



RESEARCH PLATFORM  
TRANSPLANTATION  
MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA

# Annual Transplant Forum Symposium Costimulation: evolving immunobiology and therapeutic target

17<sup>th</sup> September, 2026, 2.00 – 5.00 pm  
Hörsaalzentrum (Lecture Hall), Hörsaal 5  
Medical University of Vienna

rpt.meduniwien.ac.at



**Thomas Wekerle**

Department of General Surgery,  
Division of Transplantation,  
Coordinator Research Platform  
Transplantation



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Department of Medicine III,  
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## Dear Colleagues!

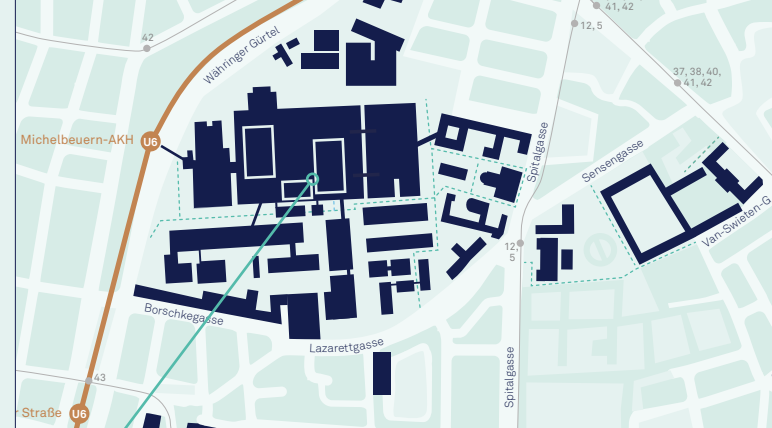
It has been more than three decades since the fundamental discoveries of the critical importance of the CD28 and CD40L costimulation pathways in alloimmunity and autoimmunity.

This year's symposium of the Research Platform Transplantation is dedicated to recent advances in the basic science of costimulation blockade and its translation into clinical routine in organ transplantation. Four leading international experts will present their own research in this field and will discuss the clinical path forward.

We look forward to welcoming you and your participation in stimulating discussions.

Thomas Wekerle

Rainer Oberbauer



Hörsaalzentrum (Lecture Hall), Hörsaal 5  
Medical University of Vienna, University Hospital Vienna  
Währinger Gürtel 18-20, 1090 Vienna

With the kind support of



This event will be approved by the Austrian  
Medical Chamber with 4 DFP-Points.

# Annual Transplant Forum Symposium Costimulation: evolving immunobiology and therapeutic target

17<sup>th</sup> September, 2026

2.00 – 2.15 pm

## **Welcome**

Michaela Fritz, Vice Rector for Research and Innovation,  
MedUni Vienna

Thomas Wekerle, Coordinator Research Platform  
Transplantation, MedUni Vienna

Rainer Oberbauer, Coordinator Research Platform  
Transplantation, MedUni Vienna

2.15 – 2.45 pm

## **The history and future of belatacept**

Chris Larsen (virtual), Emory Transplant Center, Atlanta,  
USA

2.45 – 3.15 pm

## **The immunobiology of the CD28/CTLA4 pathway**

Lucy S.K. Walker, University College, London, UK

3.15 – 3.45 pm

## **Coffee break**

3.45 – 4.15 pm

## **The history and future of targeting CD40L**

Randolph J. Noelle, Geisel School of Medicine at  
Dartmouth, Hanover, USA

4.15 – 4.45 pm

## **The immunobiology of the CD40L pathway**

Mandy L. Ford, Emory Transplant Center, Atlanta, USA

4.45 – 5.00 pm

## **Discussion**