Collegial self-understanding

Dear Colleagues and Partners,

We are delighted to welcome you to the *International Conference on Microchimerism* at the Medical University of Graz. Your participation is a contribution to our aim bringing together the international community of microchimerism research and its related fields. A community that will thrive on fostering academic collaboration and mutual exchange across borders in the field of microchimerism research.

This conference has been conceived as an opportunity to meet scientists from all over the world and to create a space for meaningful exchange, allowing us to explore new avenues of cooperation, and collectively reflect on the future of microchimerism with mutual respect.

We are mindful that our conference brings together colleagues from diverse countries, backgrounds, and perspectives — a richness we deeply value. In a world shaped by complex political dynamics and differing societal views, we believe in the value of dialogue grounded in respect and professionalism. While we acknowledge these broader realities, the *International Conference on Microchimerism* is intentionally focused on what unites us: a shared dedication to science, intercultural dialogue and international collaboration.

We kindly ask all participants to approach this conference with openness, curiosity, and a spirit of mutual respect. It is our firm belief that academic internationalization flourishes when diverse voices come together with a common purpose and a willingness to learn from one another. Academic cooperation thrives when built on trust, openness, and a spirit of learning from one another.

In this spirit, we ask that all participants engage respectfully and constructively throughout the program, ensuring that our focus remains on microchimerism, its contextualization, and the global scientific community that drives its research.

We sincerely hope this conference will offer you valuable insights, meaningful connections, and the renewed spirit of a joint research field. Your presence affirms our shared dedication to shaping a more connected and inclusive academic world.

We thank you for your commitment and look forward to welcoming you to Graz and to a fruitful, collegial, and inspiring time together.

With kind regards,

Thomas Kroneis Conference President