Special Seminar

UNIVERSITÄT BERN

Speaker: Prof. Leigh Ellis, Ph.D., Professor of Surgery, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences and Scientific Director of the Center for Prostate Disease Research (CPDR), Bethesda, MD and Adjunct Investigator in Genitourinary Malignancies Branch at the National Cancer Institute, USA

"Translating Mechanistic Drivers of Phenotypic Plasticity to Actionable Therapeutic Targets"

Friday, March 6, 2026, 11.00h – 12.00h
Room EG 050, Murtenstrasse 24, 3008 Bern

Host: **Prof. Marianna Kruithof-de Julio, Cancer Therapy Resistance, Department for BioMedical Research DBMR, University of Bern**

Bio Sketch:

Dr. Leigh Ellis, Ph.D. is a Professor of Surgery at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences and Scientific Director of the Center for Prostate Disease Research (CPDR) in Bethesda, Maryland. He also serves as an Adjunct Investigator in the Genitourinary Malignancies Branch at the National Cancer Institute. Dr. Ellis's research focuses on chromatin remodeling, phenotypic plasticity, and their involvement driving disease progression and therapy resistance. His group has uncovered key drivers that regulate cancer cell identity and plasticity and has defined new mechanisms linking epigenetic modifiers to immune evasion and response to checkpoint blockade. Prior to his current role, Dr. Ellis held academic appointments at Harvard Medical School/Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, and Roswell Park Cancer Institute. He has authored more than 70 peer-reviewed publications and contributed to several high-impact studies in journals including *Science*, *Nature Cancer*, *Nature Genetics*, *Cancer Cell*, and *JCI*.

Abstract:

This seminar will focus on targeting EZH2 with molecular based combination strategies in prostate cancer, and new directions using spatial-omic techniques to better understand epigenomic heterogeneity in treatment naïve prostate cancer for early identification of lethal disease.