



Module A - Cancer biology 2026

Colon cancer: natural history, inflammation and the microbiome

Instructors

Prof. Stephan Vavricka
Center for Gastroenterology
and Hepatology
Vulkanplatz 8
CH- 8048 Zürich- Altstetten
Switzerland

stephan.vavricka@hin.ch

Dr. Ermanno Malagola
Department of
Gastroenterology and
Hepatology
University Hospital Zurich
Rämistrasse 100
CH-8091 Zürich

ermannomalagola@usz.ch

Prof. Michael Scharl
Department of
Gastroenterology and
Hepatology
University Hospital Zurich
Rämistrasse 100
CH-8091 Zürich

michael.scharl@usz.ch

Date Tuesday, October 27, 2026

Course Venue UZH City Center, KOL-H-309, Rämistrasse 71, 8006 Zürich

General Outline

08:15 – 09:45	Natural history of colon cancer from polyps to metastasis (Stephan Vavricka)
10:00 – 12:00	The Microbiome in CRC: cause, biomarker and therapeutic target (Michael Scharl)
12.00 – 13.30	<i>Lunch break</i>
13:30 - 14:30	Stem cells and their niche in health and tumorigenesis (Ermanno Malagola)

Discussion

Learning outcomes

After the course, students will

- understand the natural history and the clinical consequences of colorectal cancer in humans.
- acquire general knowledge on gut stem cells organization and the composition of their surroundings niche. They will gain information and examples of how dysregulation of stem cells niche interactions is an intrinsic core component of colorectal tumorigenesis.
- understand the role of the microbiome in colorectal cancer Pathogenesis and how it could contribute to cancer therapy in humans.