

Abstract submission for MET Research Day 2025 – Tiia Nikupaavola

Colorectal cancer (CRC) is associated with both high morbidity and local recurrence rate. Different treatment approaches are based on clinical staging of the disease and the use of preoperative radiotherapy either alone or combined with chemotherapy has become a standard practice in advanced rectal cancer, but the inaccuracy of preoperative clinical staging may lead to overestimate prognostically favorable tumors and may result in both under- or overtreatment strategies. Treatment modalities impact on tumor microenvironment, transcriptomic profiles, and outcomes remains unclear. We evaluated tumor microenvironment, molecular features and the prognostic effect of host immune response in 193 CRC patients, with the aim to explain radiological staging (rStage) to pathological staging (pStage) transition in colorectal cancer.