Univ.-Prof. Dr. med. Thorsten Cramer



Head of research group Molecular tumor biology – Clinic for General, Visceral, Children and Transplant Surgery – University Hospital RWTH Aachen University

Role in LiSyM-Cancer

- Partner in C-TIP-HCC
- Contributes patient cohorts, samples and data
- Functional experiments with primary cells,
- Establishment of organoids from human liver (normal, cirrhosis and HCC) for functional and intervention assays

Expertise

- Senior physician and experimentalist with specialization in internal medicine/gastroenterology
- Molecular and cellular pathogenesis of solid gastroinestinal and hepatobiliary tumors
- Systemic effects of tumours, e.g. sarcopenia and cachexia, significance of nutrition, the tumour microenvironment (e.g. oxygen deprivation (hypoxia)), chronic inflammatory processes and tumour-specific metabolism for malignant progression
- Effects of dietary changes (e.g. carbohydrate restriction or fasting) on the initiation, progression and treatment of cancer

Degrees

- 1989 – 2006, M.D., Medicine at Freie Universität Berlin

Professional Experience

- Since 2014, Professor of Molecular Tumor Biology at RWTH Aachen University
- 2017 – 2021, Assistant Professor at Maastricht University
- Since 2010, Scientific Editor: Journal of Cachexia, Sarcopenia and Muscle
- 2010 – 2014, Coordinator for Translational Research within the Interdisciplinary Organ Tumor Group "Hepatobiliary Tumors" at the Charité Comprehensive Cancer Center
- 2008 – 2014, Board Member of the Molecular Cancer Research Center at Charité – University Medicine Berlin
- 2003 – 2014, Research Clinician at Charité
- 2001 – 2003, Postdoc, Division of Biology, University of California San Diego

Honors and Awards (selection)

- 2011, Walter-Krienitz-Gedenkpreis of the German Society of Gastroenterology, Digestive and Metabolic Diseases (DGVS)

Science communication

Kinderuni RWTH

BR-Sendung „Gesundheit!"

Publications

2025-09-01	From cirrhosis to cancer: α-SMA+ CAF and CD68+ macrophage rewiring in the cirrhosis–HCC transition *79. Jahrestagung der DGVS mit Sektion Endoskopie Jahrestagung der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Allgemein- und Viszeralchirurgie mit den Arbeitsgemeinschaften der DGAV und Jahrestagung der CACP*
2023-12-01	Hepatocellular loss of mTOR aggravates tumor burden in nonalcoholic steatohepatitis-related HCC *Neoplasia*