

## **Pediatric Renal Tumors ... and beyond**

### **Short bios of speakers**

#### **Jenny Wegert, Developmental Biochemistry, University of Würzburg**



After earning her degree in biology from Friedrich Schiller University Jena in 2005, Jenny Wegert completed her PhD at the University of Würzburg in 2010, focusing on genetic mutations in Wilms tumors. Currently, she serves as an academic researcher at the Department of Developmental Biochemistry at the University of Würzburg and collaborates as a guest scientist with the Wellcome Sanger Center in the UK. She is a dedicated researcher in the biology of pediatric renal tumors. Her research focuses on two major aspects: First, basic research on the genetic and epigenetic basis of pediatric renal tumors and second, the development of in vitro models.

#### **Sam Behjati, Wellcome Sanger Institute, Cambridge, England**



Sam Behjati is an academic pediatric oncologist who combines clinical work with research on childhood cancer. In addition to his Clinical Professorship in Pediatric Oncology, he is Group Leader / Wellcome Senior Research Fellow at the Wellcome Sanger Institute and Honorary Consultant Pediatric Oncologist at Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge. His research focuses on identifying the origins of childhood cancer, using quantitative genomic methods, studying a wide range of diseases. In his clinical work he spearheads the roll out of genome sequencing for children with cancer, which has the potential to transform clinical practice. Originally from Germany, he read medicine at Oxford, followed by academic clinical training in London and Cambridge.

#### **Anke Bergmann, Clinical Genetics and Genome Medicine, University of Würzburg**



After studying medicine in Berlin and Paris and completing her doctorate at the Charité, Anke Bergmann initially worked at the Children's Hospital / Harvard University in Boston, USA, on the genetic basis of blood diseases. She continued her training at the University Medical Center Schleswig-Holstein Kiel, at the Radboud University in Nijmegen, Netherlands, and Hannover Medical School, where she also established her Personalized Genomics research group. For the last three years at the MHH she served as Deputy Director of the Institute of Human Genetics. She was appointed to the Professorship of Clinical Genetics and Genomic Medicine in Würzburg in September 2024. In Hannover she started the national genetic reference diagnostics for childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL).

### **Stefan Pfister, Preclinical Pediatric Oncology, KiTZ, DKFZ, Heidelberg**



Stefan Pfister studied Medicine in Hamburg and Heidelberg and received his doctorate in molecular biology from the University of Tübingen in 2002. He continued his clinical training at the University Hospitals of Mannheim and Heidelberg. His early scientific career included research at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute at Harvard Medical School in Boston and a post-doc at the DKFZ in Heidelberg, where he focused on brain tumors in children. He was founding member of the Hopp Children's Tumor Center Heidelberg (KiTZ) in 2016, which brings together treatment and research into children's cancer under one roof for the first time in Germany. Stefan Pfister is one of the three directors of the KiTZ, he is heading the Department of Pediatric Neurooncology at the DKFZ since 2012 and is a professor at the Heidelberg Medical Faculty and a pediatric oncologist at Heidelberg University Hospital. In 2023 he was awarded the Gottfried-Wilhelm Leibnitz Award by the DFG.

### **Norbert Graf, Pediatric Oncology and Hematology, Saarland University, Homburg**



Norbert Graf is Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics and a member of the Saarland University. He is the past chairman of the Renal Tumour Study Group of the International Society of Pediatric Oncology (SIOP-RTSG) and the Principal Investigator of the current Trial for Childhood Renal Tumours within SIOP. He is an Associate Member of COG (Children's Oncology Group, North America) and closely cooperating with the COG Renal Tumor Study Group. Prof. Graf has more than 40 years of experience in running clinical trials. In his research activities, he tries to pave the way to personalized medicine by fostering translational research, specifically in kidney tumors in childhood.

### **Rhoikos Furtwängler, Pediatric Hematology and Oncology, Inselspital Bern, Schweiz**



Rhoikos Furtwängler grew up in Greece, Germany and Switzerland. After studying medicine in Homburg, Perugia, Copenhagen and Lausanne, he trained as a specialist in pediatrics and adolescent medicine and in pediatric hematology and oncology at Saarland University Hospital and at the Medical Faculty of Saarland University. His scientific work is multifaceted. After completing his doctorate on the function of HCMV - pp65, his research now focuses primarily on the treatment of children and adolescents with kidney tumors. He leads the international Randomet study and aims to expand the strong research portfolio of pediatric hematology and oncology at Inselspital Bern in the field of clinical and translational research to include a focus on kidney tumors. He also aims to cooperate with international partners to include new treatment methods such as CAR-T cell therapy and immunotherapy.

**Kathy Pritchard-Jones, Pediatric Oncology, University College London, UK**



Kathy Pritchard-Jones graduated from the University of Oxford and undertook post-graduate clinical and research training in Pediatrics and Pediatric Oncology. She received her PhD for work on “Wilms tumour genes” in 1992. After her stay at the Institute of Cancer Research and Royal Marsden Hospital, she moved to the University College London Partners (UCLP) where she combined her clinical and research interests in pediatric oncology with the role of chief medical officer for an integrated cancer system of providers in North London. Her major clinical and research interests are in childhood kidney cancer and international collaborations to define best practice and benchmark childhood cancer outcomes. From 2019 until 2022 she was elected president SIOP, the International Society of Pediatric Oncology.