

# DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES

The Distinguished Lecture Speakers will present on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday mornings from 10:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., and the plenary sessions are designed to interest delegates from all Scientific Groups.

## THURSDAY, JULY 15

### Francisco Fernández-Avilés



**Hospital General University Gregorio Madrid, Spain**  
*Stem Cells in Cardiovascular Therapy*

Dr. Fernández-Avilés' scientific contributions derive from his strong clinical profile and have been mainly focused on myocardial reperfusion, interventional cardiology, acute coronary syndromes and stem cell therapy for cardiovascular repair. In 1999, Prof. Fernández-Avilés created the multicenter "GRACIA Group" (*Grupo de Análisis de la Cardiopatía Isquémica Aguda*) to carry out clinical investigations aimed at increasing the availability and efficacy of treatments for acute myocardial ischemia. In addition, in 2000 he created the multicenter multidisciplinary "TECAM Group" (*Terapia Celular Aplicada al Miocardio*) to develop translational research in the field of stem cell therapy for cardiovascular diseases.

## FRIDAY, JULY 16

### Thomas Lehner



**King's College London, Dental Institute London, UK**  
*The Contribution of Oral Immunology to our Understanding of Dental and Oral Diseases*

Natural and acquired protection against microbial agents or cellular malfunction, such as cancer, involves the function of the immune system. It is therefore axiomatic that most disease processes will rely on an effective immune protective mechanism, and this applies to dental and oral diseases. Since the introduction of immunology in the latter part of 1950 as an independent scientific discipline, dental and oral diseases have been increasingly subjected to immunological investigations. This applied equally to caries and periodontal diseases, which manifest antibody- and lymphocyte-mediated immune responses. Since both diseases are mainly of bacterial origin, they should be amenable to prevention by vaccination or topical antimicrobial agents. Oral infections such as those caused by *Candida*, Herpes simplex, and HIV-1 depend on effective immune responses to prevent chronic or recurrent disease. Mucosal lesions, of which aphthous stomatitis is the most common, or salivary gland diseases are associated with immunological dysfunctions. The objective of this review is to present the highlights of immunological contributions to the advances of the theory and practice of oro-dental diseases.

## SATURDAY, JULY 17

### Harald zur Hausen



**German Cancer Research Center Heidelberg, Germany**  
*Infectious Causes of Human Cancers*

During the past 30 years, up to 21% of the global cancer incidence has been linked to infectious events, involving specific viral, bacterial, and parasitic agents. In particular, the discovery of a role of Hepatitis B virus in hepatocellular carcinomas and of high-risk human papillomaviruses (HPV) in cervical, other anogenital, and oropharyngeal cancers triggered novel approaches in cancer prevention by vaccination. This presentation discusses recent discoveries of hitherto-unknown viruses in human cancers, as well as the potential of prophylactic interventions against these infections. Mechanisms of cell transformation by infectious agents will be analyzed. Even in cases where infectious agents act as direct carcinogens, and where their persistence is necessary for the maintenance of the carcinogenic phenotype, additional modifications of the host cell genome emerge as necessary events for malignant proliferation. Additional considerations will be presented to analyze even cancers not yet linked to infectious events for a possible involvement of exogenous agents in their etiology. This involves, in part, cancers increased under immunosuppression, but also those with a reduced or not elevated incidence after immunosuppression. Malignant tumors arising either in the sequence of other infections or where those infections appear to exert protective functions will also be discussed. Finally, potential synergistic effects of nutritional carcinogens with virus infections deserve further attention.

