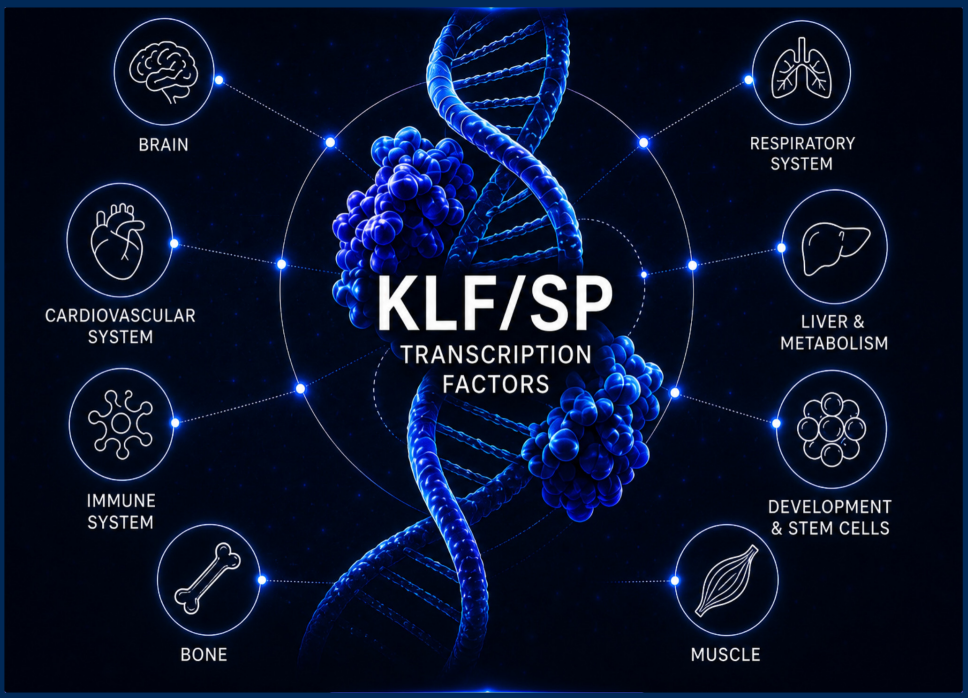
INTERNATIONAL MEETING

From Molecular Mechanisms to Therapeutic Opportunities

KLF/SP factors, downstream signaling 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

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KLF RESEARCH

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, Downstream Signaling Effectors and FOXO Friends,” 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.



Laura C. Zelarayán
Chair of the organizing committee
Justus-Liebig-University Gießen, Germany



Konstantinos Drosatos
President of the International Society for KLF Research
University of Cincinnati, USA

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Laura C. Zelarayán	Justus-Liebig-University Gießen, Germany
Ceshi Chen	Kunming Medical University, China
Konstantinos Drosatos	University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, USA
Jonathan Katz	University of Pennsylvania, USA
Gwen Lomberk	Mayo Clinic Arizona, USA
Ichiro Manabe	Chiba University, Japan
Soni Savai Pullamsetti	Justus-Liebig-University Gießen, Germany
Kate Quinlan	UNSW Sydney, Australia
Toru Suzuki	University of Leicester, UK

LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Behnoush Parviz · Shaohan Wang · Maria Ignatew

EXTENDED LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Maedeh Ahmadirouzbahani · Tomás Peralta · Antje Weber · Esteban Palacios Contreras · Johannes Peter Ruppert · Rosa Kim · Philipp Peter Stähr · Thomas Koertl · Mario Pavez-Giani

KEYNOTE LECTURES

Raul Urrutia — Mayo Clinic Arizona, USA

Saptarsi Haldar — Genentech, USA

DAY 1 Friday, 13 November 2026

Best Western Plus Hotel Steinsgarten

14:30 – 15:00 *Registration*

15:00 – 16:15 EARLY CAREER INVESTIGATORS – Session A

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

15:00 – 15:25 **Holly Adams** — Monash University, Australia
KLF3 restrains DN2 thymocyte proliferation to allow proper T cell development

15:25 – 15:50 **Chanil Valasarajan** — Justus-Liebig-University Gießen, Germany
From Right Ventricular Resilience to Failure: FOXO3-Dependent Control of the Fibroblast–Immune Niche

15:50 – 16:15 **Johannes Ruppert** — Universitätsklinikum Gießen & Marburg, Germany
Human Right Ventricular Myocardial Slices: From Functional Characterization to Atrial Fibrillation

16:15 – 16:35 *Coffee break*

16:35 – 17:25 EARLY CAREER INVESTIGATORS – Session B

Chairs: Esteban Palacios Contreras, Justus-Liebig-University Gießen, Germany • Mausam Rana, Justus-Liebig-University Gießen, Germany

16:35 – 17:00 **Rosa Kim** — Justus-Liebig-University Gießen, Germany
The role of KLF15 on adipokine regulation

17:00 – 17:25 **Federico Bleckwedel** — Justus-Liebig-University Gießen, Germany
AI in clinical pharmacology and precision medicine

17:25 – 17:40 *Coffee break*

17:40 – 18:00 OPENING SESSION

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

18:00 – 19:00 KEYNOTE LECTURE

18:00 – 19:00 **Raul Urrutia** — Mayo Clinic Arizona, USA
Pioneer Roles of Krüppel-Like Factors: Chromatin Rewiring in Development, Physiology, and Disease

19:30 *Opening Dinner at Best Western Plus Hotel Steinsgarten*

DAY 2 Saturday, 14 November 2026

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

08:00 – 08:30 *Registration*

08:30 – 10:10 SESSION 1 – Transcriptional cues from regeneration to disease

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

08:30 – 08:55 **Agnieszka Bialkowska** — Stony Brook University, USA
To have (not to have) KLFs — the gut road to the regeneration

08:55 – 09:20 **Ralf Jauch** — The University of Hong Kong, China
Structure-based engineering of the pioneer factor KLF4 enables new routes for pluripotency induction

09:20 – 09:45 **Kazu Kikuchi** — National Cerebral and Cardiovascular Center, Japan
KLF and FOXO pathways for cardiomyocyte renewal

09:45 – 10:10 **Marius Vantler** — Center for Molecular Medicine Cologne — Cologne Cardiovascular Research Center (CCRC), Germany
The PI3Kalpha/FOXO axis in aortic aneurysm formation

10:10 – 10:30 *Coffee break*

10:30 – 12:10 SESSION 2 – Blood and immune cells

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

10:30 – 10:55 **Kate Quinlan** — UNSW Sydney, Australia
The non-DNA binding domains of zinc finger transcription factors are important for genomic localisation

10:55 – 11:20 **Merlin Crossley** — UNSW Sydney, Australia
The DNA binding domains of zinc finger transcription factors are important for genomic localisation

11:20 – 11:45 **James Bieker** — Mount Sinai School of Medicine, USA
Identification of a compensatory intragenic suppressor to a dominant zinc finger mutant transcription factor

11:45 – 12:10 **Jan Frayne and Ivan Ferrer-Vicens** — University of Bristol, UK
Genome-wide reprogramming by E325K-KLF1 defines the molecular basis of CDAIV

12:10 – 13:45 *Lunch break*

DAY 2 (cont.) Saturday, 14 November 2026

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

13:45 – 15:00 SESSION 3 – Immune cell crosstalk

Chairs: Baotong Zhang, Southern University of Science and Technology, Shenzhen, China • Tomás Peralta, Justus-Liebig-University Gießen, Germany

13:45 – 14:10 **Stephen Jameson** — University of Minnesota, USA
Role of KLFs in regulation of T cell differentiation and migration

14:10 – 14:35 **Daniel Lacorazza** — Baylor College of Medicine, USA
KLF4 and Its Transcriptional Targets in Normal and Malignant T Cells

14:35 – 15:00 **Andrew Perkins** — Monash University, Australia
KLF3/8/12 incoherent feedback networks in T cell exhaustion

15:00 – 16:00 *Coffee break & Poster Presentation*

16:00 – 16:50 TRANSLATIONAL SESSION

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

16:00 – 16:25 **Toru Suzuki** — University of Leicester, UK
Drugging KLFs - opportunities and challenges

16:25 – 16:50 **Johnny Kim** — TRON — Translational Oncology, University Medical Center of Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Germany
Translational applications of partial cellular reprogramming: from genetics to mRNA-based interventions

17:30 *Departure by bus to Castle Rauischholzhausen*

18:00 *Inauguration of the International Society for KLF Research, with reception and dinner*

Schloss Rauischholzhausen



DAY 3 Sunday, 15 November 2026

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

09:00 – 10:15 SESSION 4 – Cardiovascular and pulmonary diseases

Chairs: Christoph Maack, University Hospital Würzburg, Germany • Giulia Germena, University Hospital Zurich, Switzerland

09:00 – 09:25 **Mario Pavez-Giani** — Justus-Liebig-University Gießen, Germany
KLF15 as a mitonuclear node: is there room for therapy in mitochondrial cardiomyopathy?

09:25 – 09:50 **Konstantinos Drosatos** — University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, USA
Cardiomyocyte KLF5: a master switch driving the expanding landscape of cardiotoxicity

09:50 – 10:15 **Adam Wende** — University of Alabama at Birmingham, USA
Linking PTMs and KLF/SP regulation in the heart

10:15 – 10:30 *Coffee break*

10:30 – 11:45 SESSION 5 – Cellular adaptation — I

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

10:30 – 10:55 **Yihua Chen** — Kunming Medical University, China
Discovery and development of antitumor drug candidates targeting key targets involved in transcriptional regulation

10:55 – 11:20 **Dewei Jiang** — Kunming Medical University, China
Interplay between KLF5 and epigenetic regulation in breast cancer

11:20 – 11:45 **Eric Schoger** — Heidelberg University, Germany
CRISPR/dCas9VPR-mediated activation of KLF15 promotes cardiomyocyte maturation

11:45 – 13:30 *Group photo and 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 **Siyuan Xia** — Southern University of Science and Technology, Shenzhen, China
Zinc promotes glycolytic reprogramming by regulating PKM2 dimerization and nuclear localization

15:10 – 15:30 *Coffee break*

DAY 3 (cont.) Sunday, 15 November 2026

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

15:30 – 16:40 SESSION 7 – Vascular biology

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

15:30 – 15:50 **Laura Priesmeier** — University Medical Center Göttingen, Germany
Non-cell-autonomous effects of KLF15 in vascular cells

15:50 – 16:15 **Johannes Backs** — Heidelberg University, Germany
Cardiomyocyte-endothelial-platelet cross-talk in cardiometabolic diseases

16:15 – 16:40 **Soni Savai Pullamsetti** — Justus-Liebig-University Gießen, Germany
FOXO signaling in cardiopulmonary remodeling and chronic lung disease

16:40 – 17:00 *Coffee break*

17:00 – 18:00 CLOSING KEYNOTE

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

17:00 – 18:00 **Saptarsi Haldar** — Genentech, USA
From KLFs to INDs: translating basic discoveries into medicines

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 – 11:15 SESSION 8 – Epigenetic and post-transcriptional control

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

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

10:25 – 10:50 **Sven Reischauer** — Justus-Liebig-University Gießen, Germany
IL-11 signaling establishes the transcriptional and chromatin landscape of regenerative stromal reprogramming in the zebrafish heart

10:50 – 11:15 **Raffaele Frazzi** — Azienda Unità Sanitaria Locale — IRCCS di Reggio Emilia, Italy
Quantitative and specific assessment of KLF4 epigenetic regulation

11:15 – 11:30 *Coffee break*

11:30 – 12:20 SESSION 9 – Cellular adaptation — II

Chairs: Agnieszka Bialkowska, Stony Brook University, USA • Mario Pavez-Giani, Justus-Liebig-University Gießen, Germany

11:30 – 11:55 **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

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

12:30 *Closing remarks · Conference adjourns · Lunch boxes and departure*

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

Day 1 · Friday 13 Nov	
14:30	Registration
15:00	ECI Session A
16:35	ECI Session B
17:40	Opening Session
18:00	Keynote · Raul Urrutia
19:30	Opening Dinner

Day 2 · Saturday 14 Nov	
08:00	Registration
08:30	S1 · Transcriptional cues from regeneration to disease
10:30	S2 · Blood and immune cells
12:10	Lunch
13:45	S3 · Immune cell crosstalk
15:00	Coffee break & Poster Presentation
16:00	Translational Session
17:30	Departure by bus to Castle Rauischholzhausen
18:00	Inauguration of the Society

Day 3 · Sunday 15 Nov	
09:00	S4 · Cardiovascular and pulmonary diseases
10:30	S5 · Cellular adaptation I
11:45	Group photo and lunch
13:30	S6 · Gender-specific and GI tumor diseases
15:30	S7 · Vascular biology
17:00	Closing Keynote · Saptarsi Haldar
19:00	Conference dinner at AuLac

Day 4 · Monday 16 Nov	
09:00	Business meeting
10:00	S8 · Epigenetic and post-transcriptional control
11:30	S9 · Cellular adaptation II
12:30	Closing remarks and departure

NOTES

VENUES & GETTING HERE

Days 1 and 4 (13 and 16 November) · Best Western Plus Hotel Steinsgarten
Hein-Heckroth-Straße 20, 35390 Gießen, Germany
Tel: +49 (0)641-38990

Days 2 and 3 (14 and 15 November) · Medizinisches Lehrzentrum (MLZ), Justus-Liebig-University Gießen
Alte Chirurgie, Klinikstraße 29, 35392 Gießen, Germany

Evening of Day 2 · Castle Rauischholzhausen (departure by bus at 17:30)
Evening of Day 3 · Conference dinner at AuLac (19:00)

BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT

From Frankfurt International Airport to Frankfurt Central Station: take S9 (direction Hanau Hbf) or S8 (direction Offenbach Ost) to Frankfurt (Main) Hauptbahnhof.
From Frankfurt Central Station to Gießen: take RB41 (direction Gießen), RE30 (direction Kassel), RB37 (direction Gießen), or RE99 (direction Siegen) and alight at Gießen.
Check connections: Train App — int.bahn.de

BY CAR FROM FRANKFURT AIRPORT

From Frankfurt Airport, take the A3 motorway in the direction of Köln / Gießen. Continue onto the A5 (direction Gießen / Kassel) and follow it until the Gießen exit. From there, follow signs to the city center and your respective venue (Best Western Plus Hotel Steinsgarten or MLZ/University). Approximate driving time: 45–60 minutes, depending on traffic. Parking is available at both venues.

ARRIVAL & CONTACT

Please share your arrival information in advance so local transportation can be arranged by the conference committee. If you did not provide this information at the time of arrival, please feel free to call the numbers below. We will still be happy to arrange transportation for you.

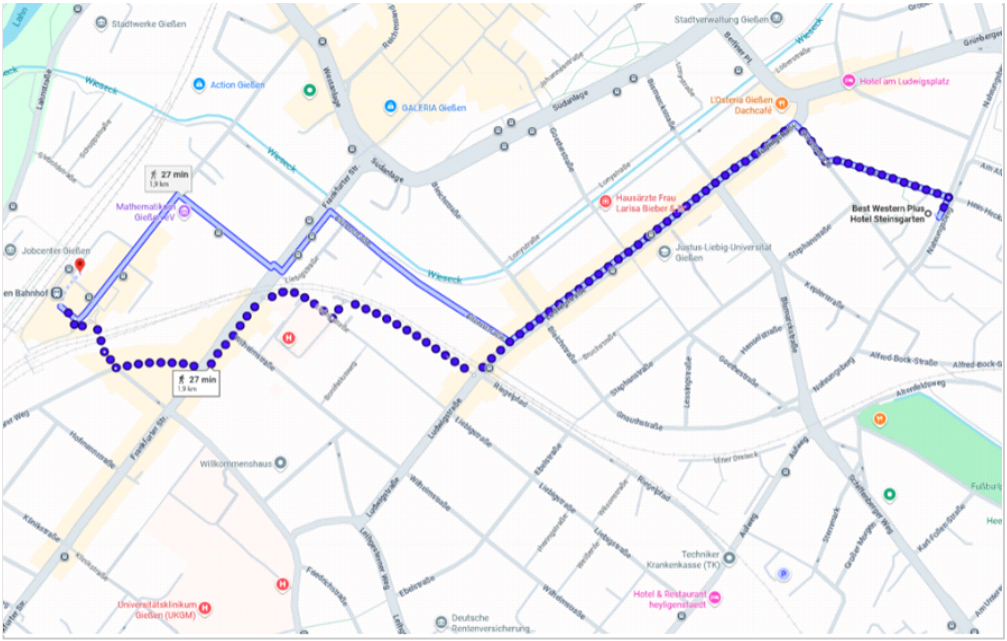
In case you have questions, please contact:
Maria Ignatew +49 (0) 173 1640738
Behnoush Parviz +49 (0) 162 9776149

MAPS

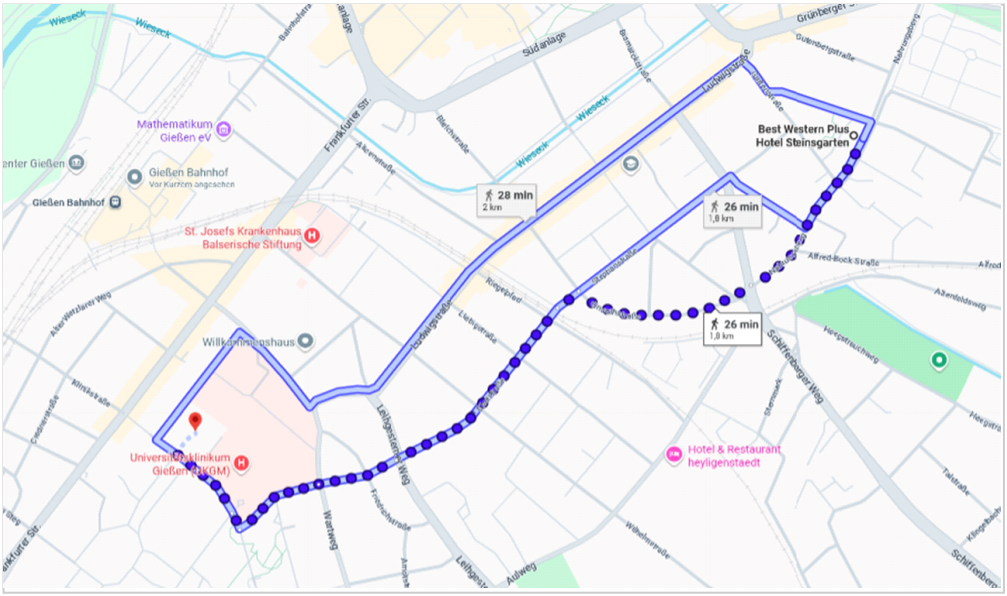


Gießen train station to Medizinisches Lehrzentrum (MLZ), JLU

MAPS



Gießen train station to Best Western Plus Hotel Steinsgarten



Best Western Plus Hotel Steinsgarten to Medizinisches Lehrzentrum (MLZ), JLU

PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS



Azienda Unità Sanitaria Locale — IRCCS di Reggio Emilia, Italy

Baylor College of Medicine, USA

Brown University, USA

Center for Molecular Medicine Cologne — Cologne Cardiovascular Research Center (CCRC), Germany

Chiba University, Japan

Genentech, USA

Heidelberg University, Germany

Instituto de Salud Carlos III (ISCIII), Spain

Justus-Liebig-University Gießen, Germany

Kunming Medical University, China

Mayo Clinic Arizona, USA

Monash University, Australia

Mount Sinai School of Medicine, USA

National Cerebral and Cardiovascular Center, Japan

Southern University of Science and Technology, Shenzhen, China

Stony Brook University, USA

The University of Hong Kong, China

TRON — Translational Oncology, University Medical Center of Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Germany

Universitätsklinikum Gießen & Marburg, Germany

University Hospital Würzburg, Germany

University Hospital Zurich, Switzerland

University Medical Center Göttingen, Germany

University Medical Center Utrecht, Netherlands

University of Alabama at Birmingham, USA

University of Bristol, UK

University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, USA

University of Leicester, UK

University of Minnesota, USA

University of Pennsylvania, USA

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UNSW Sydney, Australia

Yale University, USA

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