

BioCity Turku Announcement 11/2025

This week

- * Infections and Immunity Seminar, 12th March at 13:15
- * Multidisciplinary Theme's Kick-off Event, 13th March at 08:30

Next week

- * InFLAMES Seminar, 19th March at 15:00, Alinikula
- * Frontiers of Science, 20th March at 12:00, Ramirez

In near future

- * Frontiers of Science, 27th March at 12:00, Inman
- * IPP Seminar, 28th March at 12:00, Sironen and Mathlin
- * PiF Friday Café, 28th March at 13:00, Takeda
- * FICAN West Science Day, 9th April

Save the Date

- * BioBridges: How to Secure Funding for your Future Science, 8th May at 13:00
- * Open Science and Impact Festival, 14th May
- * InFLAMES Corporate Corner goes SHIFT, 21st May
- * 4th BioImage Informatics Finland (BIIF) Network Symposium, 22nd-23rd May
- * International Conference on Renewable Resources and Biorefineries RRB, 2nd-4th June
- * EACPT2025, 28th June – 1st July

Courses

- * CRISPR workshop 2025

Open calls

- * [Elias Tillandz Publication Prize 2024](#)

Open positions

- * Project engineer

Links to recruitment pages

[BioCity Turku Events Calendar](#)

[Kiinamylyn viikkokalenteri](#)

[PGE Course Calendar](#)

Infections and Immunity Seminar

12th March at 13:15-14:00

Hybrid event

in Blokki 2, Medisiina D / Zoom

[Spring 2025 program](#)

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!

Multidisciplinary Theme's Kick-off Event

13th March at 08:30-11:00

Onsite event

at Tauno Nurmela Lecture Hall, UTU main building

The University of Turku's strategy emphasizes the significance of multidisciplinary in advancing internationally high-quality research, education, and innovation. The goal of the strategy-linked multidisciplinary themes is to promote cooperation within the university and with external stakeholders, build national and international networks, and generate new initiatives and external funding applications.

New leaders for the multidisciplinary themes were selected last November, after which core groups were formed for each theme. Now it's time to hear what actions they have planned for the coming years.

Welcome everyone!

Programme

08.30 Morning coffee and breakfast

09.00 Opening words by Rector **Marjo Kaartinen**

09.05 Leaders of the multidisciplinary themes present their future activities:

Ilari E. Sääksjärvi Biodiversity and sustainability

Charlotta Wolff, Cultural memory and social change

Elina Kilpi-Jakonen, Children, young people, and learning

Saara Wittfooth, Health, diagnostics, and drug development

Heidi Piili, New technologies and digitalization

10.45 Closing remarks by Vice Rector **Piia Seppänen**

Read more about multidisciplinary themes:

<https://www.utu.fi/en/research/thematic-collaborations-in-research>

More information about the event from:

Tuuli Kaunisto (tuuli.kaunisto@utu.fi)

Maija Lespinasse (miholm@utu.fi)
Jarmo Malmsten (jarmo.malmsten@utu.fi)
Outi Nurmela (outi.nurmela@utu.fi)

InFLAMES Seminar

19th March at 15:00-16:00

Onsite event

in Osmo Järvi Auditorium

Jukka Alinikula, UTU

Mechanism of action, prevalence and oncogenicity of somatic hypermutation enhancers

Everyone is 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

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

General information

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

Frontiers of Science

March 27th at 12:00

Onsite event

in Presidentti auditorium, BioCity

[Spring 2025 program](#)

Prof. Gareth Inman, Beatson Institute for Cancer Research, UK

Deciphering squamous cancer disease progression

Host: Veli-Matti Kähäri (velkah@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. Inman** 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.

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The transforming growth factor beta (TGF β) superfamily comprises approximately forty related dimeric polypeptide cytokines including the bone morphogenetic proteins (BMPs), the growth and differentiation factors (GDFs), activin, nodal and the TGF β s (TGF β 1, TGF β 2, TGF β 3). As well as having vital normal physiological functions during development and in adult life these factors play pivotal roles in cancer biology acting as potent tumour suppressors or tumour promoters in a context dependent manner. Work in Inman laboratory seeks to understand how, when and where TGF β superfamily signalling regulates tumour progression. Dysregulation of TGF β signalling is particularly prevalent in squamous cell cancers and this has led the team to begin to decipher the molecular landscape of cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma and its similarities with other squamous tumour subtypes. Inman laboratory's work focuses on understanding the driver genes, pathways and processes that drive squamous cancer disease progression with particular focus on cSCC, Head and Neck SCC and the "squamous" subtype of pancreatic cancer using in-vitro, ex-vivo and in-vivo pre-clinical models.

Selected publications

Kiourtis C, Terradas-Terradas M, Gee LM, May S, Georgakopoulou A, ..., Inman GJ, Campbell A, Barry ST, Quaglia A, Morris CM, LeBeau FEN, Sansom OJ, Kirschner K, Jalan R, Oakley F, Bird TG. 2024 Hepatocellular senescence induces multi-organ senescence and dysfunction via TGF β . Nat Cell Biol. 2024 Nov 13. doi: 10.1038/s41556-024-01543-3.

Strathearn LS, Spender LC, Schoenherr C, Mason S, Edwards R, Blyth K, Inman GJ. C1orf106 (INAVA) Is a SMAD3-Dependent TGF- β Target Gene That Promotes Clonogenicity and Correlates with Poor Prognosis in Breast Cancer. Cells. 2024 Sep 12;13(18):1530. doi: 10.3390/cells13181530.

Carrasco G, Stavrou I, Treanor-Taylor M, Beetham H, Lee M, Masalmeh R, Carreras-Soldevila A, Hardman D, Bernabeu MO, von Kriegsheim A, Inman GJ, Byron A, Brunton VG. Oncogenesis. 2024. Involvement of Kindlin-1 in cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma. 2024 Jul 9;13(1):24. doi: 10.1038/s41389-024-00526-1.

Bailey P, Ridgway RA, Cammareri P, ..., Dimonitsas E, Stratigos AJ, Arron ST, Wang J, Blyth K, Proby CM, Harwood CA, Sansom OJ, Leigh IM, Inman GJ. 2023. Driver gene combinations dictate cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma disease continuum progression. Nat Commun. 2023 Aug 25;14(1):5211. doi: 10.1038/s41467-023-40822-9.

Flanagan DJ, Amirkhah R, Vincent DF, Gunduz N, ..., Lawler M, Leedham SJ, Barry ST, Inman GJ, van Rheenen J, Dunne PD, Sansom OJ. 2022. Epithelial TGF β engages growth-factor signalling to circumvent apoptosis and drive intestinal tumourigenesis with aggressive features. Nat Commun. 2022 Dec 7;13(1):7551. doi: 10.1038/s41467-022-35134-3.

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IPP Seminar

28th March at 12:00

Onsite event

Aistikattila, Flavoria, Medisiina C124

[Spring 2025 program](#)

Anu Sironen, PhD, Adj. Prof, UCL, London, GB & NRI, Finland/Luke
Cilia-related male infertility

Julia Mathlin, PhD
4-gene signature predicts prostate cancer aggressiveness

Chair: Samuli Laasanen

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)

PiF Friday Café

28th March at 13:00-14:00

Onsite event

in Medicity Seminar Room 4009, BioCity 4th floor

Welcome to the third Postdocs in Flames (PiF) Friday Café of the year. We are happy to host PI, Research Academy Fellow **Akira Takeda** as our guest and motivational speaker! The title of his presentation is *Lab of Your Own: The First Steps to Scientific Independence*.

Coffee, pulla, and smoothies will be served on a first-come, first-serve basis.

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

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/2025/03/3rd-FW-ScienceDay_program-with-logos-v110325.pdf

Welcome everyone!

BioBridges: How to secure funding for your future science

8th May at 13:00-16:00

Onsite event

in Workshop auditorium, Joki innovation centre 3rd floor

Welcome to the new BioBridge event series presented by the Postdocs in Flames (PiF) and TBC PhD-PostDoc networks. Our aim is to bridge the gap between local researchers, funding agencies, and the life science industry. These events are open to everyone interested.

Our first event tackles the behind-the-scenes of a successful grant proposal, emphasizing important evaluation criteria beyond the typical application requirements. Meet the representatives from e.g. Research Council of Finland, Business Finland (and more) for a panel discussion and networking opportunity in May.

Register for the event here by 18.04.2025: <https://link.webropol.com/s/biobridge-funding>

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!

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

International Conference on Renewable Resources and Biorefineries (RRB)

2nd-4th June

Onsite event

in Turku City Theatre

BioCity Turku Research Program SmartBIO is involved in organizing an International Conference on Renewable Resources and Biorefineries (RRB) in Turku, 2–4 June 2025.

The conference has dedicated sessions, including:

- Algal Biorefineries, chaired by Dorinde Kleinegriss
- BioFoundry and Synthetic Biology, chaired by Merja Penttilä
- Biobased Chemicals and Biodegradable Materials, chaired by Monika Österberg
- Carbon Capture and Utilization, chaired by Babette Pettersen (LanzaTech Europe)
- Biocatalysis & Novel Fermentation Processes, chaired by Michael Sauer and so on.

We welcome you all to join us, and all up-to-date information about the event is available on the congress website: <https://rrbconference.com>

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!

CRISPR Workshop 2025

Turku Bioscience Genome Editing Core is organizing a workshop on generating knock-out and knock-in modification using CRISPR/Cas9 technology with in vitro ribonucleoprotein complex delivery. During the course, participants will learn how to create specific genetic modifications with the CRISPR/Cas9 system, aspects of designing gRNAs and homology-directed repair templates, and they will gain hands-on experience by working with 293T cell lines. Participants will use their own laptop to design specific guideRNAs targeting their favorite gene of interest.

Content:

- Introduction to CRISPR/Cas9 system
- gRNA and homology-directed repair template design
- *in vitro* ribonucleoprotein delivery
- Experimental efficiency analysis

Program and timetable:

- 24.3. Theoretical background, CRISPR experiment design
- 25.3. RNP assembly and nucleofection
- 26.3. Consultation
- 27.3. CRISPR experiment design task processing
- 28.3. Cell harvest and flow cytometry, data analysis

Place:

Medisiina D, C209 and C235
University of Turku,
Kiinamyllynkatu 10,
20520, Turku

The course is intended for PhD students, post-doctoral researchers, researchers, and maximum number of participants is 20. The course fee for UTU members is 100€ and for others 100€ +VAT. Registration deadline is 19.3.2025: <https://konsta.utu.fi/Default.aspx?tabid=88&tap=21219>

Further information about the course from gene_editing@bioscience.fi

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 first and last authors and most of the research work should have been conducted in Turku.

More 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](#)

Project Engineer

The University of Turku is seeking a project engineer who will play a key role in advancing innovative research across multiple departments. The role includes hands-on operation, maintenance, and quality control of advanced flow cytometers and cell sorters, alongside offering essential support to researchers through precise cell sorting and guidance in experimental design. This position is new, and the person will have a permanent employment contract (6-month trial period).

Apply by 27 March 2025 16:00 (Europe/Helsinki time). Read more about the open position:

<https://ats.talentadore.com/apply/projekti-insinööri-virtausytometria-toistaiseksi-voimassaolevaan-tyosuhteeseen/m7w1wO?lang=en&UTUID=20752>

Links to recruitment pages

University of Turku in [Finnish](#) and in [English](#)

Åbo 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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