

Academician Nicolae CAJAL - Symposium

APPLIED TRANSLATIONAL MEDICINE SYMPOSIUM

Conference Programme

5 & 6 October 2026 | 08:30 – 19:30

Venue: Romanian Academy Library, 125 Calea Victoriei | Bucharest, Romania

Organizers:

Romanian Academy

Houston Methodist Academic Institute

“Menahem H. Elias” Foundation

"Stefan S. Nicolau" Institute of Virology

International Association for Surgeons, Gastroenterologists and Oncologists

Colour guide:

	Plenary / Keynote Sessions
	Coffee Break
	Lunch Break
	Registration / Admin

05 October 2026 — Translational Oncology and Cardiology

TIME	PROGRAMME
8:00 – 08:30	Registration & Welcome Coffee
08:30- 9:00	Opening Ceremony
SESSION 1 Translational Oncology Chair: Victor Velculescu, Daniela Matei	
09:00 – 09:30	Early Detection of Cancer and Other Diseases using Cell-free DNA Fragmentomes Victor Velculescu, Co-Director of Cancer Genetics and Epigenetics Program, Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center, USA
09:30 – 10:00	Leveraging translational studies to improve outcomes in oncology Dan G. Duda, Scientific Director of Transplant Oncology and Therapeutics, HMAI, USA and Secretary General, IASGO
10:00– 10:30	Role of clinical translational studies in oncology Daniela Matei, Director, Neal Cancer Center, HMAI, USA
10:30– 11:00	Turning A Chaperone Gene into an Oncogene: Mutant Calreticulins in Blood Cancers Stefan N. Constantinescu, Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research, Université catholique de Louvain Brussels, Belgium and University of Oxford, Oxford, UK
11:00 – 11:15	 Coffee Break & Networking
SESSION 2 Emerging Technologies & Disease-Specific Translational Programmes Chair: Catherine Marin DeUgarte, Ana-Maria Enciu	
11:15 – 11:45	The future of IVF: Emerging Technologies, Cross-Border Reproduction and International Law Catherine Marin DeUgarte, MD, Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility Specialist, Pacific Fertility Center Los Angeles, USA
11:45 – 12:00	Patient derived organoid models for translational research Ana-Maria Enciu, Victor Babes National Institute of Research and Development in Pathology and Biomedical Sciences, Bucharest, Romania
12:00 – 12:20	Design and development of perfused bone-on-a-chip systems Ana Plingu ¹ , D Petta ² , M Moretti ² , I Pitica ³ , C Bleotu ³ , AM Prelipcean ¹ ¹ Cellular and Molecular Biology, National Institute of R&D for Biological Sciences, Bucharest ² Research Area and Translational Research, Ente Ospedaliero Cantonale – EOC, Lugano, CH ³ Department of Cellular and Molecular Pathology, Stefan S Nicolau Institute of Virology, Bucharest, RO
12:20 – 12:35	Epigenetic crosstalk and combined therapies: tumoral resistance and reprogramming Adrian Albulescu ^{1*,2*} , Fudulu A ¹ , Botezatu A ¹ , Mihaila M ¹ , Bostan M1, Hotnog C.M ¹ ., Iancu I.V ¹ , Plesa A ¹ , Huica I1, Brasoveanu L.I. ^{1,3} ¹ Department of Molecular Virology, Stefan S Nicolau Institute of Virology, Bucharest, Romania ² Department of Pharmacology, Institutul de Cercetare-Dezvoltare Chimico-Farmaceutica (ICCF), Bucharest, Romania
12:35 – 12:50	Evaluation of the antimicrobial, anti-biofilm and immunomodulatory effects of lactoferrin combined with probiotic fractions against bacterial opportunistic pathogens Diana-Antonia Costea ^{1,2} , Valentina-Alexandra Bădăluță ^{1,2} , Larisa-Ioana Magheran ² , Laura-Ioana Vasiliu ² , Lia-Mara Dițu ^{1,2} , Coralia Bleotu ³ , Veronica Lazăr ^{1,21} 1. Doctoral School of Biology, University of Bucharest, Romania 2. Department of Botany and Microbiology, Faculty of Biology, University of Bucharest, Romania 3. Stefan S. Nicolau Institute of Virology, Romanian Academy, Bucharest, Romania
12:50 - 13:05	Characterization of lytic bacteriophages against multidrug resistant bacteria Rareș-Ionuț Dragomir ^{1,2} , Tudor-Emanuel Fertig ⁴ , Coralia Bleotu ⁵ , Mariana Carmen Chifiriuc ^{1,2,3} , Ilda Czobor Barbu ^{1,2} ¹ The Research Institute of the University of Bucharest, ICUB, Șoseaua Panduri 90, District 5, Bucharest, 050663, Romania

13:05 – 13:20	² Department of Botany and Microbiology, Faculty of Biology, University of Bucharest, Splaiul Independenței 91-95, Bucharest, 050095, Romania ³ Biological Sciences Division, Romanian Academy, Calea Victoriei 125, Sector 1, Bucharest, 010071, Romania ⁴ Ultrastructural Pathology and Bioimaging Lab., Victor Babeș National Institute of Pathology, Bucharest, Romania ⁵ Cellular and Molecular Pathology Dept., "Ștefan S. Nicolau" Institute of Virology, Bucharest, Romania Polluted Romanian lakes as reservoirs of novel lytic phages against multidrug-resistant enterobacterales Oana Alina Petrariu¹, Rareș-Ionuț Dragomir¹, Coralia Bleotu², Tudor Emanuel Fertig³, Mariana Carmen Chifiriuc¹, Ilda Czobor Barbu¹ 1. University of Bucharest, Faculty of Biology, Independentei 91-95, 050095, Bucharest, Romania 2. Cellular and Molecular Pathology Dept., Ștefan S. Nicolau Institute of Virology, Bucharest, Romania 3. Ultrastructural Pathology and Bioimaging Lab, Victor Babeș National Institute of Pathology, Bucharest, Romania
13:20 – 14:30	 Lunch Break
SESSION 3 Translational Oncology Chair: Octavian Bucur, Mircea Iliescu	
14:30 – 15:00	Driving innovation in genomic medicine Octavian Bucur, General Director, Research and Development Institute in Genomics, Bucharest, Romania
15:00 – 15:30	Development of therapeutic approaches to target tissue transglutaminase for preventing dissemination of ovarian cancer Livia Sima, Institute of Biochemistry, Romanian Academy, Bucharest, Romania
15:30 – 16:00	The evolution of human diversity Mircea Iliescu, Research and Development Institute in Genomics, Bucharest, Romania
16:00 – 16:15	 Coffee Break & Networking
SESSION 4 Translational Oncology Chair: Dan G. Duda, Mark Ghobrial	
16:15 – 16:30	Providing high-quality, innovative, and personalized care in a compassionate environment Edward Jones (online), President & CEO, HMAI, USA
16:30 – 17:00	Changing paradigms in liver transplantation – surgeon's perspective R. Mark Ghobrial, Director, Walter Jr. Transplant Center, HMAI, USA
17:00 – 17:30	Changing paradigms in liver transplantation – gastroenterologist's perspective Sudha Kodali (online), Director, Liver Tumor Program, Walter Transplant Center, HMAI, USA
17:30 – 18:00	Changing paradigms in liver transplantation – oncologist's perspective Maen Abdelrahim, Director of the Center for Advanced Therapeutics, HMAI, USA
18:00 – 18:15	Optimizing Liver Transplantation for HCC: From Tumor Biology to Long-Term Survival Speranța Iacob, Fundeni Clinical Institute, Bucharest, Romania
18:15 – 18:30	Non-vascular, non-cirrhotic portal hypertension following liver transplantation is largely caused by combination of portosinusoidal injury and allograft rejection Iulia Minciună, Michail Doukas, Valerie Paradis, Rael Maan, Caroline den Hoed, Anne van Eldere, Sandra Coenen, Wojciech G. Polak, Jeroen de Jonge, Bogdan Procopet, Sarwa Darwish Murad, Iuliu Hațieganu University of Medicine and Pharmacy Cluj-Napoca, Romania
Day 1 Wrap-Up & Announcements	

06 October 2026 — *Translational medicine in Romania*

TIME	PROGRAMME
OPENING – DAY 2	
SESSION 5 Translational medicine and Translational Infrastructure Chair: Viorel Scripcariu, Ioana Berindan Neagoe	
09:00 – 09:30	Inovația translațională în chirurgia colorectală: noi paradigme în diagnosticul și tratamentul cancerului colorectal Viorel Scripcariu, Grigore T. Popa University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Bucharest, Romania
09:30 – 10:00	Modern treatment of obesity Dan Gheonea, University of Medicine and Pharmacy Craiova, Romania
10:00 – 10:30	The smart hospital Leonard Azamfirei, University of Medicine, Pharmacy, Science and Technology Târgu-Mures, Romania
10:30 – 11:00	How to develop translational research on a medical platform: The Fundeni Hospital case Irinel Popescu, Center of Digestive Diseases and Liver Transplantation, Fundeni Hospital, Bucharest, Romania
11:00 – 11:30	Germinal versus somatic lesions in acute leukemias Anca Coliță, Fundeni Hospital, Bucharest, Romania
11:30 – 12:00	Three decades of translational oncology: from basic to clinical research Ioana Berindan Neagoe, Iuliu Hatieganu University of Medicine and Pharmacy Cluj-Napoca, Romania
12:00– 12:15	 Coffee Break & Networking
SESSION 6 Virology and Disease-Specific Translational Programmes Chair: Ștefan Constantinescu, Simona-Maria Ruță	
12:15 – 12:30	Epigenetic interplay and implications in evolution of persistent HPV infection Camelia Sultana ^{1,2} , Anca Botezatu ² , Alina Fudulu ² , Monica Cîrstoiu ^{1,3} , Diana Iacob ^{1,3} , Camelia Grancea ² , Daniela Chiriac ² , Simona Ruță ^{1,2} . 1. Carol Davila University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Bucharest, Romania 2. Ștefan S. Nicolau Institute of Virology, Bucharest, Romania 3. Emergency University Hospital, Bucharest, Romania
12:30 – 12:45	Cervico-vaginal dysbiosis and its association with fam19a4 and mir-124-2 promoter methylation in cervical intraepithelial neoplasia Alina Fudulu ¹ , Scripcariu I ² , Gisca T ² , Vasilache I ² , Diaconu C ¹ , Socolov D ² , Botezatu A ¹ 1. Ștefan S. Nicolau Institute of Virology, Department of Molecular Virology, Bucharest, Romania 2. Department of Mother and Child Care “Grigore T. Popa”, University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Iasi, Romania
12:45 - 13:00	The role of the HIV viral reservoir in disease progression Aura Temereanca ^{1,2} , Luminita Ene ³ , Dimitri Apostol ¹ , Leontina Banica ⁴ , Ana Neagu ^{1,2} , Marian Neculae ⁵ , Nicholas Andrew Ivan ^{1,6} , Simona Ruta ^{1,2} , ¹ Carol Davila University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Bucharest, Romania ² Ștefan S. Nicolau Institute of Virology, Bucharest, Romania ³ Dr. Victor Babeș Clinical Hospital of Infectious and Tropical Diseases, Bucharest, Romania ⁴ Prof. Dr. Matei Balș National Institute for Infectious Diseases, Bucharest, Romania ⁵ University of Bucharest, Bucharest, Romania ⁶ Indiana University Bloomington, Indiana, USA
13:00 – 13:15	Mechanisms of metformin-induced HIV latency reversal in CD4+ T cells Marian Neculae ^{1,2,3} , Christ-Dominique Ngassaki-Yoka ^{1,2} , Soumia Khalfi ² , Jean-Philippe Goulet ⁴ , Ramon Edwin Caballero ^{2,5} , Jonathan Dias ^{1,2} , Jean-Pierre Routy ^{6,7} , Petronela Ancuta ^{1,2,3} . ¹ Département de Microbiologie, Infectiologie et Immunologie, Faculté de Médecine, Université de Montréal, Montréal, Québec, Canada ² Centre de Recherche du Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CRCHUM), Montréal, Québec, Canada

	³ Department of Botany and Microbiology, Faculty of Biology, University of Bucharest, Bucharest, Romania ⁴ Cell Carta, Montréal, Québec, Canada ⁵ Department of Microbiology and Immunology, School of Biomedical Sciences, McGill University, Montréal, Québec, Canada ⁶ Chronic Viral Illness Service and Division of Hematology, Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre, Montréal, Québec, Canada ⁷ Health Centre, Glen Site, McGill University, Montréal, Québec, Canada ⁸ Research Institute of the University of Bucharest (ICUB), Bucharest, Romania
13:15 – 14:30	 Lunch Break
SESSION 7 Translational Cardiology – Vision of SEARCH-Vasc Center of Excellence Chair: Acad. Maya Simionescu, Prof. Dr. Dragos Vinereanu	
14:30 – 14:50	Transcytosis: an Underexploited Therapeutic Target in Atherosclerosis Acad. Maya Simionescu, Institute of Cellular Biology and Pathology, "N. Simionescu" Bucharest, Romania
14:50 – 15:10	Neutrophil-Macrophage Crosstalk in Myocardial Infarction: Translating Immune Mechanisms into Therapeutic Opportunities Elena Butoi, Institute of Cellular Biology and Pathology "N. Simionescu", Bucharest, Romania
15:10 – 15:30	Mesenchymal Stromal Cells for Acute Myocardial Infarction: Regeneration or Unfulfilled Promise Bogdan Preda, Institute of Cellular Biology and Pathology "N. Simionescu", Bucharest, Romania
15:30 – 15:50	New Era in HFpEF – from Oral to Intestinal Biomarkers and Microbiota Conf. Dr. Roxana Cristina Rimbas, University and Emergency Hospital of Bucharest, Bucharest, Romania
15:50 – 16:10	2026 – News in Atherosclerosis and Heart failure Prof. Dr. Dragos Vinereanu, Carol Davila University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Bucharest, Romania
16:10– 16:25	 Coffee Break & Networking
SESSION 8 Disease-Specific Translational Approaches in the SEARCH-Vasc Center of Excellence Chair: Manuela Calin, Conf. Dr. Roxana Darabont	
16:25 – 16:40	Emerging Risk Factors for Deep Vein Thrombosis and its Recurrence Prof. Dr. Roxana Oana Darabont, University and Emergency Hospital of Bucharest, Bucharest, Romania
16:40 – 16:55	Precision RNA Interference Nanotherapeutics for Valvular Heart Disease Manuela Calin, Institute of Cellular Biology and Pathology "N. Simionescu", Bucharest, Romania
16:55 – 17:10	Proteomic Profiling of Circulating Danger Signals in Diabetic Foot Syndrome Felicia Antohe, Institute of Cellular Biology and Pathology "N. Simionescu", Bucharest, Romania
17:10 - 17:25	Building Resilient Pancreatic Beta-cells: Adaptive Stress Responses as Therapeutic Targets in Diabetes Ana Vacaru, Institute of Cellular Biology and Pathology "N. Simionescu", Bucharest, Romania
17:25 - 17:40	Thoracic Radiotherapy Cardiotoxicity: From Cellular Mechanisms to Clinical Disease SL Stefania Lucia Magda, Carol Davila University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Bucharest, Romania
17:40– 17:50	 Coffee Break & Networking
SESSION 9 Emerging Technologies & Disease-Specific Translational Programmes Chair: Carmen C. Diaconu	
17:50 - 18:10	The genomic aggregation: implications and limits for the psychiatric nosology and pharmacology Maria Grigoriu-Serbanescu ¹ , Ana Iulia Neagu ^{2,3} , Carmen C. Diaconu ² ¹ Prof Dr. Alexandru Obregia Clinical Psychiatric Hospital, Bucharest ² Stefan S. Nicolau Institute of Virology, Bucharest ³ Carol Davila University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Bucharest

18:10 - 18:30	Across disease boundaries: integrative transcriptomics redefines the functional landscape of a tumor-associated protein Alexandrina Burlacu , Scientific Director, Research and Development Institute in Genomics, Bucharest, Romania
18:30 - 18:50	System based on a deep learning pipeline for breast tumor identification Florita Siritean ¹ , Dan Popescu ¹ and Loretta Ichim ^{1,2} ¹ National University of Science and Technology POLITEHNICA Bucharest, Bucharest, Romania ² Stefan S. Nicolau Institute of Virology, Bucharest, Romania
18:50 - 19:10	Functionalizing biomedical data in translational research: from DNA fragmentation to in silico tumors and digital twins Liviu Bilteanu ^{1,2,3} , Irinel Popescu ^{4,5} , Octavian Buiu ³ , Andreea Iren Șerban ^{1,2} ¹ Facultatea de Biologie, Universitatea din București ² Facultatea de Medicină, Universitatea de Medicină și Farmacie Carol Davila ³ Laboratorul de Nanotehnologii Moleculare, INCD pentru Microtehnologii - IMT București ⁴ Academia Română ⁵ Facultatea de Medicină, Universitatea Dunărea de Jos din Galați
CLOSING KEYNOTE & CEREMONY	
19:10 – 19:20	The Future of Applied Translational Medicine Closing Keynote
19:20 – 19:30	Closing Remarks & Next Steps <i>Announcements</i> Conference Chair & Scientific Committee
19:30	Farewell & Networking

Notes