Propose your 2024 publications as Elias Tillandz prize winner!

Take a look at the details, click!

BioCity Turku Announcement 10/2025

This week

* Immunology Seminar, 4th March at 14:00, Hetemäki
* MBC Journal Club, 5th March at 13:00
* Frontiers of Science, 6th March at 12:00, Robson
* CellCom Seminar, 6th March at 15:00, Vooijs
* InFLAMES Guest Seminar, 6th March at 15:15, Robson
* IPP meets TREMENDO Seminar, 7th March at 12:00

Next week

* Infections and Immunity Seminar, 12th March at 13:15

In near future

*Frontiers of Science, 20th March at 12:00, Ramirez
* FICAN West Science Day, 9th April

Save the Date

* Open Science and Impact Festival, 14th May
* InFLAMES Corporate Corner goes SHIFT, 21st May
* 4th BioImage Informatics Finland (BIIF) Network Symposium, 22nd-23rd May
* EACPT2025, 28th June – 1st July

Open calls

* Elias Tillandz Publication Prize 2024

Links to recruitment pages

BioCity Turku Events Calendar
Kiinamyllyn viikkokalenteri
PGE Course Calendar

Immunology Seminar

4th March at 14:00-15:00
Online event
in Zoom
Flyer

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Dr. Iivo Hetemäki, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, USA
Immune dysregulation in patients with IKZF2 (Helios) deficiency

Host: Professor Riitta Lahesmaa (rilahes@utu.fi)

Link to the online seminar: https://utu.zoom.us/j/62786995489

Immunology seminar series is jointly organised by the Finnish Society for Immunology, InFLAMES Flagship and Turku Bioscience. For further information contact Anne Lahdenperä (ankahy@utu.fi) or Riitta Lahesmaa (rilahes@utu.fi), University of Turku.

Iivo Hetemäki is a physician-scientist with long interest in lymphocyte biology especially in inborn errors of immunity (IEI). He did his PhD thesis "Regulation of the Germinal Centre Reaction in Inborn Errors of Immunity" under the supervision of Petteri Arstila and Eliisa Kekäläinen in Helsinki University. In his thesis he examined regulation of adaptive immune responses and factors underlying rise of neutralizing anti-interferon antibodies in two inborn error of immunity AIRE deficiency Autoimmune Polyendocrinopathy Candidiasis Ectodermal Dystropyhy (APECED) and IKZF2 (encoding for Helios) loss of function mutation. The report by Hetemäki & al. was first IKZF2 deficiency described in men. For his thesis Hetemäki received the PhD thesis award from Immunology by Finnish Society of Immunology. Currently, Hetemäki is continuing postdoctoral research at the National Institutes of Health under the supervision of Mihalis Lionakis. He has also worked as physician treating patients with IEI.

Selected publications

Hetemäki I, Kaustio M, Kinnunen M, Heikkilä N…, Kekäläinen E. Loss-of-function mutation in *IKZF2* leads to immunodeficiency with dysregulated germinal center reactions and reduction of MAIT cells. *Sci Immunol*. 2021 26;6(65)

Hetemäki I, Arstila TP, Kekäläinen E. Helios-Illuminating the way for lymphocyte self-control. *Immunology*. 2024

Hetemäki I, Sarkkinen J, Heikkilä N, & al. Dysregulated germinal centre reaction with expanded T follicular helper cells in APECED lymph nodes. *J Allergy Clin Immunol.* 2023

Hetemäki, I., Laakso, S., Välimaa, H., Kleino, I., Kekäläinen, E., Mäkitie, O., Arstitila, TP. Patients with autoimmune polyendocrine syndrome type 1 have an increased susceptibility to severe herpesvirus infections. *Clin Immunol.* 2021

MBC Journal Club

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5th March at 13:00
Onsite event
in BioCity 5th floor seminar room (Bear)

Medical Bioinformatics Centre organizes the Bioinformatics Journal Club once a month to promote interaction between the local bioinformatics community and share the latest research developments in the field.

This time we will discuss the following article which the participants are encouraged to read beforehand:
An atlas of substrate specificities for the human serine/threonine kinome, Nature, January 2023
https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-022-05575-3
Presenter: Sadia Akram

More information: https://elolab.utu.fi/bioinformatics-journal-club

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Frontiers of Science

March 6th at 12:00
Onsite event
in Presidentti auditorium, BioCity
Spring 2025 program

Prof. Simon Robson, Harvard Medical School, USA
Reciprocal targeting of ENTPD/CD39 ectonucleotidases to inflame tumors and restore homeostasis
Host: Gennady Yegutkin (genyeg@utu.fi)

Coffee and sandwich at 11:45, first come first served!

Six PhD researchers and early-career postdocs are welcome to **have a lunch and discuss with Prof. Robson** after the seminar. This is a great possibility to learn hosting skills in a friendly environment and create connections for future. Everyone is welcome to join, BioCity Turku will offer the lunch.

If you got interested, please send an email to biocityturku@bioscience.fi

Simon Robson is a globally recognized leader in the field of purinergic signaling, holds the prestigious Charlotte F. and Irving W. Rabb Professorship of Medicine in Harvard and serves as Vice Chair of Research in the Department of Anesthesia, Critical Care at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. Dr. Robson's pioneering work on ectonucleotidases, particularly CD39, has revealed its crucial roles in T cells and endothelial cells, with broad implications for chronic inflammatory diseases, cancer, and transplantation. His foundational discoveries have had substantial translational impact, with ongoing clinical trials exploring CD39-targeted therapies for cancer. His current research continues to expand

knowledge of purinergic signaling in immune-related diseases, including cancer and inflammatory bowel disease, with promising potential for clinical application. Dr. Robson's combined scientific and medical expertise makes his talk highly relevant to both scientists and clinicians.

Selected publications

Furuhashi K, Kakiuchi M, Ueda R, Oda H, Ummarino S, Ebralidze AK, Bassal MA, Meng C, Sato T, Lyu J, Han MG, Maruyama S, Watanabe Y, Sawa Y, Kato D, Wake H, Reizis B, Frangos JA, Owens DM, Tenen DG, Ghiran IC, Robson SC, Fujisaki J. Bone marrow niches orchestrate stem-cell hierarchy and immune tolerance. Nature. 2025 Jan 1. doi: 10.1038/s41586-024-08352-6.

Feng L, Zhang H, Mao C, De Andrade Mello P, Stroopinsky D, Csizmadia E, Zhou J, Avigan D, Yu J, Gao W, Robson SC. Cd39 and P2rx7-Wnt signaling enhance blast pathogenicity in an experimental model of acute myeloid leukemia. Haematologica. 2024 Aug 15. doi: 10.3324/haematol.2024.285547.

Vignali PD DePeaux K, Watson MJ, Ye C, Ford BR, Lontos K, McGaa NK, Scharping NE, Menk AV, Robson SC, Poholek AC, Rivadeneira DB, Delgoffe GM. Hypoxia drives CD39-dependent suppressor function in exhausted T cells to limit antitumor immunity. Nat Immunol. 2023 Feb;24(2):267-279. doi: 10.1038/s41590-022-01379-9.

Zhang H, Feng L, de Andrade Mello P, Mao C, Near R, Csizmadia E, Chan LL, Enjyoji K, Gao W, Zhao H, Robson SC. Glycoengineered anti-CD39 promotes anticancer responses by depleting suppressive cells and inhibiting angiogenesis in tumor models. J Clin Invest. 2022 Jul 1;132(13):e157431. doi: 10.1172/JCI157431.

Sandhu B, Perez-Matos MC, Tran S, Singhal G, Syed I, Feldbrügge L, Mitsuhashi S, Pelletier J, Huang J, Yalcin Y, Csizmadia E, Tiwari-Heckler S, Enjyoji K, Sévigny J, Maratos-Flier E, Robson SC, Jiang ZG. Global deletion of NTPDase3 protects against diet-induced obesity by increasing basal energy metabolism. Metabolism. 2021 May;118:154731. doi: 10.1016/j.metabol.2021.154731.

Harshe RP, Xie A, Vuerich M, Frank LA, Gromova B, Zhang H, Robles RJ, Mukherjee S, Csizmadia E, Kokkotou E, Cheifetz AS, Moss AC, Kota SK, Robson SC, Longhi MS. Endogenous antisense RNA curbs CD39 expression in Crohn's disease. Nat Commun. 2020 Nov 18;11(1):5894. doi: 10.1038/s41467-020-19692-y.

Dwyer KM, Kishore BK, Robson SC. Conversion of extracellular ATP into adenosine: a master switch in renal health and disease. Nat Rev Nephrol. 2020 Sep;16(9):509-524. doi: 10.1038/s41581-020-0304-7.

General information

- You can download and save all the spring 2025 FoS-seminars to your calendar from here: https://seafile.utu.fi/d/44a70f80ac1e46a9ad0a/

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- Registration is not needed, participation list is circulated in the audience
- If you are a student and later wish to get a certificate of attendance from the Frontier of Science seminars, print out the seminar diary and after the seminar ask the BioCity coordinator to sign it https://seafile.utu.fi/d/44a70f80ac1e46a9ad0a/
- Please note that any audio or video recording of the seminars is strictly forbidden.
- Spring 2025 image credits to Teemu Tuominen: Close up photograph of soil bacteria *Streptomyces* sp. colonies border.

CellCom Seminar

6th March at 15:00
Onsite event
in ÅA Farmaci Lecture Hall, 3rd floor, BioCity

Prof. Marc Vooijs, Maastricht University, the Netherlands
Unlocking a New Regulatory Switch in NOTCH Signaling: Deciding Between Activation and Inactivation

Host: Päivi Koskinen (paivi.koskinen@utu.fi)

Coffee, tea and buns served at 14:45.

Join us for an inspiring seminar by Prof. Marc Vooijs, whose research is focused on mechanistic insight into signal transduction by NOTCH family proteins and their context-dependent role in stem cells, cancer development and treatment response with an emphasis on tumor microenvironment and hypoxia. He has alsoestablished patient-derived 3D cell models to study therapeutic resistance mechanisms under both normal and hypoxic conditions. For more information: https://www.maastrolab.com/marc-vooijs-lab

Selected recent publications

Sánchez-Castillo A et al. Sertraline/chloroquine combination therapy to target hypoxic and immunosuppressive serine/glycine synthesis-dependent glioblastomas. *Oncogenesis* 13, 39, 2024. DOI: 10.1038/s41389-024-00540-3

Hoosemans L, Vooijs M, Hoeben A. Opportunities and challenges of small molecule inhibitors in glioblastoma treatment: Lessons learned from clinical trials. *Cancers* 16, 3021, 2024. DOI: 10.3390/cancers16173021

Giuranno L et al. Enhanced radiation sensitivity, decreased DNA damage repair, and differentiation defects in airway stem cells derived from patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. *Stem Cells Transl Med* 13, 927-939, 2024. DOI: 10.1093/stcltm/szae043

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Hounjet J et al. The DMT1 isoform lacking the iron-response element regulates normal and malignant hematopoiesis via NOTCH pathway activation. *FEBS Lett* 598, 1506-1512, 2024. DOI: 10.1002/1873-3468.14870

InFLAMES Guest Seminar

6th March at 15:15-16:00
Onsite event
in Säätiö-sali, Medisiina D, Kiinamyllynkatu 10 A-C, Turku

Prof. Simon Robson
My Journey in Research and Avoiding Getting 'Lost' in Translation.

Welcome everyone!

IPP meets TREMENDO Seminar

7th March at 12:00
Onsite event
in Yrjö Alanen -sali, Kompassi hospital TUCH

Prof. Leslie Benet, University of California San Francisco, School of Pharmacy USA
A new simple approach to deriving and applying equations in pharmacology, physiology and chemistry independent of differential equations

Chair: Aleksi Tornio

IPP seminar series covers the diversity of biomedical/medical research performed in Integrative Physiology and Pharmacology research unit in Institute of Biomedicine, University of Turku plus interesting talks by visitors from national and international research collaboration networks.IPP seminar series covers the diversity of biomedical/medical research performed in Integrative Physiology and Pharmacology research unit in Institute of Biomedicine, University of Turku plus interesting talks by visitors from national and international research collaboration networks.

More information about the seminars from Juho-Antti Mäkelä (jasmak@utu.fi)

Infections and Immunity Seminar

12th March ad 13:15-14:00
Hybrid event
in Blokki 2, Medisiina D / Zoom
Spring 2025 program

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Inna Starskaia
Distinct cellular immune responses in children en route to type 1 diabetes with different first-appearing autoantibodies

The seminars will be held in Zoom (https://utu.zoom.us/j/61436543940) and on site at Medisiina D on Wednesdays at 13:15-14.00. Student credits can be collected from this seminar. If you have any questions regarding attending or the seminar itself, do not hesitate to contact us (nattom@utu.fi and hirkha@utu.fi).

You are warmly welcome!

Frontiers of Science

March 20th at 12:00
Onsite event
in Presidentti auditorium, BioCity
Spring 2025 program

Prof. Javier Perez Ramirez, ETH Zürich, Switzerland
Catalysis and sustainability from atom to planetary scale
Host: Dmitry Murzin (dmitry.murzin@abo.fi)

Coffee and sandwich at 11:45, first come first served!

Six PhD researchers and early-career postdocs are welcome to **have a lunch and discuss with Prof. Javier Perez Ramirez** after the seminar. This is a great possibility to learn hosting skills in a friendly environment and create connections for future. Everyone is welcome to join, BioCity Turku will offer the lunch.

If you got interested, please send an email to biocityturku@bioscience.fi

Javier Perez Ramirez, full Professor of Catalysis Engineering at ETH Zurich since 2010, pursues the design of catalytic materials and process concepts to drive sustainable chemical and energy production at scale. He studied Chemical Engineering at the University of Alicante and received his PhD at Delft University of Technology. He serves as the Chair of the Editorial Board of Green Chemistry and directs NCCR Catalysis, a Swiss Centre of Competence in Research devoted to developing carbon-neutral chemicals across the whole value chain through catalytic processes.

Selected publications

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S.D. Jaydev, A.J. Martín, D. Garcia, K. Chikri, J. Pérez-Ramírez. 2024. Assessment of transport phenomena in catalyst effectiveness for chemical polyolefin recycling. Nat. Chem. Eng. 2024, 1, 565-575

Suvarna, T. Zou, S.H. Chong, Y. Ge, A.J. Martín, J. Pérez-Ramírez. 2024. Active learning streamlines development of high performance catalysts for higher alcohol synthesis. Nat. Commun. 2024, 15, 5844

Pinheiro Araújo, G. Giannakakis, J. Morales-Vidal, M. Agrachev, Z. Ruiz-Bernal, P. Preikschas, T. Zou, F. Krumeich, P.O. Willi, W.J. Stark, R.N. Grass, G. Jeschke, S. Mitchell, N. López, J. Pérez-Ramírez. 2024. Low-nuclearity CuZn ensembles on ZnZrOx catalyze methanol synthesis from CO2. Nat. Commun. 2024, 15, 3101

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- Spring 2025 image credits to Teemu Tuominen: Close up photograph of soil bacteria *Streptomyces* colonies border.

FICAN West Science Day

9th April at 08:45-15:30
Onsite event
in Haartman lecture hall, Tyks T-hospital, Hämeentie 11, Turku

Join us to the 3rd FICAN West Science Day in April. The topic of the day is *Co-operation in translational cancer research*.

Registration is now open until 2nd April in https://link.webropolsurveys.com/S/A6DF832577D35471

Speakers
Kari Hemminki, German Cancer Research Center, Heidelberg, Germany
Jenny Alajääski, Department of Surgery, Satasairaala Central Hospital, Pori, and University of Turku
Katriina Jalkanen, Comprehensive Cancer Center, Helsinki University Hospital
Johanna Hynninen, Institute of Biomedicine, University of Turku, and Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Turku and Turku University Hospital
Minna Koskenvuo, Department of Pediatrics, University of Turku and Turku University Hospital

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Tuomas Mirtti, ONCOSYS Research Program, University of Helsinki and Helsinki University Hospital
Hanna Meretoja, Centre for the Study of Storytelling, Experientiality and Memory, University of Turku
Maria Sundvall, Institute of Biomedicine, University of Turku & Erika Alanne, both Department of Oncology, Turku University Hospital
Emilia Peuhu, Institute of Biomedicine, University of Turku
Colinda Scheele, VIB - KU Leuven Center for Cancer Biology, Belgium

Take a look at the detailed program: https://ficanwest.fi/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/3rd-FW-ScienceDay_program_2025_v240225-1.pdf

Welcome everyone!

Open Science and Impact Festival

14th May 2025
On-site event
in Joki visitor and innovation centre

Open Science & Impact Festival 2025 will take place in Visitor and Innovation Centre Joki, Turku, Finland, on 14.5.2025 and it is a brand-new event focusing on advancing latest knowledge on Open Science and Research Impact among researchers.

At the Festival, you can learn about best practices in open science and the secrets of social impact of research. You will learn more about what social impact of research can be, what to consider and why it is worth investing in research impact planning. You will also learn how open science works in practice and what the benefits are. The festival will bring together researchers, research support professionals and policy makers.

The theme of this year's event is ***Why Open Science and Research Impact matters***.

More details regarding the event: https://sites.utu.fi/openutu/open-science-impact-festival-2025/

InFLAMES Corporate Corner goes SHIFT

21st May at 11:30-16:00
Onsite event
in Cave auditorium, Joki Innovation Centre

The next Corporate Corner will be held in collaboration with SHIFT Business Festival!

The event will take place in the Cave Theater of the Visitor and Innovation Centre Joki, Lemminkäisenkatu 12 B. The event will start with lunch at 11:30, followed by the official program until 16:00 and culminating in a networking after-party until 18:00 in Cafe Wisio. The event has an

enthusiastic SHIFT setup and atmosphere, which limits participation to 100 people. Registration will open in early March, so be ready to sign up!

Confirmed speakers:
Vice Rector **Piia Seppänen**, University of Turku
Professor **Johanna Ivaska**, University of Turku
Professor **Pekka Vallittu**, University of Turku
Senior Vice President, Head of Innovative Medicines Business and R&D **Outi Vaarala**, Orion
Member of the Board **Markku Jalkanen**, Faron Pharmaceuticals
CEO **Carl-Åke Carlsson**, Delsitech
Founder and Chief Technology Officer **Niklas Sandler**, CurifyLabs
Founder and CEO **Maria Jensen**, Antler Bio

The SHIFT Business Festival follows on May 22 at Turku Science Park, featuring keynotes, workshops, and networking opportunities to inspire creativity and growth. SHIFT's theme, Succeed, will address essential topics in leadership, innovation, and risk management. Attendees will explore what it takes to lead effectively, foster innovation, and navigate the opportunities and challenges of a rapidly changing environment.

Latest updates from https://inflames.utu.fi/events/save-the-date-inflames-corporate-corner/

4th BioImage Informatics Finland (BIIF) Network Symposium

22nd-23rd May
Onsite event
in Seili island

Join us at the 4th BioImage Informatics Finland (BIIF) Network Symposium organized by Turku BioImaging on May 22-23, 2025.

This symposium brings together students, researchers, and facility personnel working on image analysis or data management to discuss the latest developments and prospects in the bioimage informatics field. We will offer an exciting scientific program as well as a social program. The event takes place in Seili island, Turku Archipelago which is a perfect setting for scientific discussions and networking!

The BIIF symposium will feature talks from both early-career researchers and leading experts in the field and is open to local, national, and international participants.

Abstract submission deadline is 28 March 2025
More details: https://www.bioimaging.fi/biif2025/

We invite you to submit your abstract and share your work with the community. We look forward to your contributions and hope to see you in Seili!

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More information about the event from Turku BioImaging Office tbi-office@bioimaging.fi

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EACPT2025

28th June-1st July
Onsite event
in Helsinki

EACPT2025 Helsinki stands as the foremost European congress for professionals in clinical pharmacology and therapeutics science. With its theme, *Embracing Innovations for Optimized Patient Care*, it provides you a unique opportunity to explore cutting-edge scientific advancements and network with colleagues from academia, healthcare, drug regulation, and industry sectors.

More information on the EACPT2025 Helsinki can be found from the congress website www.eacpt2025.org, or https://confedent.eventsair.com/eacpt-2025/. From the website, you can also subscribe to our newsletter to stay up-to-date on congress news and updates.

Register by 31 March with an early-bird price!

Elias Tillandz Publication Prize 2024

In the context of the 34th BioCity Symposium (28–29 August 2025), the twenty-first Elias Tillandz prize will be awarded for the best scientific paper published in 2024 in Turku.

BioCity Turku asks for proposals by **31st March 2025 at 23:59** at the latest. The proposal should include a short (max. 200 words) cover letter and the publication, both together as **one pdf file**.

The proposed paper should have been published during year 2024 based on either electronic publication date or cover date of the printed magazine. The topic of the publication should be in the area of life science or molecular medicine or any other closely related field. Turku scientists (working in the University of Turku, Åbo Akademi University or other research institutes in Turku) should be the the first and last authors and most of the research work should have been conducted in Turku.

Moreore information from https://biocityturku.fi/elias-tillandz-prize/

Also take a look at the Elias Tillands Prize rules:
Rules of the Elias Tillandz prize
Elias Tillandz -palkinnon säännöt
Regler för Elias Tillandz -priset

Links to recruitment pages

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Ådo Akademi University in Swedish and in English
FinBioNet

If you have events you would like to add to BioCity Announcement please contact biocityturku@bioscience.fi

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