Interreg Sudoe

Co-funded by the European Union

RePo-SUDOE

3rd RePo-SUDOE

CONFERENCE - PROGRAMME





Opportunities and challenges for cancer drug development and repurposing

MORE INFORMATION

DECEMBER,17th

CONSEIL RÉGIONAL DE NOUVELLE-AQUITAINE
BORDEAUX, FRANCE

POLI TÉCNICO GUARDA · UNIVERSIDADE DA CORUÑA · citic · USC UNIVERSIDADE DE SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA · cnrs · cbmn · MD.USE Innovative Solutions S.L. · SPSP Sociedade Portuguesa de Saúde Pública · CLUSTER SAÚDE DE GALICIA

Interreg Sudoe | Co-funded by the European Union | RePo-SUDOE

3rd RePo-SUDOE Conference Programme

📌 December 17th, 2026 📌 Conseil régional de Nouvelle-Aquitaine, Bordeaux, France

08:30 h - 9:00 h	**Arrival of partipants and registration**
09:00 h - 9:30 h	**Opening Ceremony**
Session: Computational and experimental biophysics for drug development ***Chairs: Gayo Diallo*** *(Univ. Bordeaux)* ***& Sophie Lecomte*** *(CBMN, CNRS)*	
09:30 h - 10:10 h	**Miquel Pons** (University of Barcelona)
10:10 h - 10:50 h	**Ana Luísa De Sousa-Coelho** (University of Algarve) **&** **Mónica Fernandes** (Algarve Biomedical Center Research Institute)
10:50 h - 11:10 h	**Coffee Break Networking**
Session: Computational and experimental biophysics for drug development ***Chairs: Gayo Diallo*** *(Univ. Bordeaux)* ***& Sophie Lecomte*** *(CBMN, CNRS)*	
11:10 h - 11:50 h	**Jean-Philip Piquemal** (Qubit Pharmaceuticals - Univ. of Sorbonne)
11:50 h - 12:30 h	**Xavier Salvatella** (IRB Barcelona)
12:30 h - 14:00 h	**Lunch break and VRE demo**

Interreg Sudoe | Co-funded by the European Union | RePo-SUDOE

3rd RePo-SUDOE Conference Programme

📌 December 17th, 2026 📌 Conseil régional de Nouvelle-Aquitaine, Bordeaux, France

Session: Challenging cancer drug development ***Chairs: Thomas Daubon** (IBGC, CNRS) **& Philippe Pourquier** (IRCM, INSERM)*	
14:00 h - 14:40 h	**Ling Peng** (University of Aix-Marseille)
14:40 h - 15:20 h	**Gilles Guichard** (CBMN, IECB, CNRS)
15:20 h - 16:00 h	**Christophe Grosset** (BRIC, CNRS)
16:00 h - 16:40 h	**Sébastien Papot** (University of Poitiers)
16:40 h - 17:00 h	**Coffee Break Networking**
Round table - Drug repurposing ***Chairs: João José Joaquim** (ESTeC**) & Carmelo Di Primo** (ARNA, INSERM)*	
17:00 h - 18:30 h	• **Jean-Philippe Borges** (Canceropole Grand Sud-Ouest) • **Harald Schmidt** (RePo4EU) • **Guillaume Vaquer** (ANSM) • **Sofia Oliveira-Martins** (SIMPATHIC Consortium)
19:00 h - 21:00 h	**Evening Cocktail**

Meet our speakers!



Miquel Pons - Professor, University of Barcelona, Spain

He studied chemistry and biology at the University of Barcelona and did his PhD in the Biophysical Chemistry Department of Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine in the University of London under the supervision of Prof. Denis Chapman. At the University of Barcelona, NMR has been at the center of his research interests, initially focusing on supramolecular organic chemistry and then on protein NMR, with special emphasis on intrinsically disordered proteins. He has authored more than 200 articles. He was the founding president of GERMN (Grupo Especializado de RMN) and has been member of the councils of ISMAR, EUROMAR, Ampère, and the Sociedad Española de Biofísica.

He is the scientific director of the Instalación Científica y Tecnológica Singular (ICTS) of the University of Barcelona and was the first coordinator of the R-LRB, the distributed ICTS network formed by the highest field NMR instruments in Spain, including the first 1 GHz 4K instrument in Europe, installed in Barcelona in 2022. 2022. He has also promoted the expansion of the Spanish node of Instruct.Eric that was completed in 2025.



Ana Luísa De Sousa-Coelho - Adjunct Professor, University of Algarve, Portugal

Ana Luísa De Sousa-Coelho is an Adjunct Professor at the School of Health of the University of Algarve and a Principal Investigator at the Algarve Biomedical Center Research Institute (ABC-Ri), Portugal. Her research spans metabolism, cancer biology, and translational biomedical sciences. She investigates the molecular mechanisms underlying metabolic diseases and cancer, with particular emphasis on glioblastoma, melanoma, and obesity. Through her research she seeks to advance precision medicine and improve therapeutic outcomes for patients.



Mónica Teotónio Fernandes - Professor, University of Algarve, Portugal

Mónica Teotónio Fernandes is an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, University of Algarve, and a researcher at the Algarve Biomedical Center Research Institute (ABC-Ri), Portugal. Her research focuses on identifying novel molecular targets and exploring drug-repurposing strategies for glioblastoma, one of the most aggressive and treatment-resistant brain tumours. To investigate tumour biology and therapeutic response in physiologically relevant settings, she uses advanced three-dimensional preclinical models, including tumour spheroids and cerebral organoid-based fusion models. Her work aims to bridge fundamental cancer biology and translational research, contributing to the development of more effective therapeutic approaches for glioblastoma.

Interreg Sudoe
Co-funded by the European Union
RePo-SUDOE

Meet our speakers!



Jean-Philip Piquemal - Professor of Theoretical Chemistry, University of Sorbonne, France

Jean-Philip Piquemal is distinguished Professor of Theoretical Chemistry at Sorbonne Université (SU) and Director of the Laboratoire de Chimie Théorique (SU/CNRS). He is also CSO and co-founder of Qubit Pharmaceuticals. His computational chemistry research is performed in strong interdisciplinary interaction with applied mathematics, Quantum Computing and high performance computing, with a strong interest in drug discovery.



Xavier Salvatella - ICREA Research Professor, IRB Barcelona, Spain

Xavier Salvatella is an ICREA Research Professor and leads the Laboratory of Molecular Biophysics at IRB Barcelona. He studied chemistry at the University of Barcelona and Queen Mary College, London, earned his PhD at the University of Barcelona, and did postdoctoral research at the University of Cambridge. His group studies intrinsically disordered domains in proteins such as the androgen receptor and CPEB4, and their roles in cancer and in neuromuscular and neurodevelopmental diseases.

He holds an ERC Consolidator Grant and develops small molecules targeting intrinsically disordered proteins, work that led him to co-found Nuage Therapeutics, a Barcelona biotech focused on cancer drug discovery.



Ling Peng - Research Director CINaM, CNRS, France

Ling Peng is currently a research director in the Interdisciplinary Center on Nanoscience in Marseille (CINaM) at the French National Scientific Research Center (CNRS) in France. She has been working actively at the interface of chemistry and biology, and in particular, she has inaugurated the concept of self-assembling supramolecular dendrimers for delivering various pharmaceutical agents including anticancer drugs, nucleic acid therapeutics and imaging agents. Since 2016, her research team has been labelled by La Ligue contre Le Cancer, the largest private foundation in cancer research in France.

Dr. Ling PENG is the Distinguished Member of French Chemical Society, and has been awarded with the Prize of Dr & Mme Henri Labbé of the French Academy of Sciences in 2017, the Grand Prize of the French Chemical Society SUD PACA and the Prize of André Collet in Supramolecular Chemistry of the French Chemical Society in 2024.

Interreg Sudoe
Co-funded by the European Union
RePo-SUDOE

Meet our speakers!

Gilles Guichard - Research Director CBMN, CNRS, France



Gilles Guichard earned his PhD in peptide science from the University of Strasbourg (1996) and was a postdoctoral researcher at ETH Zürich with Dieter Seebach, working on β-peptide foldamers. He joined CNRS at the IBMC in Strasbourg in 1998, becoming Research Director in 2006, and moved in 2009 to the University of Bordeaux as group leader at the IECB. He is also affiliated with the CBMN laboratory.

His research focuses on biomimetic peptide chemistry and foldamers, and more recently on protein mimicry and the structure-guided design of protein-protein interaction modulators. He received the Grammaticakis-Neuman Award from the French Académie des Sciences (2019) and the DCO-SCF Prize (2021), and sits on the advisory board of Peptide Science (Wiley).

Christophe Grosset - INSERM Research Director, BRIC, France



Christophe Grosset is an Inserm Research Director and head of the MIRCADE team at the Bordeaux Institute of Oncology. After completing his PhD in 1998 and postdoctoral work in Texas and Bordeaux on post-transcriptional gene regulation, he joined Inserm in 2001. There, he has studied how microRNAs regulate key oncogenes in liver cancer, both in adult hepatocellular carcinoma and pediatric hepatoblastoma, developing original methods such as FunREG to identify these interactions.

More recently, he showed that EZH2 is a prognostic biomarker and therapeutic target in hepatoblastoma, and that combining EZH2 inhibitors with statins has a synergistic antitumor effect. His current research focuses on the epigenetic mechanisms of childhood cancer, aiming to find new treatments for children with relapsed or treatment-resistant tumors.

Sébastien Papot - Full Professor, University of Poitiers, France



Sébastien Papot is a Full Professor of organic chemistry and chemical biology at the University of Poitiers. He co-heads the Organic Synthesis team at IC2MP (UMR 7285), leads the "Programmed Molecular Systems" group, and coordinates a research team accredited by La Ligue Contre le Cancer (2022–2026). He specializes in developing stimuli-responsive molecular devices to understand, manipulate, and mimic living systems.

He received the Pierre Fabre Award for Therapeutic Innovation in 2014 and was President of the French Society of Medicinal Chemistry (2019–2020). He is also co-founder and CSO of Seekyo, a biotech company developing targeted cancer therapies with fewer side effects than conventional chemotherapy.

Interreg Sudoe
Co-funded by the European Union
RePo-SUDOE

Meet our speakers!



Jean-Philippe Borges - Deputy to the Secretary General, Cancéropôle Grand Sud-Ouest, France

Jean-Philippe Borges is a French scientist at the Cancéropôle Grand Sud-Ouest in Toulouse, where he serves as deputy to the Secretary General and as project manager (chargé de mission) for strategic areas of cancer research.

He earned his PhD in immunology and biochemistry from Université Paul Sabatier (Toulouse III) in 2008, with a thesis on the structural and immunological characterization of allergens. He previously conducted research in molecular allergology at the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences in Toulouse, with publications focused on plant lipid transfer proteins and their molecular structures.



Harald Schmidt - Coordinator of REPO4EU, Germany

Harald H.H.W. Schmidt, MD, PhD, PharmD, is Professor Emeritus at Maastricht University and Coordinator of the Horizon Europe project REPO4EU. Trained in medicine and pharmacy, his research focuses on network medicine, precision medicine, and drug repurposing. He leads international efforts to develop mechanism-based approaches for identifying and translating repurposed therapies into clinical practice. He is the author of The End of Medicine as We Know It and has held numerous academic and leadership positions in cardiovascular and translational medicine.



Guillaume Vaquer - Head of the Innovation and Guidance Office (GIO) at the French National Agency for Medicines and Health Products Safety

He is a pharmacist and Head of the Innovation and Guidance Office (GIO) at the French National Agency for Medicines and Health Products Safety (ANSM), a position he has held for five years. Following hospital pharmacy training in Montpellier, Nîmes and Paris (AP-HP), he now supports researchers, start-ups, SMEs and pharmaceutical companies through tailored dialogue throughout health product development.

Within the EMA/HMA network, he contributes to horizon scanning through the European Innovation Network (EU-IN) and to strengthening European innovation support through the European Commission-funded IncreaseNET Joint Action.

Meet our speakers!



Sofia Oliveira-Martins - SIMPATHIC Consortium; Associate Professor, University of Lisbon, Portugal

Sofia Oliveira-Martins is a principal researcher in SIMPATHIC, an EU-funded consortium focused on drug repurposing. She is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Pharmacy of the University of Lisbon, where she teaches pharmaceutical legislation, public health and pharmacoepidemiology, and a researcher in the Pharmacoepidemiology line of the Comprehensive Health Research Center (CHRC). She holds a degree in Pharmacy, a Master's in Public Health and a PhD in Pharmacoepidemiology from the University of Lisbon.

She served on the Executive Board of INFARMED, Portugal's national medicines authority (2017–2019), and has been a member of the Scientific Board of the French medicines agency ANSM since 2023. She previously worked in regulatory affairs and pharmacovigilance in the pharmaceutical industry and as a community pharmacist.