



UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND

**June 21-26, 2015**

1<sup>st</sup> course

from  
**melanocyte development**  
to  
**melanoma therapies**

institut**Curie**

A TRAINING UNIT INTERNATIONAL COURSE

In partnership with University of Iceland

Course: 21-23

Meeting: 24-26

**COURSE CONTENT**

- ✓ Introduction to Melanocytes and Melanoma
- ✓ Clinical Diagnosis and Prognosis
- ✓ Histology and Histopathology
- ✓ Molecular and (Epi)genetic Techniques
- ✓ Experimental Animals
- ✓ High Throughput Data Analysis
- ✓ Therapy, Current Clinical Practice and Preclinical Advances

**LOCATION**

University of Iceland, Reykjavik - Iceland

**AUDIENCE**

MD, PhD & Postdocs

**APPLICATION DEADLINE**

**March 23, 2015**

Course: [training.curie.fr/course/iceland2015](http://training.curie.fr/course/iceland2015)

Meeting: [melanoma2015.is](http://melanoma2015.is)

**ORGANIZERS**

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Eirikur STEINGRIMSSON - University of Iceland, IC

Thorunn RAFNAR - deCODE Genetics, IC

Colin GODING - Ludwig Institute, UK



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# Melanoma Course

## From Melanocyte Development to Melanoma Therapies - Basic Science and Clinical Applications

Reykjavik, Iceland, June 21-24, 2015

[training.curie.fr/course/iceland2015](http://training.curie.fr/course/iceland2015)

### ***Description***

The course [From Melanocyte Development to Melanoma Therapies - Basic Science and Clinical Applications \(training.curie.fr/course/iceland2015\)](http://training.curie.fr/course/iceland2015), will be held at the University of Iceland, in Reykjavik June 21-24, 2015. Major advances in basic research of melanoma have led to novel treatment options that are making a difference for melanoma patients. However, multiple challenges lie ahead and further progress is necessary, particularly with respect to resistance to the novel therapies. Our course will teach the basic biology and development of the melanocyte how these cells are transformed into melanoma, and how the disease is diagnosed and treated. A particular emphasis will be on novel therapeutic options and the resistance that arises against the new drugs.

### ***Theme of course***

(i) Introduction to melanocytes and melanoma. (ii) Clinical diagnosis and prognosis, (iii) Histology and histopathology, (iv) Molecular and (epi)genetic techniques, (v) Experimental animals, (vi) High throughput data analysis, and (vii) Therapy, current clinical practice and preclinical advances.

### ***Course objectives***

In recent years, research into melanocytes and melanoma has led to giant steps in treatment of melanoma patients. The goal of this course is to teach students about the basic biology of melanoma with a particular emphasis on therapeutic options. The students will learn about this rapidly advancing field,

and since the students will come from both basic and clinical sciences, they will learn from each other in order to advance melanoma diagnosis and therapy in the future.

Hosting the course in Iceland will allow us to bring together European and American students and teach them about the latest advances in the field. This three day course will be followed by a three day meeting "Melanoma: from basic science to clinical applications" (<http://www.melanoma2015.is>) where leaders in the field will talk about their latest results. This allows us to include some of the most important players in the field as teachers in the course.

The success of the course relies on the active contribution of participants who are expected to be proactive and to participate in all of the events organized including:

- i) presentation of their own scientific project with a 10 minutes oral presentation, and
- ii) participation in the "career development" workshop during the last day of the course.

### ***Topics***

The course will have a broad view of the melanocyte lineage, including the establishment of the lineage during embryonic development and the renewal of melanocytes from normal melanocyte stem cells. The similarities between the cellular and molecular mechanisms which occur during development, renewal and melanomagenesis will be explored for further clinical advancement. Lectures on epigenetics, genomics and clinical aspects of melanoma will bring a broader view of the field for the PhD students, postdoctoral fellows and junior scientists attending the course.

### ***Round table***

Lunches and Dinners will be attended by both teachers and students giving opportunities for further discussions.

### ***Organizers***

Eirikur STEINGRIMSSON  
Lionel LARUE  
Thorunn RAFNAR  
Colin GODING

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**Welcome to Reykjavík!**

***Dear friends and colleagues,***

We will be hosting the international course “From Melanocyte Development to Melanoma Therapies - Basic Science and Clinical Applications” on June 21-24, 2015 at the University of Iceland in Reykjavík, Iceland ([training.curie.fr/course/iceland2015](http://training.curie.fr/course/iceland2015)).

We would be grateful if you could forward this flyer to potentially interested people and hope that your students and postdocs will be able to attend this important course.

The organizers,

Lionel LARUE ([lionel.larue@curie.fr](mailto:lionel.larue@curie.fr)), Eirikur STEINGRIMSSON ([eirikurs@hi.is](mailto:eirikurs@hi.is)), Thorunn RAFNAR ([Thorunn.Rafnar@decode.is](mailto:Thorunn.Rafnar@decode.is)), Colin GODING ([colin.goding@ludwig.ox.ac.uk](mailto:colin.goding@ludwig.ox.ac.uk)).

# Melanoma Meeting

## From Basic Science to Clinical Applications

Reykjavik, Iceland, June 24-26, 2015

<http://www.melanoma2015.is>

### *Description*

The Conference [Melanoma: from basic science to clinical applications \(http://www.melanoma2015.is\)](http://www.melanoma2015.is), will be held in Harpa, the Concert Hall and Conference Center in Reykjavik June 24-26, 2015. The conference will involve lectures from leaders in melanoma and melanocyte research. Speakers and poster presentations will be selected from abstracts. The conference is designed to stimulate discussions between basic scientists and clinicians and has the ultimate aim of improving therapeutic options in this disease.

Major advances in basic research of melanoma have lead to novel treatment options that are making a difference for melanoma patients. However, multiple challenges lie ahead and further advances are necessary, particularly with respect to resistance to these novel therapies. Bringing together basic and clinical scientists who focus on melanoma is essential for further advancing our understanding of this disease in order to seek novel treatment options. Discussion and interactions will be stimulated through induction of questions during the talks, poster session, and reception. Hosting a meeting in Iceland will allow us to bring together European and American scientists in addition to other international leaders in the field who will be invited to present their work at this 3-day conference. The meeting will not only focus on melanoma but will have a broader view on the melanocyte lineage including the establishment of the lineage during embryonic development and the renewal of melanocytes from normal melanocyte stem cell. The similarities of cellular and molecular mechanisms which occur during development, renewal and melanomagenesis will be explored for further clinical advancement. Keynote speakers on epigenetics, genomics and clinical aspects of melanoma will bring a broader view of the field for the PhD students, postdoctoral fellows and junior scientists.

### *A unique meeting*

This meeting bridges the gap between the basic and clinical sciences, brings together leaders in melanoma research from Europe and America, and allows the next generation of melanoma researchers/clinicians to present their work and to join discussions. This last aspect will be reinforced by a course ([training.curie.fr/course/iceland2015](http://training.curie.fr/course/iceland2015)) that we organize separately just prior this meeting.

Other melanoma meeting exists but they do not focus on the understanding of the melanocyte lineage and its relationship to melanoma. Either they focus on melanoma therapy and clinical sciences or they focus on melanomagenesis.

## ***Duration of the meeting***

The meeting will last 2.5 days. The meeting will start at 14:00 on June 24 with a keynote lecture and will end at 19:00. A one-hour poster session will break the lecture sessions. On June 25th, the meeting will start at 9:00 with a lecture session that will last until 11:50 with one-40 minutes coffee break. Then we plan to have a 1.5-hour lunch roundtable discussions termed "Clinical update and current needs". Leaders in clinical treatment of melanoma have agreed to speak at this session. Then we will have a 1.5-hour poster session followed by two lecture sessions interrupted by a coffee break. During poster sessions, guided tours of posters will be set up by the organizers where designated first authors introduce their posters in 5 minutes. The meeting will end at 17:30 with a beverage/beer and poster session followed by a gala dinner. On the third and last day of the conference the meeting will start at 9:30 with a plenary talk, followed by lecture sessions, a 1.5-hour poster session and ending on a lecture session and a plenary talk given by a leading scientist. The meeting will end at 16:00.

## ***Target audience***

The target audience of this meeting include melanoma scientists and clinicians at all stages of their career. The invited speakers are leaders in the basic and clinical science of melanoma; all are working towards a better molecular understanding of this disease and how it can be better treated. A special focus is on novel therapeutic options and resistance mechanisms. In order to encourage young basic and clinical scientists to attend the meeting, we will offer several travel awards for young scientists/clinicians. A particular emphasis is to encourage young scientists to work in this important field. All lectures will be in English.

## ***Educational needs and expected outcomes***

The purpose of the conference is to advance our knowledge of the basic and clinical aspects of melanoma. The program aims to update the attendees on the most recent research and developments in this rapidly advancing field. The lectures will, among other things, review the current status of clinical development of the latest treatment options, focus on resistance mechanisms to novel therapeutic targets and introduce new pathways and targets.

## ***Organizers***

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**Welcome to Reykjavík!**

*Dear friends and colleagues,*

We are honored to invite you to participate in the conference “**Melanoma: from basic science to clinical applications**” (<http://www.melanoma2015.is>) that will be held in Reykjavik, Iceland on June 24-26, 2015 at the Harpa Concert Hall and Conference Center in Reykjavik.

Key players in the field of melanocyte and melanoma research have been invited to present their latest work on topics ranging from melanocyte development to targeted melanoma therapy. It will be an excellent opportunity to get an update on the most recent advances in this rapidly advancing field of research. We encourage you to submit your work for presentations as oral or poster presentations. A limited number of travel awards will be available for students and/or postdocs. The meeting will provide CME credits. Students (MD or PhD) and postdocs may also be interested in our course on melanoma to be held at the University of Iceland right before the conference. Those interested in taking the course are asked to register through a separate website.

Apart from science, this is an excellent time of the year to visit Iceland. During this time of year the sun almost never sets and Reykjavik is bustling with energy. Multiple sightseeing options are available before and after the conference. The conference will organize a trip to the Blue Lagoon for interested parties.

We look forward to seeing you in Reykjavik. Please contact us for any additional information or suggestions that can make your stay in Reykjavik and your participation in the meeting even more pleasant.

The organizers

*Eirikur Steingrímsson, Lionel Larue, Ze'ev Ronai, Thorunn Rafnar, Caroline Robert, Karl Lewis, René Gonzalez*