Dr. Bjoern Schwer’s laboratory investigates the biology of chromosomal DNA double-strand break formation and repair in neural cells in the contexts of neurodevelopment, neural functioning, and disease. In the latter context, a major focus is the elucidation of causes of medulloblastoma and other brain cancers. His laboratory is also developing stem cell-based organogenesis approaches for neurobiological studies.

Dr. Schwer is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Neurological Surgery at the University of California - San Francisco. He is a core faculty member of the Eli and Edythe Broad Center of Regeneration Medicine and Stem Cell Research, Principal Investigator at the UCSF Brain Tumor Center, and Associate Member of the Programs in Neurologic Oncology and Cancer Genetics, UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center. He also belongs to the Tetrad and Developmental & Stem Cell Biology graduate programs in the UCSF Program in Biological Sciences (PIBS) and the UCSF Biomedical Sciences graduate program (BMS).

Bjoern received his medical degree and doctorate summa cum laude from the University of Heidelberg. In 2010, he joined the faculty of Harvard Medical School as an Instructor, and was promoted to Assistant Professor in 2014. He was recruited to UCSF in 2016. Recent awards include a Martin D. Abeloff V Scholar Award from The V Foundation for Cancer Research, and a Kimmel Scholar Award from the Sidney Kimmel Foundation.

Some of his recent high impact research includes:

**SCHEDULE**

8:30-9:00 a.m. Registration desk in the foyer of Theatre 4

9:00-9:10 a.m. Welcome address from Dr. Greg Cairncross, Director of the Charbonneau Cancer Institute

**SESSION 1**

Chair: Dr. Jennifer Chan

9:10-9:55 a.m. KEYNOTE LECTURE
Dr. Bjoern Schwer, Assistant Professor, Department of Neurological Surgery, University of California San Francisco

“New Genetic Approaches for Probing Neurodevelopment and Etiology of Brain Cancers”

10:00-10:25 a.m.

Dr. Daniel Heng, Clinical Professor, University of Calgary and Medical Oncologist, Tom Baker Cancer Centre

“Metastatic Kidney Cancer - Linking real world evidence and translational science”

**POSTER SESSION**

HRIC ATRIUM
Poster judges please pick up your clipboards from Carmen at the Symposium Reception Table

10:30-12:00 p.m.

**CONFERENCE LUNCH**

HRIC ATRIUM
Buffet lunch with an assortment of salads, fruits, desserts

12:00-1:00 p.m.

**SESSION 2**

Chair: Dr. Aaron Goodarzi

1:15-1:30 p.m.

Dr. Donna Senger, Research Associate Professor, Department of Oncology, University of Calgary

“Brain Tumour Microenvironment: a complexity to treatment”

1:30-1:55 p.m.

Dr. Pinaki Bose, Assistant Professor, Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, University of Calgary

“Immune Modulation by the Extracellular Matrix: Links to TGF-beta Signalling”

**COFFEE AND TEA BREAK**

2:00-2:25 p.m.

2:30-2:45 p.m.

**SESSION 3**

Chair: Dr. Darren Brenner

2:50-3:15 p.m.

Dr. Jennifer Corcoran, Assistant Professor, Microbiology, Immunology & Infectious Diseases, University of Calgary

“Oncogenic viruses: models of molecular manipulation that cause cancer”

3:20-3:55 p.m.

Dr. Cheryl Peters, Research Scientist, Department of Cancer Epidemiology and Prevention Research

“Where we live and work: prevention of environmental and occupational cancers”

4:00-4:30 p.m.

Dr. David Schriemer, Professor, Departments of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, Physiology, Pharmacology and Chemistry, University of Calgary

“Embracing the OODA loop: Re-imagining the Role of Technology in the Charbonneau Institute”

**WINE & CHEESE RECEPTION**

HRIC ATRIUM
Appetizers and cash bar service
Awarding of Poster Prizes

3:20-3:55 p.m.

4:00-4:30 p.m.

4:30 p.m.