



Dana-Farber
Cancer Institute



Boston
Children's

Dana-Farber/Boston Children's Cancer and Blood Disorders Center

AACR Pediatric Special Conference in Cancer Research

September 25 - 28, 2025
Boston, MA

Dana-Farber/Boston Children's Cancer and Blood Disorders Center is proud to have our faculty and researchers featured at the upcoming American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Pediatric Special Conference. A full schedule of Dana-Farber/Boston Children's featured sessions is below.

Thursday, September 25

Poster Session A / Opening Reception

- **7:00-9:30 p.m. | Posters featuring Dana-Farber and Boston Children's researchers**

Friday, September 26

Plenary Session 1: Mechanisms underlying childhood cancer

- **8:30 a.m. | Targeting intra-tumor heterogeneity and developmental pathways in pediatric high-grade glioma**
Mariella G. Filbin, MD, PhD - Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
- **9:45 a.m. | BRAF fusion partners facilitate membrane localization**
Alexander Zhang - Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Plenary Session 2: Development in cancer

- **10:30 a.m. | The interplay between brain development and pediatric brain tumors**
Pratiti (Mimi) Bandopadhyay, MBBS, PhD - Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
- **12:15 p.m. | KAT6A/B are therapeutic targets in neuroblastoma**
Nina Weichert-Leahey, MD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Plenary Session 3: From targets to trials: rethinking how we design child-first medicine

- **2:50 p.m. | Epigenetic dependence of pediatric brain tumor – Insight into epigenetic therapy**
Benjamin L. Ebert, MD, PhD - Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
- **Panel Discussion | Rewriting the rules of childhood cancer translation**
Benjamin L. Ebert, MD, PhD - Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Mariella G. Filbin, MD, PhD - Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Poster Session B / Reception

- **5:00-7:00 p.m. | Posters featuring Dana-Farber and Boston Children's researchers**

Saturday, September 27

Plenary Session Session 4: Discovery and translation of targets

- **8:30 a.m. | New Approaches to Target Pediatric Cancer**
Kimberly Stegmaier, MD - Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
- **9:30 a.m. | CDK8 as a therapeutic target for fusion-positive aRMS**
Susu Zhang, PhD - Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Plenary Session Session 5: Immunology and Immuno-oncology in Pediatrics

- **11 a.m. | A portfolio of cellular immunotherapies for ALK-driven cancers**
Roberto Chiarle, MD - Boston Children's Hospital

Sunday, September 28

Plenary Session 7: Integration of molecular approaches into diagnostics

- **8 a.m. | Building Consensus, Driving Coverage: Toward Universal Molecular Profiling in Pediatric Cancer**
Alanna Church, MD - Boston Children's Hospital

Plenary Session 8: Clinical Trials

- **10:30 a.m. | Challenges in Accessing Innovation for Children with Cancer**
Steve DuBois, MD, MS - Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Poster Session Topics

- **Preclinical investigation of FGFR inhibitors in pediatric low-grade glioma**
April Apfelbaum, PhD - Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
- **O-mannosylation represents a therapeutic opportunity in BRAF fusion protein oncogenesis**
Anna Borgenvik, PhD - Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
- **Identifying effective targeted inhibitors as single-agents or in combination for FGFR1-altered pediatric low-grade gliomas**
Sarah Lamson - Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
- **Uncovering replication stress vulnerabilities in pediatric low grade gliomas using a CRISPR-Cas9 screen**
Joohee Lee - Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
- **Dynamic characterization of tumor-microenvironment factors that drive pediatric low-grade gliomas**
Jenna Christine Robinson, PhD - Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
- **MAPK pathway mediates resistance to p53 reactivation therapies in Diffuse Midline Glioma**
Apichaya Sethaudom - Dana-Farber Cancer Institute