

MINISYMPOSIUM – PROGRAM

DATE: 28 SEPTEMBER, 2026

VENUE: Biomedicum, LECTURE HALL 1, Faculty of Medicine, Univ of Helsinki, Haartmaninkatu 8, Helsinki, Finland



UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI
FACULTY OF MEDICINE
FACULTY OF PHARMACY



HELSINKI ACADEMIC
DRUG DISCOVERY
COLLABORATIVE



SYMPOSIUM

Metabolic Rewiring in Cancer and Degenerative Diseases:

From Intervention to Insights



Register before 16 September 2026

8:30 – 9:00 Coffee

SESSION 1: Drug Discovery in Academia

Chair: Juha Klefström

09:00 – 9:10 Opening words – **Juha Klefström**

09:10 – 09:50 **KEYNOTE-1: Adam Renslo**, Chemical approaches to study and exploit iron metabolism in cancer

09:50 – 10:20 **Mart Saarma**, New approaches to treat Parkinson's disease

10:20 – 10:50 **Melissa Junttila**, Discovery of an EED-Targeting PRC2 Inhibitor that Reprograms Tumor Lineage and Restores Sensitivity to Androgen Receptor Blockade

10:50 – 11:20 **Pirjo Laakonen**, Development of peptide-based theranostics for early detection and treatment of triple negative breast cancer and its multiorgan metastasis

11:20 – 12:10 Lunch, Poster Session

SESSION 2: Translational Metabolism

Chair: Jari Yli-Kauhaluoma

12:10 – 12:40 **Andrei Goga**, Starving or Overindulging Cancer: Revealing Nutrient Dependencies

12:40 – 13:10 **Juha Klefström**, Rewiring the Kill Switch: MYC-Dependent Metabolic Vulnerabilities in Cancer



MINISYMPOSIUM – PROGRAM continued...

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13:10 – 13:30 **Mikko Airavaara**, Protein homeostasis and aggregation as a target for neurodegeneration

13:30 – 13:50 **Eija Piirinen**, Dysregulated NAD⁺ metabolism as a potential driver of metabolic rewiring and tissue degeneration in cancer cachexia

13:50 – 14:10 **Poster 5 min short talk**

14:10 – 14:40 *Poster session and Coffee*

SESSION 3: Mechanisms of Energy Metabolism

Chair: Andrei Goga

14:40 – 15:20 **KEYNOTE-2 : Charles Brenner**, Small Molecule FGF21 Inducers: Activating Two Transcription Factors to Induce One Hepatokine

15:20 – 15:50 **Vivek Sharma**, The mechanism, function and druggability of respiratory complex I from multiscale computer simulations

15:50 – 16:20 **Alexander Mühleip**, Dissection and Small-molecule Inhibition of the Apicomplexan Respiratory Chain Supercomplex

SESSION 4: Panel Discussion

(Moderators: Raman Devarajan & Pauliina Munne)

16:20 – 16:50 Why metabolism matters – how new insight into metabolism will advance our understanding of biological mechanisms and disease interventions

Panelists: Renslo, Goga, Junttila, Brenner, Pirinen

Endnote & Poster prize: Juha Klefström