



INTERNATIONAL  
CONGRESS  
**INTERFERONS IN CANCER  
AND VIRAL DISEASES**  
**2023**

**SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM**

**SEPTEMBER 26<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>**

SELECTUM FAMILY RESORT  
VARADERO, MATANZAS, CUBA

# SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 27<sup>th</sup>



**08:30-09:00 PLENARY LECTURE (ROOM A):** Human Interferon: The Past, the Present and Where Do We Go From Here? **Kathryn C. Zoon (National Institutes of Health, USA)**. (Virtual)

**SYMPOSIUM 1 (ROOM A): HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF IFNS. CO-CHAIRS: LUIS HERRERA (BIOCUBAFARMA, CUBA), CHRISTINA M. ANNUZIATA (INOVA FAIRFAX HOSPITAL, USA)**

**09:00 - 09:20** Kari Cantell, Randolph Lee Clark and Fidel Castro. Interferon and Cuban Biotechnology. Manuel Limonta (Cuba)

**09:20 - 09:40** The IFN as a Model for Biotechnology Development in Cuba. Luis Herrera (BIOCUBAFARMA, Cuba)

**09:40 - 10:00** Heberon Alpha R in Cancer and Viral Infections. Hugo Nodarse (CIGB, Cuba)

**10:00 - 10:20** HeberFERON. From Desktop to Real World. Iraldo Bello (CIGB, Cuba)

**10:20 - 10:40** Nasalferon. Ana Aguilera (CIGB, Cuba)

**10:45 - 11:20** *Coffee break*

*Book launch: Fidel, Interferón y Biotecnología Cubana*  
*Manuel Limonta (Cuba)*

**CO-CHAIRS: SERGEI KOTENKO (RUTGERS NEW JERSEY MEDICAL SCHOOL, USA), SILVIO PEREA (CIGB, CUBA)**

**11:20 - 11:55** The unique properties of interferon epsilon protect the mucosa from infections and cancer. Paul Hertzog (CRC for Chronic Inflammatory Diseases, Parkville, Victoria, Australia)

**11:55 - 12:25** Intraperitoneal Monocytes Plus IFNs as a Novel Cellular Immunotherapy for Ovarian Cancer: Mechanistic Characterization and Results from a Phase I Clinical Trial. Christina M. Annuziata (Inova Fairfax Hospital, USA)

**12:25 - 13:00** Interferons in Malignant Homeopathies. Do they Have a Place in the Era of Molecular Targeting Therapies? Bárbaro Andrés Medina Rodríguez (Arnaldo Milián Castro Hospital, Cuba)

**13:00 - 14:30** *Lunch*

**WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 27<sup>th</sup>**

**SYMPOSIUM 2 (ROOM A): IMMUNOTHERAPY IN CANCER. THE ROLE OF IFNS.**

**CO-CHAIRS: DAVID BROOKS (PRINCESS MARGARET CANCER CENTRE, CANADA),  
IRALDO BELLO (CIGB, CUBA)**

- 14:30 - 15:00** The pDC/IFN-I Inflammation Pathway in Growth and Metastasis of Human Cancer.  
Lishan Su (University of Maryland School of Medicine, USA)
- 15:00 - 15:30** Malignant Gliomas and RCC Treated with the Combination of IFN- and  $\gamma$ .  
Margarita Ríos (Arnaldo Milian Hospital, Cuba)
- 15:30 - 15:50** Improving Immunotherapy: Emerging Roles for IFNs and Antiangiogenics (Virtual).  
John M.L Ebos ( Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, USA)
- 15:50 - 16:10** Combined Therapy in Locally Advanced or Extended Non-melanocytic Skin Tumors  
Matanzas 2018-2021. Claudia Montes de Oca Huerta (Faustino Perez Hospital, Cuba)
- 16:10 - 16:30** Preclinical Evaluation of PKPD-L1Vac Vaccine in Combination with Aluminum Phosphate  
in Colorectal and Melanoma Murine Tumors. Yanelys Morera (CIGB, Cuba)

**FIVE-MINUTE PRESENTATIONS (ROOM A)**

**CO-CHAIRS: ANNIA RIVACOBA (MARÍA CURI HOSPITAL, CUBA),  
MARGARITA RIOS (ARNALDO MILIAN HOSPITAL, CUBA)**

1. HeberFERON in Patients with RCC at Diagnosis, After Nephrectomy. Study ESTHER.  
Annia Rivacoba (Maria Curi Hospital, Cuba)
- 16:30 - 17:00** 2. Treatment with IFN-2b in polycythemia Vera JAK V617F positive patients  
Janet Trujillo (Joaquin Albarrán Hospital, Cuba)
3. Immunogenicity and some Safety Features of a Structurally Aggregated PD-L1-based  
Vaccine in Rats, Rabbits and African Green Monkeys. Camila Canaán (CIGB. Cuba)
4. Periungual Warts. Olaine Gray (Manuel Fajardo Hospital, Cuba)

**17:00 - 19:00 INTERNATIONAL COURSE: IMAGE PROCESSING AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE  
TO SUPPORT THE SPECIALIST IN CLINICAL PRACTICE (I) (ROOM A)**

**18:30 - 19:30** Professors: Jose M. Buades and Antonio Jaume-i-Capo  
(Islas Baleares University, España)

**18:30 - 19:30** *Bilateral Meetings*

**19:30 - 21:30** *Dinner/Work Dinner*

# SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 28<sup>th</sup>



**08:30-09:00 PLENARY LECTURE (ROOM A):** Extracellular Vesicles-based Liquid Biopsy for Skin Lesions Diagnosis: Searching for Cutaneous Squamous Cell Carcinoma Predictive Markers. Giovanna Romeo (Sapienza University of Rome, Italy)

**SYMPOSIUM 3 (ROOM A): IFN IN SKIN CANCER THERAPY. CO-CHAIRS: GIOVANNA ROMEO (SAPIENZA UNIVERSITY OF ROME, ITALY), OLAINÉ GRAY (MANUEL FAJARDO HOSPITAL, CUBA)**

- 09:00 - 09:20** Overview of Skin Cancer Management  
Elizabeth Cuétara (Cuban Institute of Ophthalmology, Cuba)
- 09:20 - 09:35** Use of a Combination of Alpha and Gamma Interferons in Patients with BCC  
Yamila Valiente (Juan Bruno Zayas Hospital, Cuba)
- 09:35 - 09:50** Cure, Recurrence and Second Primary Tumor in Patients with Facial BCC Treated with HeberFERON® after Five Years Follow-up, Vladimir Sánchez (Policlinic Centro, Cuba)
- 09:50 - 10:00** HeberFERON® Treatment of Patients with NMSC. Five-year Follow-up  
Iraldo Bello (CIGB, Cuba)
- 10:00 - 10:15** The Effectiveness of HeberFERON® in the Primary Care Services in Holguin Province  
Katherinee Batista (Pedro Díaz Coello Polyclinic, Cuba)
- 10:15 - 10:30** Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment of Skin Cancer. Cuban Guidelines.  
Olaine Gray (Manuel Fajardo Hospital, Cuba)
- 10:30- 10:45** Therapeutic efficacy of ABCB5 targeting in melanoma (Virtual)  
Markus Frank (Harvard Medical School, USA)
- 10:45 - 11:20** *Coffee break*

**CO-CHAIRS: ELIZABETH CUÉTARA (NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF OPHTHALMOLOGY, CUBA), LORENZO ANASAGASTI (NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ONCOLOGY AND RADIOLOGY, CUBA)**

- 11:20 - 11:50** HeberFERON® in Advances Non-melanoma Skin Cancer. Lorenzo Anasagasti (National Institute of Oncology and Radiology, Cuba)
- 11:50 - 12:10** Results of HeberFERON® in Periocular BCC in the Enrique Cabrera Hospital Ophthalmology Center, Emery Lazo (Enrique Cabrera Hospital, Cuba)
- 12:10 - 12:35** Conjunctival Squamous Cell Carcinoma Treated with HeberFERON®.  
Odenis Fernández (National Institute of Ophthalmology, Cuba)
- 12:35 - 13:00** Changes in Laboratory Tests in Patients Treated with HeberFERON® for Basal Cell Carcinoma, Meilyn Fernández (Carlos J Finlay Polyclinic, Cuba)

**13:00 - 14:30** *Lunch*

## THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 28<sup>th</sup>

### SYMPOSIUM 3 (ROOM A): IFN IN SKIN CANCER THERAPY.

**CO-CHAIRS: ODENIS FERNÁNDEZ (NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF OPHTHALMOLOGY, CUBA)  
CLAUDIA MONTES DE OCA HUERTA (FAUSTINO PÉREZ HOSPITAL, CUBA)**

- 14:30 - 15:00** Perilesional HeberFERON® Treatment in BCC in Villa Clara from 2017 to 2022.  
Amelia Betancourt (Arnaldo Milian Hospital, Cuba)
- 15:00 - 15:30** Clinical Response to Treatment with HeberFERON® in Patients with Skin Squamous Cell Carcinoma. Lázaro Roque (Arnaldo Milian Hospital, Cuba)
- 15:30 - 16:00** From Real-World Data to Real-World Evidence. Regulatory Considerations.  
Diadelis Remírez (Regulatory Authority of Medicines, Equipment and Medical Devices of the Republic of Cuba)
- 16:00 - 16:30** DermaUH: A Web Application to Support the Diagnosis and Monitoring of Skin Cancer.  
Marta Lourdes Baguer / Manuel Vilas (Havana University, Cuba)

### FIVE-MINUTE PRESENTATIONS (ROOM A)

**CO-CHAIRS: DIADELIS REMÍREZ (REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF MEDICINES,  
EQUIPMENT AND MEDICAL DEVICES OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA),  
LIANA LOPEZ (MANUEL FAJARADO HOSPITAL, CUBA)**

6. The Use of HeberFERON in Patients with Basal Cell Carcinoma and its Association with COVID 19 Evolution in Matanzas. Sandra Cordovés, (Jagüey Grande Hospital Cuba)
- 16:30 - 17:00** 7. Effectiveness of HeberFERON® in the Treatment of Nasal BCC. January 2019 to January 2021. Mayta Brito (Guillermo Fernández Hernández-Baquero Hospital, Cuba)
8. Response to treatment with HeberFERON in a patient with SCC associated with von Willebrand. Liana Lopez (Manuel Fajardo Hospital, Cuba)

### IMAGE PROCESSING AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TO SUPPORT THE SPECIALIST IN CLINICAL PRACTICE (II). (ROOM A)

- 17:00 - 19:00** Professors: Jose M. Buades and Antonio Jaume-i-Capo  
(Islas Baleares University, España)

- 18:30 - 19:30** *Bilateral meetings*  
**19:30 - 21:30** *Dinner/Work Dinner*

# SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 29<sup>th</sup>



**08:30-09:00 PLENARY LECTURE (ROOM A):** Global virus outbreaks: IFNs as 1st Responders.  
Eleanor N. Fish (University of Toronto, Canada)

## **SYMPOSIUM 4 (ROOM A): IFNS IN VIRAL INFECTIONS.**

**CO-CHAIRS: LISHAN SU (UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, USA),  
VIANED MARSÁN (INSTITUTE OF HEMATOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY, CUBA)**

- 09:00 - 09:30** The pDC/IFN-I inflammation pathway in human diseases: lessons from HIV-1.  
Lishan Su (University of Maryland School of Medicine, USA)
- 09:30 - 10:00** Interferon Therapy for Hepatitis B and Delta Infection (Virtual). Robert Gish  
(University of Nevada Schools of Medicine, USA)
- 10:00 - 10:20** An Overview of the Interferon-lambda Proteins and their Functional Activities (Virtual)  
Raymond P. Donnelly (Center for Drug Evaluation and Research Food  
and Drug Administration, USA)
- 10:20 - 10:35** IFNs in Genetic Rare Diseases. Vianed Marsán (Institute of Hematology and Immunology, Cuba)
- 10:35 - 10:50** Insights into the Molecular Mechanism of HeberFERON Antiviral Response.  
Jamilet Miranda (CIGB, Cuba)
- 10:50 - 11:20** *Coffee break*

## **SYMPOSIUM 4 (ROOM A): IFNS IN CORONAVIRUS INFECTIONS.**

**CO-CHAIRS: ELEANOR N. FISH (CANADA), PAUL HERTZOG (CRC FOR CHRONIC  
INFLAMMATORY DISEASES, PARKVILLE, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA)**

- 11:20 - 11:50** IFN- $\beta$  ring prophylaxis to reduce household transmission of SARS-CoV-2: a cluster  
randomized clinical trial. Eleanor N. Fish (University of Toronto, Canada)
- 11:50 - 12:10** Clinical development of inhaled IFN beta as treatment for respiratory viral infection (Virtual).  
Thomas Wilkinson (University of Southampton, UK)
- 12:10 - 12:40** Role of IFN-lambdas at Mucosal Barriers. Sergei Kotenko  
(Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, USA)
- 12:40 - 13:10** Auto-antibodies to Type I IFNs in Patients with Severe Viral Infections (Virtual).  
Paul Bastard (Imagine Institute, France)
- 13:10 - 13:30** Impact of HeberFERON in the COVID-19 Pandemic in Cuba. Iraldo Bello (CIGB, Cuba)
- 13:30 - 14:30** *Lunch*

# SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

## FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 29<sup>th</sup>

### SYMPOSIUM 5 (ROOM A): TRANSLATIONAL APPROACHES

**CO-CHAIRS: KALET LEON (CENTER FOR MOLECULAR IMMUNOLOGY, CUBA),  
SILVIO PEREA (CIGB, CUBA)**

- 14:30 - 15:00** Canonical and noncanonical signaling through IFNARs. Paul Hertzog (CRC for Chronic Inflammatory Diseases, Parkville, Victoria, Australia)
- 15:00 - 15:30** CIGB-300: Translating IFN Basic Research into a Candidate of Cancer Targeted Therapy. Silvio Perea (CIGB, Cuba)
- 15:30 - 16:00** Developing Mutant Variants of Interlukine-2 for Cancer Immunotherapy. Kalet León (Center for Molecular Immunology, Cuba)
- 16:00 - 16:30** Reducing IFN Signaling Interference by SARS-CoV-2 Using a CK2 Kinase Activity Antagonist: a Computational Biology Approach. Ricardo Bringas (CIGB, Cuba)
- 16:30 - 17:00** The Combination of Surgery, RT, TMZ and HeberFERON® in a Patients with GBM. Duniel Abreus (National Institute of Neurosurgery and Neurology, Cuba)
- 17:00 - 17:30** Uncoupling of IFN Signaling Uncovers IFN-specific Networks Driving Kidney Disease in Lupus-prone Mice. Julio Valencia (NIH, USA)
- 17:30 - 18:00** Antitumoral Mechanism HeberFERON® (Virtual). Dania Vazquez (CIGB, Cuba)
- 19:00 - 19:30** *Closing ceremony*
- 19:30 - 21:30** *Dinner*

