

3rd International Precision Medicine Networking forum - PMNet Forum, October 10-11, 2024, Riga, Latvia

This year during two days in October, the 3rd Precision Medicine Networking forum took place in Riga, Latvia. For the second time this forum included a special session for Functional precision medicine, organized by SfPM member Inese Cakstina-Dzerve, RSU, Latvia (former Fulbright fellow at Letai lab). This session was co-chaired with speaker from last year - Caroline Heckman (FIMM, Helsinki, Finland). A speaker team consisted of 2 SfPM board members (Diana Azzam and Christian Regenbrecht) and 2 Letai lab alumni (Triona Ni Chonghaile and Inese Cakstina-Dzerve).

During this session we moved from the introduction on what is functional precision medicine and exciting results and conclusions of clinical study performed by Diana Azzam and her group ("Using Functional Precision Medicine to Guide Cancer Treatments") to more scientific and very insightful topic about Bcl-2 dependence in multiple myeloma given by Triona Ni Chonghaile. Christian Regenbrecht captured us with a phrase from Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody" - "Functional Precision Medicine: Is This the Real Life? Is This Just Fantasy?" while Inese Cakstina-Dzerve gave insights in first steps towards functional precision medicine in Latvia.

As the name of the event shows – this is mainly networking forum. During several talks we came to ideas about possible applications for COST actions available in EU, the need for harmonization of functional precision medicine protocols across the laboratories and exchanged the ideas on feasibility pilot-study. However, it was not only work, work, work, we've got treated with an amazing dinner at the heart of Riga Old town – Blackhead house. The world renown pianist Andrejs Osokins (<https://www.andrejsosokins.com>) took us to a next level of piano music. And some things that can happen only in Latvia, e.g., running after Minister of Health to introduce Diana Azzam and catch a photo. Note: Minister of Health of Latvia is Hosam Abu Meri, originally Lebanese, just as Diana.

We will be happy to meet you all next year for the 4th PMNet Forum in Latvia, so mark your calendars for October 9th-10th. A little suggestion – if possible, also include Saturday, since Inese offers some guided trip around Riga or even outside Riga.

Session record is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9OuV2VuLo9o&list=PLSnLTdgZzamNyd3mXYGgDSNySiJzOdMpH&index=14>

More pictures from the event:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/199370235@N06/albums/72177720321190715/with/54066153963>



Figure 1. Speakers of Functional precision medicine session at PMNet forum 2024, Riga Latvia. From left: Christian Regenbrecht, Triona Ni Chonghaile, Diana Azzam, Caroline Heckman, Inese Cakstina-Dzerve.



Figure 2. Meeting the Minister of Health of Latvia. From left: Inese Cakstina-Dzerve, Hosam Abu Meri, Diana Azzam.



Figure 3. Presentation by Triona Ni Chonghaile about Bcl-2 dependence in multiple myeloma.



Figure 4. Panel discussion at PMNet forum 2024.



Figure 5. Beautiful ladies and beautiful Riga.