

CCR – Lecture Series

Monday, December 2nd, 2024, 1:00 PM

Hind Medyouf

Georg-Speyer-Haus

Harnessing the Tumor microenvironment to Enable Cancer Control

How do tumor cells exploit the microenvironment to promote cancer progression? Over the last decades, our understanding of cancer has undeniably evolved from a tumor cell centric view towards a more comprehensive “tissue-like” picture integrating extrinsic cues from the surrounding tumor microenvironment (TME) to shape a local ecosystem that favors the acquisition of the so called “hallmarks of cancer”. This has fueled the idea that deciphering the TME signals cancer cells rely on, could help unravel tumor vulnerabilities and pave the way to new treatment opportunities. However, such niche-dependencies do not follow a “one size fits all” pattern but are rather “made to tailor” as they can be highly dependent on the cancer type, disease stage, organ site as well as dynamically evolving niche functions (e.g., because of physiological aging). The Medyouf lab is mapping and leveraging organ specific TME contributions that specifically hinder the early steps of the “cancer immunity cycle” thereby promoting immune evasion and limiting the therapeutic benefit of adaptive immune checkpoint therapies, both in hematological malignancies and metastasis, in particular to the brain. The group is also actively exploring the impact of age-related niche changes on cancer evolution, to uncover new means for early disease interception and the rational design of new therapeutic combinations.

Venue: Lecture Hall **B2**, Borschkegasse 4a

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Host: Juliane Winkler



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MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA