in addressing major biomedical challenges. The program is designed to stimulate interdisciplinary exchange and to strengthen existing collaborations while fostering new ones.

Hosting this meeting at JLU Gießen reflects our commitment to advancing scientific excellence and international cooperation in cardiovascular and molecular medicine. We look forward to inspiring discussions, outstanding presentations and a stimulating scientific atmosphere in Gießen.

The Organizing Committee

CHAIR

- **Laura C. Zelarayán** — Justus Liebig University Gießen and University Medical Center Göttingen, Germany

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE (ALPHABETICAL)

- **Ceshi Chen** — China
- **Konstantinos Drosatos** — USA
- **Jonathan Katz** — USA
- **Gwen Lomberk** — USA
- **Ichiro Manabe** — Japan
- **Soni Savai Pullamsetti** — Germany
- **Kate Quinlan** — Australia
- **Toru Suzuki** — UK

LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Behnoush Parviz · Mario Pavez-Giani · Shaohan Wang · Maria Ignatew

EXTENDED LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Maedeh Ahmadirouzbahani · Tomás Peralta · Antje Weber · Esteban Palacios Contreras · Johannes Peter Ruppert · Laura Priesmeier · Rosa Kim · Philipp Peter Stähr · Thomas Koertl

SUPPORT AND SPONSORSHIP

Supported by JLU Finance and Accounting, Faculty of Medicine, and the Study and Teaching Office.

Sponsored by Boehringer Ingelheim · SFB 1213 · Cardio-Pulmonary Institute (CPI) · Institute for Lung Health (ILH) · Bio-Rad · Abberior.

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

Day 1 · Friday 13	Day 2 · Saturday 14	Day 3 · Sunday 15	Day 4 · Monday 16
14:30 Registration	09:00 S1 · Pluripotency to regeneration	08:30 S4 · Cardiovascular and pulmonary	09:00 Business meeting
15:00 ECI Session A	11:00 S2 · Blood and immune cells	10:30 S5 · Cellular adaptation I	10:00 S8 · Epigenetic and post-transcriptional
16:00 ECI Session B	12:40 Group photo and lunch	12:10 Lunch	11:55 S9 · Cellular adaptation II
16:30 Poster presentation	14:00 S3 · Immune cell crosstalk	13:30 S6 · Tumour diseases	13:30 Closing remarks and departure
17:30 Opening Session	15:30 Translational Session	15:30 S7 · Vascular biology	
17:45 Keynote · Raul Urrutia	17:00 Castle Rauischholzhausen · Society inauguration	16:45 Closing Keynote · Saptarsi Haldar	
19:30 Opening Dinner		19:00 Dinner at AuLac	

VENUES

Days 1 and 4 — Best Western Plus Hotel Steinsgarten, Gießen (13 and 16 November)

Days 2 and 3 — Medical Training Centre (MLZ), Justus Liebig University (JLU), Gießen (14 and 15 November)

Evening of Day 2 — Castle Rauischholzhausen (departure by bus at 17:00)

Evening of Day 3 — Conference dinner at AuLac (19:00)

Preliminary programme. Times, titles and speakers are subject to change. Sessions marked “Title to be announced” and open slots will be completed as abstracts are received.

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

DAY 1 Friday, 13 November 2026

Best Western Plus Hotel Steinsgarten

14:30 – 15:00 *Registration & coffee*

15:00 – 15:45 · **EARLY CAREER INVESTIGATORS**

Session A

Chairs: **Shaohan Wang**, Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen, Germany • **Giulia Germana**, University Hospital Zurich, Switzerland

15:00 – 15:15 **Holly Adams** — Monash University, Australia
KLF3 restrains DN2 thymocyte proliferation to allow proper T cell development

15:15 – 15:30 **Chanil Valasarajan** — Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen, Germany
From Right Ventricular Resilience to Failure: FOXO3-Dependent Control of the Fibroblast–Immune Niche

15:30 – 15:45 **Johannes Ruppert,** Universitätsklinikum Gießen & Marburg, Germany
Human Right Ventricular Myocardial Slices: From Functional Characterization to Atrial Fibrillation

15:45 – 16:00 *Coffee break*

16:00 – 16:30 · **EARLY CAREER INVESTIGATORS**

Session B

Chairs: **Esteban Palacios Contras,** Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen, Germany • **Mausam Rana**, Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen, Germany

16:00 – 16:15 **Rosa Kim** — Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen, Germany
The role of KLF15 on adipokine regulation

16:15 – 16:30 *Open slot*

16:30 – 17:30 *Coffee break and poster presentation*

17:30 – 17:45 · **OPENING SESSION**

Chairs: **Laura Zelarayán**, Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen, Germany • **Ceshi Chen**, Kunming Medical University, China

17:45 – 18:45 · **KEYNOTE LECTURE**

17:45 – 18:45 **Raul Urrutia** — Mayo Clinic Arizona, USA
Pioneer Roles of Krüppel-Like Factors: Chromatin Rewiring in Development, Physiology, and Disease

19:30 **Opening Dinner**

DAY 2 Saturday, 14 November 2026

Medical Training Centre (MLZ), Justus Liebig University (JLU), Gießen

08:30 – 08:45 *Registration*

08:45 – 10:25 · SESSION 1
Transcriptional cues from pluripotency to regeneration

Chairs: **Thomas Koertl**, Universitätsklinikum Gießen & Marburg, Germany • **Kate Quinlan**, UNSW Sydney, Australia

08:45 – 09:10 **Agnieszka Bialkowska** — Stony Brook University, USA
To have (not to have) KLFs — the gut road to the regeneration

09:10 – 09:35 **Ralf Jauch** — The University of Hong Kong, China
Structure-based engineering of the pioneer factor KLF4 enables new routes for pluripotency induction

09:35 – 10:00 **Kazu Kikuchi** — National Cerebral and Cardiovascular Center, Japan
Induction of adult cardiomyocyte renewal by modulating KLF1 pathways

10:00 – 10:25 **Sven Reischauer** — Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen, Germany
IL-11 signaling establishes the transcriptional and chromatin landscape of regenerative stromal reprogramming in the zebrafish heart

10:25 – 10:45 *Coffee break*

10:45 – 12:25 · SESSION 2
Blood and immune cells

Chairs: **Jonathan Katz**, University of Pennsylvania, USA • **Stephen Jameson**, University of Minnesota, USA

10:45 – 11:10 **Kate Quinlan** — UNSW Sydney, Australia
The non-DNA binding domains of zinc finger transcription factors are important for genomic localisation

11:10 – 11:35 **Merlin Crossley** — UNSW Sydney, Australia
The DNA binding domains of zinc finger transcription factors are important for genomic localisation

11:35 – 12:00 **James Bieker** — Mount Sinai School of Medicine, USA
Identification of a compensatory intragenic suppressor to a dominant zinc finger mutant transcription factor

12:00 – 12:25 **Jan Frayne and Ivan Ferrer-Vicens** — University of Bristol, UK
Genome-wide reprogramming by E325K-KLF1 defines the molecular basis of CDAIV

12:25 – 13:40 *Group photo and lunch break*

13:40 – 14:55 · SESSION 3
Immune cell crosstalk

Chairs: **Baotong Zhang**, Southern University of Science and Technology, Shenzhen, China • **Giulia Germana**, University Hospital Zurich, Switzerland

13:40 – 14:05 **Stephen Jameson** — University of Minnesota, USA
Role of KLFs in regulation of T cell differentiation and migration

14:05 – 14:30 **Daniel Lacorazza** — Baylor College of Medicine, USA
KLF4: a molecular switch in immune cell identity and function

14:30 – 14:55 **Andrew Perkins** — Monash University, Australia
KLF3/8/12 incoherent feedback networks in T cell exhaustion

14:55 – 15:15 *Coffee break*

15:15 – 16:30 · TRANSLATIONAL SESSION

Chairs: **Katrin Streckfuß-Bömeke**, University of Würzburg, Germany • **Norbert Weissmann**, Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen, Germany

15:15 – 15:40 **Samuel Sossalla** — Kerckhoff Heart Research Institute, in association with Justus Liebig University Gießen and University Hospital Gießen and Marburg
Making science for patients

15:40 – 16:05 **Johnny Kim** — TRON — Translational Oncology, University Medical Centre of Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Germany
Translational applications of partial cellular reprogramming: from genetics to mRNA-based interventions

16:05– 16:30 **Toru Suzuki** — University of Leicester, UK
Title to be announced

17:00 **Departure by bus to Castle Rauischholzhausen — Inauguration of the International Society for KLF Research, with reception and dinner**

DAY 3 Sunday, 15 November 2026

Medical Training Centre (MLZ), Justus Liebig University (JLU), Gießen

08:30 – 10:10 · SESSION 4
Cardiovascular and pulmonary diseases

Chairs: **Christoph Maack**, University Hospital Würzburg, Germany • **Natascha Sommer**, Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen, Germany

08:30 – 08:55 **Mario Pavez-Giani** — Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen, Germany
KLF15 as a mitonuclear node: is there room for therapy in mitochondrial cardiomyopathy?

08:55 – 09:20 **Konstantinos Drosatos** — University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, USA
Cardiomyocyte KLF5: a master switch driving the expanding landscape of cardiotoxicity

09:20 – 09:45 **Adam Wende** — University of Alabama at Birmingham, USA
Linking PTMs and KLF/SP regulation in the heart

09:45 – 10:10 **Soni Savai Pullamsetti** — Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen, Germany
FOXO signaling in cardiopulmonary remodeling and chronic lung disease

10:10 – 10:30 *Coffee break*

10:30 – 12:10 · SESSION 5
Cellular adaptation — I

Chairs: **Boudewijn Burgering**, University Medical Center Utrecht, Netherlands • **Aslam Muhammad**, Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen, Germany

10:30 – 10:55 **Raffaele Frazzi** — Azienda Unità Sanitaria Locale — IRCCS di Reggio Emilia, Italy
Quantitative and specific assessment of KLF4 epigenetic regulation

10:55 – 11:20 **Ichiro Manabe** — Chiba University, Japan
Innate immune memory in heart failure

11:20 – 11:45 **Ignacio Pérez de Castro** — Instituto de Salud Carlos III (ISCIII), Spain
Exploring the role of KLF15 in laminopathies: the case of LMNA-associated congenital muscular dystrophy

11:45 – 12:10 **Eric Schoger** — Heidelberg University, Germany
CRISPR/dCas9VPR-mediated activation of KLF15 promotes cardiomyocyte maturation

12:10 – 13:30 *Lunch break*

13:30 – 15:10 · SESSION 6
Gender-specific and gastrointestinal tumor diseases

Chairs: **Gwen Lomberk**, Mayo Clinic Arizona, USA • **Raffaele Frazzi**, AUSL — IRCCS di Reggio Emilia, Italy

13:30 – 13:55 **Ceshi Chen** — Kunming Medical University, China
Targeting KLF5 to treat basal-like breast cancer

13:55 – 14:20 **Baotong Zhang** — Southern University of Science and Technology, Shenzhen, China
The role of KLF5 and its acetylation in the prostate cancer microenvironment

14:20 – 14:45 **Jonathan Katz** — University of Pennsylvania, USA
KLF5 in esophageal keratinocyte injury response, migration, and transformation

14:45 – 15:10 **Xin Wang** — National Clinical Research Center for Cancer, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and Peking Union Medical College, Beijing, China
AF9–KLF2 gene regulatory circuit links histone acetylation to metabolic reprogramming and breast cancer progression

15:10 – 15:30 *Coffee break*

15:30 – 16:45 · SESSION 7
Vascular biology

Chairs: **Adam Wende**, University of Alabama at Birmingham, USA • **Soni Savai Pullamsetti**, Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen, Germany

15:30 – 15:55 **Laura Priesmeier** — University Medical Center Göttingen, Germany
Non-cell-autonomous effects of KLF15 in vascular cells

15:55 – 16:20 **Mukesh Jain** — Brown University, USA
KLFs and the endothelium

16:20 – 16:45 **Johannes Backs** — Heidelberg University, Germany
Cardiomyocyte-endothelial-platelet cross-talk in cardiometabolic diseases

16:45 – 17:45 · CLOSING KEYNOTE

Chairs: **Gwen Lomberk**, Mayo Clinic Arizona, USA • **Konstantinos Drosatos**, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, USA

16:45 – 17:45 **Saptarsi Haldar** — USA
Title to be announced

19:00 **Conference dinner at AuLac & Music**

DAY 4 Monday, 16 November 2026

Best Western Plus Hotel Steinsgarten

09:00 – 10:00 · BUSINESS MEETING
KLF/SP community

09:00 – 10:00 **Presentation of the KLF Society and the next conference** — All participants

10:00 – 11:40 · SESSION 8
Epigenetic and post-transcriptional control

Chairs: **Jan Frayne**, University of Bristol, UK • **Siyuan Xia**, Southern University of Science and Technology, China

10:00 – 10:25 **Federica Accornero** — Brown University, USA
Post-transcriptional regulation of cardiac physiology

10:25 – 10:50 **Bin Zheng** — Hebei Medical University, China
The role of KLF4-mediated RNA regulation in aneurysm and its molecular mechanisms

10:50 – 11:15 **Yihua Chen** — Kunming Medical University, China
Discovery and development of antitumor drug candidates targeting key targets involved in transcriptional regulation

11:15 – 11:30 *Coffee break*

11:30 – 13:05 · SESSION 9
Cellular adaptation — II

Chairs: **Agnieszka Bialkowska**, Stony Brook University, USA • **Ichiro Manabe**, Chiba University, Japan

11:30 – 11:55 **Dewei Jiang** — Kunming Medical University, China
Interplay between KLF5 and epigenetic regulation in breast cancer

11:55 – 12:20 **Boudewijn Burgering** — University Medical Center Utrecht, Netherlands
FOXO at the crossroads of cellular stress adaptation

12:20 – 12:45 **Siyuan Xia** — Southern University of Science and Technology, China
Zinc promotes glycolytic reprogramming by regulating PKM2 dimerization and nuclear localization

13:00 **Closing remarks · Conference adjourns · Lunch boxes and departure**